

CEDAR FALLS HYDRO SPILLWAY MODERNIZATION PROJECT

INFORMATION SHEET
WISCONSIN

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Modernization project overview

The Cedar Falls hydroelectric dam on the Red Cedar River near Menomonie is one of 19 hydroelectric facilities Xcel Energy operates in Wisconsin. The dam was constructed in 1910 and creates the 1,752-acre Tainter Lake.

Crews have mobilized for a multi-year \$50 million project designed to strengthen and modernize the spillway at the Cedar Falls hydro. The overall project consists of replacing the existing overflow spillway and two small gates with six large gates and a downstream stilling basin, which helps reduce the risk of eroding the riverbed at the dam. The spillway will be constructed in phases using upstream and downstream cofferdams to dewater segments of the structure. The modifications will not require a drawdown of Tainter Lake and will not impact power generation.

The project was approved by the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin in 2021. Xcel Energy is also working with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to obtain all required approvals and permits.

The spillway modernization project is part of the company's investment in a cleaner electric system, as it continues toward its goal of providing 100% carbon-free electricity by 2050.

Schedule

Construction of the Cedar Falls Spillway Modernization project began in spring 2022 with substantial completion anticipated by late 2028. Please note that the project schedule is subject to change due to inclement weather or other factors.

Construction overview

The first phase of construction from 2022–2025 mainly occurs inside the existing spillway. A temporary causeway will be constructed from the northeast side of the downstream bridge to the rock outcropping below the two tainter gates to provide construction access. Culverts will be installed within the causeway to pass river flows during the project.

In 2026 and 2027, exterior construction, including concrete demolition, new concrete piers and new steel gates will be completed.

During construction, you may notice:

- Additional traffic from onsite workers and trucks delivering materials to the site.
- Traffic control.
- Construction noise.
- Access changes to the site.

Tainter Lake will remain at its normal water level throughout the entire project.

We will work to reduce construction-related inconveniences and complete final restoration of work areas when conditions allow after project completion.



Artistic rendering of Cedar Falls Hydro spillway modernization project.

**CEDAR FALLS HYDRO SPILLWAY
MODERNIZATION PROJECT****Public safety overview**

Public safety is at the foundation of all we do. We take a proactive approach to public safety by implementing safety measures before, during and after construction. We will require the public to follow all signage provided at the site and to respect fenced and gated areas by staying away from those areas. Construction areas can be potentially hazardous areas, especially for those that may not be aware of the hazards that may be present.

The project has been designed to meet federal and state dam safety standards.

Dam safety

Areas upstream and downstream from hydro plants attract people for a variety of activities. While these areas can provide recreational opportunities, there are potential hazards around dams and hydro operations. An area that seems calm and safe one moment can quickly turn into a dangerous surge of rising, fast water. Accidents can be avoided by simply staying clear of the restricted zones at dams, being aware of the potential dangers caused by the operation of dams and obeying all warning devices. To learn more about precautions around dams, visit [xcelenergy.com](https://www.xcelenergy.com).

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During construction planning, Xcel Energy worked with the University of Minnesota St. Anthony Falls Laboratory who constructed a 1:36 geometric scale model to test the performance of the recommended spillway improvements.

