

# Chippewa Storage Reservoir Forecast

**Elevation as of December 7, 2011:** 1312.08 ft.

**Season<sup>1</sup>:** Winter 2011-12

**Typical Winter Low Elevation:** 1308.0 ft.

**2011-12 Projected Winter Low Elevation:** 1308.0 ft.

## Comments

- Moderately strong river inflows to the reservoir through the Fall period allowed the reservoir elevation to fill to within one-foot of the normal full elevation, in spite of sparse precipitation from September 1 – November 30 (3.55”).
- Based on the current reservoir level and the moderately strong inflow going into the winter season, Xcel Energy forecasts to draw down the reservoir to an elevation of 1308.0 ft. this winter. The drawdown last winter was 5.25 ft. (elevation 1307.75 ft.).
- The projected 1308.0 ft. drawdown elevation is based on an average winter snowpack and moderately strong river inflows into the reservoir during the winter months.
- Discharge flows from the dam will be maintained slightly above minimum levels (>250 cubic feet per second) at the onset of winter with increases in discharge through the winter months to reduce the reservoir to the projected 1308.0 ft. elevation.
- Xcel Energy intends to monitor the reservoir level, snowpack, and inflows throughout the winter season to determine if it is necessary to modify the target winter low elevation.
- If significant snowpack begins accumulating during the winter season, additional water will be drawn from the reservoir, which will likely reduce the reservoir level below the projected 1308.0 ft. elevation.

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<sup>1</sup> Definitions of Seasons of the Year for Operating the Chippewa Storage Reservoir:

Winter: December 1 – March 30  
Spring: April 1 – June 1  
Summer: June 2 – September 30  
Fall: October 1 – November 30