

RPU *Plugged In*



Crews depart to help with power restoration efforts in Long Island, NY.



Photo by Josh Banks



Come and Explore

RPU's Exhibits at

Cascade Meadow

Wetlands & Environmental Science Center



We're Open

Thursday through Saturday • 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

2900 19th Street NW
Rochester, MN 55901

www.cascademeadow.org



demonstrate • educate • participate

PICK UP YOUR RPU 2013 CALENDAR!

FEATURING:

- Arbor Day Posters Drawn By Rochester Area Elementary School Children
- Information on RPU's CONSERVE & SAVE[™] Rebate and Educational Programs
- Monthly Conservation Tips and Partners in Planting Tree Facts
- Available at the RPU Service Center





Lake Zumbro Drawdown

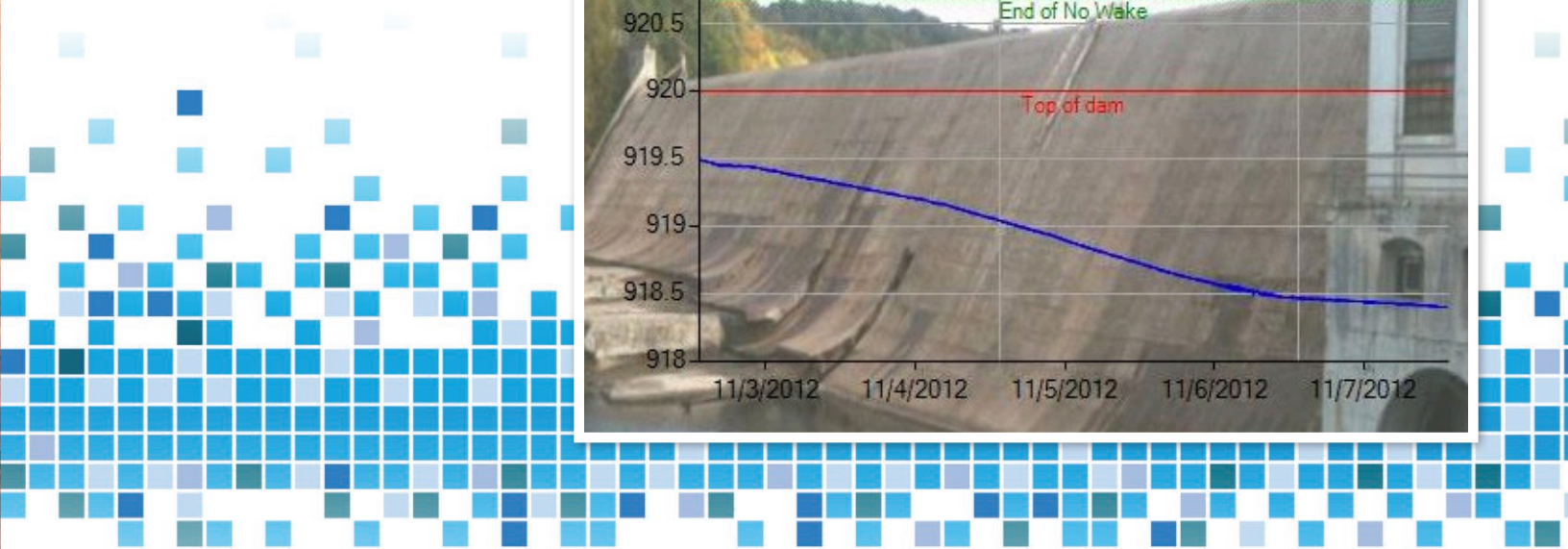
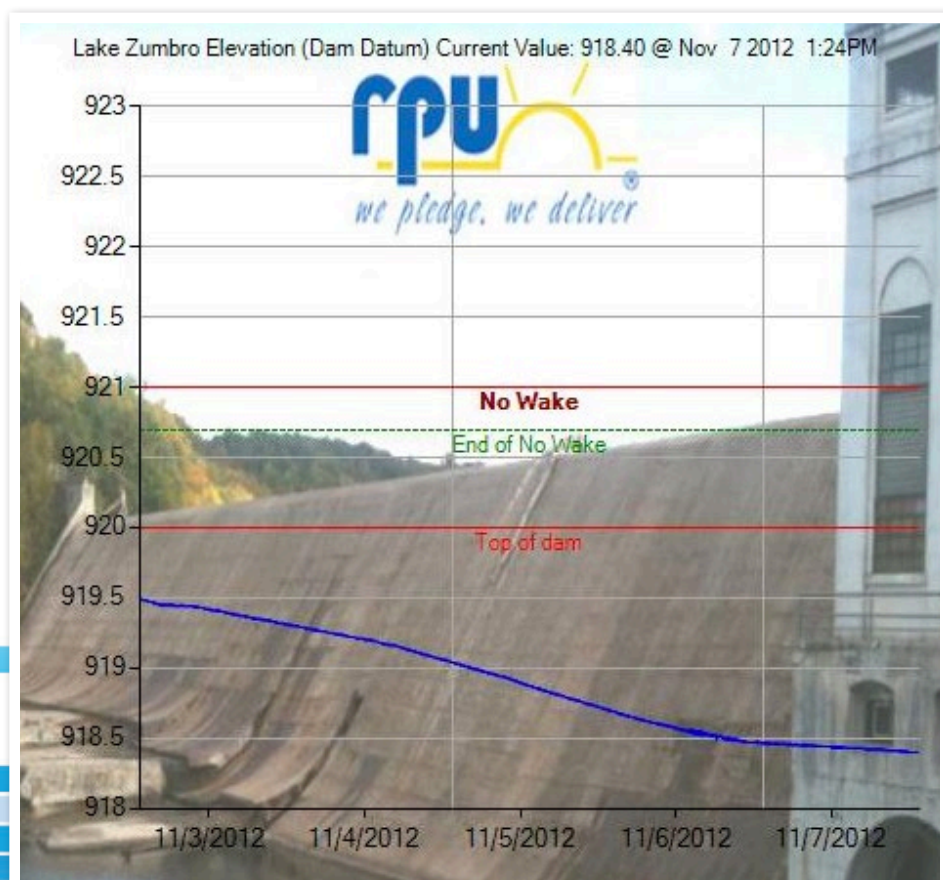
A little known fact that many RPU customers are probably not aware of is that RPU draws down the level of Lake Zumbro each year. The drawdown of approximately a foot and a half occurs around the end of October and remains in effect until early spring.

