

Dear Carroll and White County Residents,

Our area has experienced two significant flooding incidents in January and February and, as the operator of the Norway and Oakdale hydro-electric dams, we want to share information with you in response to questions and concerns that have been raised as a result of the flooding.

The January 8th flood began with the thawing and melting of a heavy snowcap from January 4th through the 6th. The melting snow, compounded by a localized rainstorm that dumped between 5 and 10 inches of rain within 12 hours, dramatically increased the flows on the river. At approximately 1 a.m. EST on January 8th, flows reached the flood watch stage, and then rapidly escalated to a flood emergency by 7 a.m. EST. With frozen ground, there was nowhere for the excess water to go other than down river.

Less than one month later, similar conditions again converged to create serious flooding. On February 5th, periods of heavy rain, snow melt and frozen ground created another flood emergency in the area.

Throughout both floods, the dams operated as designed. Flood gates were opened to allow the rising water through. Flood gates allow control of the water through the dam, matching inlet flow to outlet flow as closely as possible. Had the flood gates not operated, the water level would eventually flow over the top of the dam creating the potential for dam failure.

We are working with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to provide a detailed engineering analysis of the events. NIPSCO is cooperating fully with FERC in this study. We anticipate that FERC will release their findings to the public once the analysis is complete.

NIPSCO is committed to providing safe and reliable electric and natural gas service to our customers. We understand how frustrating and challenging these floods have been for many of you.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at 219.647.4070. We sincerely appreciate your business.

Sincerely,



James J. Fitzer
NIPSCO Public Affairs Manager