



Public Safety Update Regarding July 2023 Flood Event

As with much of the region, the Deerfield River Valley and Upper Valley region of the Connecticut River experienced significant rainfall over July 9 to July 11.

Great River Hydro's Emergency Operations Center actively monitored and managed the elevated flows that occurred on both the Connecticut and Deerfield Rivers, and closely coordinated with other partners on the river. Great River Hydro's facilities and dams securely and safely operated as designed during event. The flows on both rivers are expected to remain elevated for several days, especially with more rain forecasted for later this week. The Northeast River Forecast Center (<https://www.weather.gov/nerfc/>) is the best resource for up-to-date information.

Great River Hydro echoes similar statements from public safety officials and strongly recommends that the public refrain from entering the rivers during elevated flows such as those being experienced at this time. Floodwaters can carry potentially dangerous debris and may contain chemicals and bacteria from damaged or overwhelmed wastewater treatment facilities and flooded homes, businesses, and agricultural fields. High water can create debris jams, hide submerged infrastructure, contain downed power lines, and damage or conceal public safety devices intended to warn the public of dangers during normal flow conditions. Six inches of swiftly moving water is enough to sweep an adult off their feet. Please be especially careful to keep children out of the water as they are unaware of the dangers and can be endangered by their own curiosity.

At this time, Great River Hydro strongly discourages recreational boating upstream of any of its dams while high water conditions persist and until it can fully restore all public safety measures.