The drawdown allows RPU staff to access the 440-foot spillway for maintenance and annual safety checks. This also gives homeowners safe access to their lakeshore property for fall maintenance activities.

Since 1920, the Lake Zumbro hydroelectric dam has provided clean, renewable energy to the city of Rochester. The two hydroelectric turbines in the dam have a combined output rating of 2.6 megawatts. Annually the hydroelectric dam provides enough electricity for approximately 1,500 homes.

If you would like to see the real-time lake level, visit the RPU website and click on the link to the Lake Zumbro lake level. The link will bring up a graph showing the current lake level along with a graph showing the trend over the past five days.

Lake Zumbro Watch
www.rpu.org



HOLIDAY LIGHTING TIME!

Save some money on purchases of new LED holiday lighting and recycle your old strands for free with the help of RPU this holiday season!

There aren't many things more festive than holiday lights decorating the inside and outside of a home during the holidays. Whether it be a gentle glow of soft white lights or the blinding splash of color from thousands of blinking lights, they all add to the holiday cheer. If you are planning to string five or 500 strings of lights, make sure to do it right this year.

Lighting technology has improved greatly in recent years, making the selection and benefits even better for the consumer. LED (light emitting diodes) lighting is the newest and most energy efficient string lighting available. LEDs are available in clear, single color strands, or multi-color strands and can be connected together to offer many different color combinations. There are blinking light options available, solid color strands, and of course the traditional icicle lights using LEDs. The options are almost endless when it comes to using LED holiday lighting.

LEDs use a fraction of the energy that standard incandescent use. Based on the type of LED used and the application, LED holiday lighting could save you up to 90% in energy costs when compared to incandescent lighting. In addition, LEDs don't burn a filament to produce the light so they do not emit wasted, excess heat in the process.

LED lighting options, including holiday lighting, can be more expensive when compared with standard incandescent lighting, so RPU is again offering

a rebate for LED holiday lighting and decorations. The rebate (depending on the number of lights) can be up to \$12 per string of lights. There is no cap on the number of strings you can purchase and is available no matter where you purchase them. Some restrictions apply, so make sure to visit the RPU website for full details.

Once you've purchased all of the LED holiday lighting strings that you need this season, now what do you do with all of your old strands? RPU can help with that too. Due to such high demand last year, RPU will again recycle all of your old holiday light strands for FREE this year. Just bring in your old strands of lights into the RPU Service Center lobby and drop them into the bins designated for holiday lighting recycling.



Celebrate with savings!

**GET A REBATE
UP TO \$12 PER STRING**

**WHEN YOU BUY ENERGY EFFICIENT LED
*Holiday Lights & Decorations***

For more information and to download a rebate coupon, go to **www.rpu.org**.

RPU Is Hosting Two Community Education Classes in 2013



Residential Geothermal Heating and Cooling

Whether you are building a new home or considering a new heating and cooling system for your present one, consider the economic and environmental advantages of geothermal technology. It is the world's most advanced, most cost-effective heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system for new or existing homes. This class will provide you with geothermal basics: what it does and how it works. Learn how it uses the ground as a heating and cooling source. Geothermal heating and cooling systems can provide greater comfort and energy savings. Find out information on federal tax credits and Rochester Public Utilities' installation incentives.

Instructor: Arnie Lorimor
Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2013
Time: 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Session(s): One
Location: Cascade Meadow Wetlands & Environmental Science Center



Solar Energy for Your Home or Business

An overview of solar electric and solar heating systems will be presented. There will be many photos of solar installations so that you can get a good idea of what they look like and how they are installed. Many basic questions will be addressed such as: How well does solar energy work in Minnesota? How much energy do the systems produce? What are the costs involved and overall economics? What incentives are available? Is there any maintenance? There will be plenty of time for questions and discussion.

The instructor is the owner of Solar Connection, (www.solarconnectioninc.com) a solar energy design and installation company located in Rochester. Find out information on federal tax credits and Rochester Public Utilities' installation incentives.

Instructor: Curt Shellum. Curt is a licensed general contractor and a NABCEP Certified PV Installer™. NABCEP is the National Board of Certified Energy Practitioners.
Date: Saturday, February 2, 2013
Time: 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
Session(s): One
Location: Cascade Meadow Wetlands & Environmental Science Center

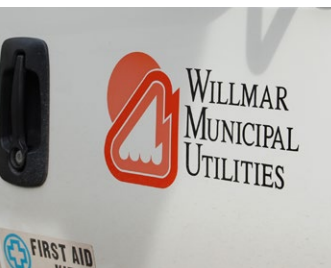


Registration for a Community Education class can be made by calling 507.328.4000 or online through the Rochester Community Education website (www.rochesterce.org).

Crews Depart to Help with Power Restoration Efforts in Long Island, NY



Trucks from all nine of the utilities.



An RPU crew, along with crews from eight other Minnesota utilities, left on Friday, November 2 for Long Island, NY, to help with power restoration efforts.



According to a news release from the Long Island Power Authority (LIPA), approximately 642,000 customers remained without power as of 10 a.m. on Friday, November 2. LIPA reached out to the Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association for mutual aid assistance and had nine utilities answer the call. Depending on the damage and work needed, crews could be in Long Island, NY, for an extended period of time.



