

Consumers Energy

Count on Us[®]

Hydro Plant Emergency Planning

Important Information

**PLEASE READ AND
SAVE THIS BOOKLET**



Consumers Energy produced this booklet in cooperation with the emergency services departments of the state of Michigan and Newaygo and Mecosta counties.

What should you do if you hear a Consumers Energy Public Warning System siren?

Please be familiar with the steps on page 6 so you can act at once

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Why we provide this booklet

Consumers Energy sends this booklet to property owners, residents and businesses near our Rogers, Hardy and Croton hydroelectric facilities on the Muskegon River. The booklet explains how the Public Warning System aids local emergency response personnel in notifying area residents and visitors if an emergency is imminent or exists at one or more of these facilities.

Please take time to read this booklet now and be sure that all members of your household understand what it says. Then, please save the booklet in a handy place where it can be found for future reference.

Being informed is the best way for all of us to be prepared for any emergency in our lives



For more information

For more information or extra copies of this booklet, please contact one of these locations:

Consumers Energy

Emergency Planning
Administrator
330 Chestnut Street
Cadillac, MI 49601
231-779-5510

Mecosta County

Emergency Services Director
14485 Northland Drive
Big Rapids, MI 49307
231-592-9484
EmerMgmt@mecostacounty.org

Newaygo County

Emergency Services Director
P.O. Box 975
Newaygo, MI 49337
231-689-7354



What is the Public Warning System?

The Public Warning System includes siren/speaker units mounted on 50-foot-tall poles, and a remote siren/speaker activation control point. One siren/speaker unit is near the Rogers Dam, four units are at locations down river from Hardy Dam, and four are down river from Croton Dam.

They can be activated with either a siren sound or a live voice message. The Public Warning System was designed as an aid for notifying residents and visitors if an emergency is imminent or exists at one of the generating facilities.

The siren/speaker units are designed to be heard at a 70 decibel level up to three-quarters of a mile away, and at a 60-decibel level up to 1 1/2 miles away. These levels should be audible to the residents and visitors most likely to be quickly affected by an emergency at one of the plants. A voice message also may be broadcast over the siren system advising what, if any, further action should be taken. The initial Public Warning System activation could be supplemented by information on radio and television stations (please see page 5).



What is an emergency?

For the purposes of this booklet, an emergency is any situation creating an imminent or actual threat to the well-being of people living, working or enjoying recreation activities downstream from one or more of these hydroelectric generating facilities. An emergency could include unusual weather conditions (which could cause extensive flooding), vandalism or sabotage, and/or an equipment problem which could

cause the failure of a hydro generating facility or a dike.

The siren/speaker units will be used only when an imminent or actual threat to the public exists. The only exception is the pre-announced audible siren tests, currently performed each August and December. Local media receive advance notices of the audible siren tests and notices are posted in many businesses near the plants.



What is not an emergency?

The Public Warning System will not be used when there are higher than usual river flows that are not a threat to the public. As a result, area residents or visitors will know that if they hear the

Public Warning System activated, an emergency exists and they should take appropriate action (except during pre-announced testing).



Why we provide this booklet

The siren is a rapid wail with a high and low tone. The siren tone should sound for at least three minutes. A voice message also may be broadcast over the siren/speaker units, followed by another siren tone. This sequence will repeat over and over.

The siren units rotate in a complete circle on top of the posts while activated. The level of the siren tone and any voice message will change during that cycle. The sounds will be the loudest and clearest when the unit faces toward the listener.

Voice messages would likely say that an emergency exists at the hydroelectric generating facility and that all residents and visitors should evacuate the area. The message could advise tuning to local radio

or television stations for further information after reaching a safe area.

Specific conditions can affect the way siren equipment works and the extent to which the sirens can be heard. If you believe that a serious situation exists but you have not heard the sirens, do not let the absence of a siren stop you from taking action. The system is designed to help you make decisions about what action is appropriate for yourself and your family, but the sirens do not substitute for your own observations and good judgment.



What should I do if I hear a siren tone or voice message?

If the Public Warning System is activated (other than for a regularly scheduled audible siren test), everyone within the flood zone should evacuate immediately. **DO NOT DELAY YOUR EVACUATION.** Go to a designed reception/shelter center, or another safe place outside the affected area.

Reception/shelter center locations will be announced over radio and television stations. You should

register at one of the centers even if you will not stay there. That allows anyone calling to locate you to know that you have evacuated, and where you can be located.

Emergency services personnel will direct evacuation traffic. If you can accommodate them, it would be helpful to take neighbors or friends who need a ride when you evacuate. Do not wait; action should be taken immediately.



In an emergency

In the event of an emergency, the siren/speaker units' initial warning will be supplemented by information on radio and television stations along with Newaygo and Mecosta County emergency notification systems.

For Information on County Emergency Notification Systems

Newaygo County

Emergency Services Director
P.O. Box 975
Newaygo, MI 49337
231-689-7354

Mecosta County

Emergency Services Director
14485 Northland Drive
Big Rapids, MI 49307
231-592-9484
EmerMgmt@mecostacounty.org



How will people boating or fishing in the area be notified?

