DAM SPECIFICATIONS

- The Lake Zumbro Dam is 55 feet high and 900 feet long with the spillway spanning 440 feet.
- Approximately 600 cubic feet of water pass through both turbines each second when they are operating at 100%.
- One foot of water pouring over the spillway is equivalent to 1,500 cubic feet per second.
- Visit www.rpu.org/education-environment/lake-zumbro-water-level for more information on the Lake Zumbro Dam.



we pledge, we deliver

Rochester Public Utilities 4000 East River Road NE Rochester, MN 55906-2813 800.778.3421 | 507.280.1500 www.rpu.org

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I CONTRACTOR OF THE LAKE ZUMBRO DAM



HISTORY OF THE DAM

- Construction began in 1917 by renowned engineer Hugh L. Cooper.
- The powerhouse was placed into service on November 7, 1919.
- RPU has owned and operated the Lake Zumbro Dam since it was built.
- The Lake Zumbro Dam was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1991 for its feats in engineering.



GENERATION & OPERATION

- The Minnesota DNR regulates the dam as Run-Of-The-River. What flows in, must flow out. This also means minimal lake level fluctuations.
- Normal Lake Level is 914.5 Mean Sea Level (MSL).
- Historical High Level is 923.2 MSL on September 24, 2010.
- Electrical generation averages 12,500 megawatt hours per year; that's enough electricity to power 1,500 homes.
- In 2018, the dam produced 17,566 megawatt hours a new record!



HYDROELECTRIC DAM OPERATION



- The Lake Zumbro Dam is inspected annually by to help identify needed repairs.
- RPU staff inspects the dam on a weekly basis.
- No-Wake is initiated when lake levels exceed 915.6 MSL and is lifted when lake levels drop below 915.3 MSL
- For up-to-date lake levels, visit our website page at



SAFETY & INSPECTION

licensed professional engineers



www.rpu.org/education-environment/lake-zumbro-water-level



This photo is from the 1995 repairs made to the upstream face of the dam.