Crews that Went to Long Island, NY

- Rochester Public Utilities
- Austin Utilities
- St. Peter Electric Utilities
- Brainerd Public Utilities
- Willmar Utilities
- Grand Rapids Public Utilities
- Chaska Electric Department
- Owatonna Public Utilities
- Hutchinson Utilities
- MMUA Safety Team



Line worker Bjorn Olson talks to the media before departing for Long Island, NY. Not pictured: Matt Tupper also went from RPU.



Photo by Josh Banks



New Neighborhood Energy Challenge Date Just Announced!

Monday, December 10, at 6:30 p.m.
Lincoln Choice Elementary School

Monday, January 14, at 6:30 p.m.
Bamber Valley Elementary School

Monday, February 11, at 6:30 p.m.
Gibbs Elementary School

Tuesday, March 12, at 6:30 p.m.
Kellogg Middle School

Monday, April 15, at 6:30 p.m.
Lincoln Choice Elementary School

Contact Ashley Robertson at **888.734.6365** or email at arobertson@mncee.org.



4000 East River Road NE
Rochester, MN 55906
507-280-1500
www.rpu.org

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Customer Profile

Bowman Tool & Manufacturing, Inc.

RPU's annual energy kilowatt-hour (kWh) savings goal is regularly published in RPU's *Plugged In*. You may have looked at the savings and noticed that we have been very successful in meeting our goals. This would not be possible without our customers and their desire to become more energy efficient and to save money with the installation of energy-efficient equipment. This month we would like to highlight one of our commercial customers and their many energy-efficiency improvements.

Bowman Tool & Manufacturing, Inc. (BTM) is a locally owned and operated contract manufacturing company that serves the following industries: agriculture, construction, power systems, recreational, valves and regulators, and medical. They specialize in complex machining of cast iron and steel components ranging from .25 lbs. to 1,500 lbs. each. They have invested in the industry's finest equipment, including robotic automation and climate controlled facilities to ensure that they are able to handle the most complex jobs imaginable. BT&M is unique in that they are a small family-owned business that serves several multi-billion dollar customers and Fortune 500 companies.

BTM started down the path of energy efficiency when founder and owner Bill Bowman realized the amount of

savings he attained in his home by simply replacing incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs. Bill decided that he should also look at energy efficiency within his business. In October 2009, the Bowman family moved their operations to an existing building located on 37th Street NW. Bill and his family worked with RPU and RPU's Energy Solutions Partners: Chosen Valley Electric, K&S Heating and Air Conditioning, "Big Ass Fans," and Air Compressor Systems to find equipment that would improve their overall energy efficiency.

It was the number of completed projects that caught our eye. Projects included the installation of energy-efficient cooling equipment, lighting, step-down transformers, compressed air systems, large fans for employee comfort, and variable speed drives for motors. These projects will save approximately 685,232 kWh and 124 kW annually. That's annual energy usage equivalent to more than 81 average households in Rochester. In addition to the energy savings realized in lower utility bills, BTM received rebates through RPU's Conserve and Save[®] programs to help cover the incremental cost of installing the energy-efficient equipment.

What does the future hold for BTM? According to Bill, their business is growing rapidly and they plan to reopen



L-R: Bill Campion (Chosen Valley Electric), Dirk Bierbaum (RPU), Jan Blevins (RPU), and Bill Bowman (BT&M).

their original site in the fall of 2013. Projects are already underway to making the site more energy efficient. This includes new machinery that will have "power-save modes" and LED lighting. Bill estimates that they will add 60 new jobs and will employ a total of 140 employees by 2014.

Thank you Bowman Tool & Manufacturing for all your efforts to become more energy efficient and participating in our Conserve and Save[®] programs.

CONSERVE & SAVE[®]