The Public Warning System sirens/speakers are designed to be audible in portions of the river where boaters and anglers might be affected by an emergency at a generating plant. Boaters and/or anglers should respond to the Public Warning System by

immediately seeking safety on high ground.

Information about the Public Warning System and its purpose should be posted along the river in areas frequented by boaters and anglers to help inform them about the system's operation.



System is tested on a regular basis

To assure the Public Warning System's effectiveness, the siren/speaker units are tested twice a year, currently in August and December. The tests involve a siren tone followed by a voice message indicating that the siren is only a test of the system.

An additional siren tone will follow. The siren units rotate in a complete circle on the poles during the tests, so changes in the siren and voice tones will be noticed.

Silent electronic tests are conducted at other times each year.



Why is this system needed?

The Public Warning System aids the counties and Consumers Energy in quickly and independently notifying area residents and visitors of any developing or existing emergency at a hydroelectric generating plant.



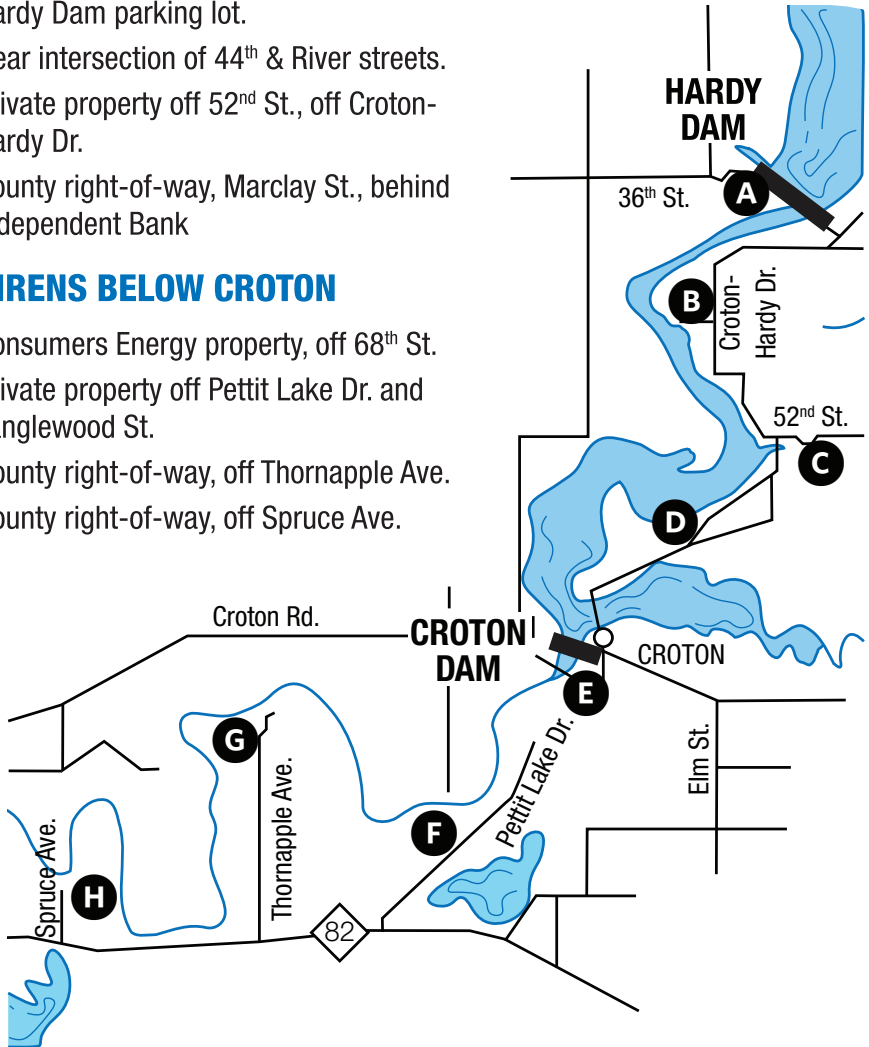
Hardy and Croton Hydro Siren/Speaker Locations

SIRENS BELOW HARDY

- A** Consumers Energy property, off 36th St. in Hardy Dam parking lot.
- B** Near intersection of 44th & River streets.
Private property off 52nd St., off Croton-Hardy Dr.
- C** County right-of-way, Marclay St., behind Independent Bank
- D** County right-of-way, Marclay St., behind Independent Bank

SIRENS BELOW CROTON

- E** Consumers Energy property, off 68th St.
- F** Private property off Pettit Lake Dr. and Tanglewood St.
- G** County right-of-way, off Thornapple Ave.
- H** County right-of-way, off Spruce Ave.

