

	<p style="text-align: center;">News Release</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Issued: February 9, 2018</p>	<p>Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company 2301 North Third Street Wausau, WI 54403 For more information contact Ben Niffenegger, Senior Environmental Specialist Phone: 715.848.2976, ext. 304 Email: ben@wvic.com</p>
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EAU PLEINE RESERVOIR AERATOR STARTING

UNSAFE ICE AND OPEN WATER WARNING ISSUED

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) personnel and Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company (WVIC) will begin operation of the primary aerator system in the Eau Pleine Reservoir on Wednesday, February 14, 2018, according to WVIC, Wausau. The Eau Pleine is a 7,000-acre storage reservoir located in southwest Marathon County. The aerator is located in a narrow stretch of the reservoir adjacent to the Big Eau Pleine County Park.

With the start of the aerator comes public notice to fishermen, snowmobilers and others traveling on the ice that aerator operation creates unsafe ice conditions and open water. DNR personnel will install rope barriers set off with flags and reflective signs across the entrances to the area to warn of the danger. Warning signs will also be posted at the boat landings.

Aerator helps maintain oxygen levels

The aerator is put into operation to help maintain adequate oxygen levels in the water for the fishery. The start of aerator operation is timed to take advantage of favorable dissolved oxygen (DO) levels and to help maintain them, particularly in the aerator area.

The level of the water in the Eau Pleine on February 9 was 10.22 feet below maximum. The water level will continue to decrease slowly until snowmelt runoff begins to refill the reservoir.

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