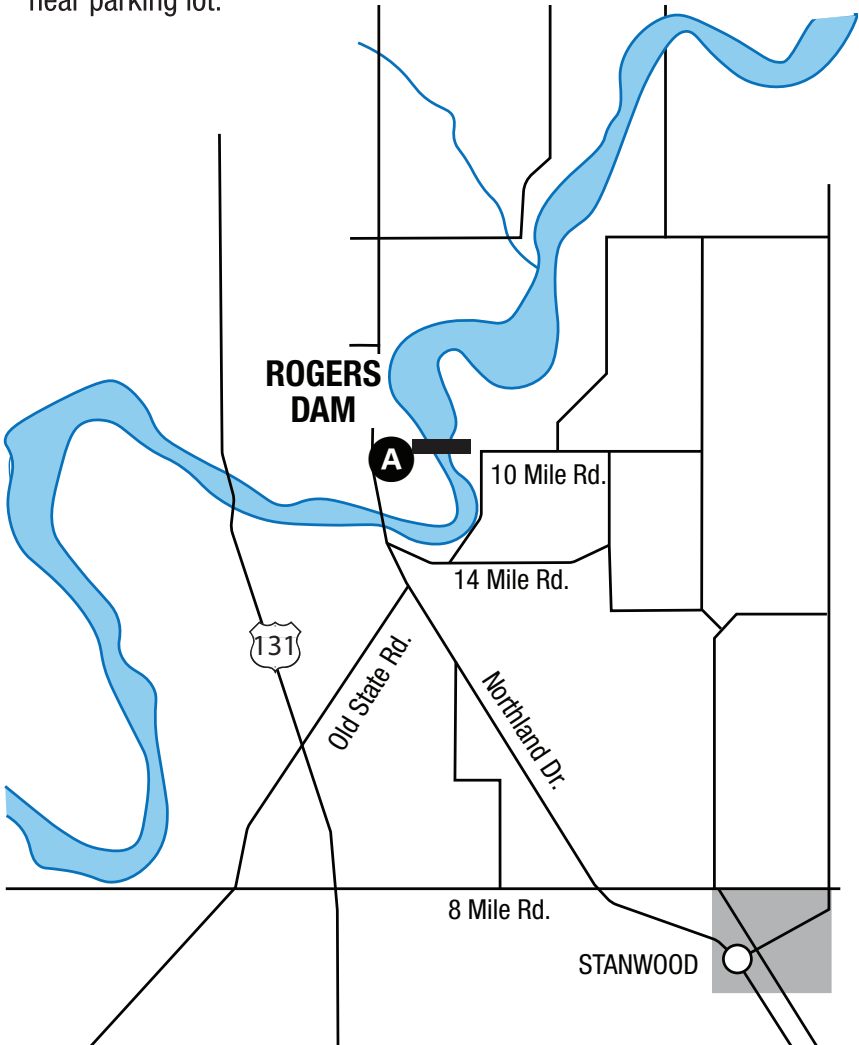




Rogers Hydro Siren/ Speaker Location

SIRENS BELOW ROGERS

- A** Consumers Energy property, west of plant near parking lot.





How important are hydro facilities?

Consumers Energy's hydroelectric facilities, including those on the Muskegon River, help reduce Consumers Energy customers' energy bills, and help boost Michigan's economy with expenditures for operation and maintenance. The Muskegon River facilities also provide limited down river flood control.

The hydroelectric plants play a vital role in Michigan's environmental health and its outdoor recreation tourism industry. Consumers Energy's hydroelectric facilities provide renewable electricity while providing outstanding wildlife

habitat for a variety of species, including bald eagles, trumpeter swans and the federally endangered Karner blue butterfly.

The dams' reservoirs provide excellent fisheries and boating destinations for thousands of area residents and visitors. Consumers Energy's shoreline properties are dotted with campgrounds and marinas operated by local governmental and small-business owners. Over the past five years, Consumers Energy invested \$2.8 million to upgrade existing public recreation facilities near its hydroelectric plants, and to develop new recreation facilities.



What if someone has special needs?

Residents who have impaired hearing, impaired sight or other considerations, that make it difficult for them to react in a generating plant emergency, are urged to complete the form on the next page. The completed form should be mailed to your county's

emergency services director, listed on page 2.

This information aids emergency services officials in determining what special needs are residents have and how those needs should be addressed in the event of an emergency at a hydroelectric plant.

Special needs information

If you have special needs that would make it difficult for you to independently evacuate during an emergency at a hydro plant, or if you live near the river only during part of the year, please complete this form and mail it to your count emergency services director, listed on page 2. You do not need to mail this form if the following information does not apply to you.

Date _____

Please indicate which special needs you have:

- I have impaired hearing I have impaired vision
- I have the following special needs, which would make it difficult or impossible for me to independently evacuate during an emergency at a hydro plant (please describe the situation) _____

- I am a part-time resident near the river (please list the months of the year when you are the address near the river) _____

- In the event of an evacuation, I would need assistance

Name _____

Please print

Address _____

Telephone number () _____

Are there any special directions required to get to your home? (Please describe how to find your home from a main highway, and include a description of what your home looks like, such as color, number or stories and distinctive features of your home) _____

Any additional special needs you want your county emergency services department to be aware of can be listed here _____

Cut along line and mail



Consumers Energy

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Consumers Energy
Hydro Operations
330 Chestnut Street
Cadillac, MI 49601
