



Xcel Energy Media Relations  
1414 W. Hamilton Ave.  
Eau Claire, WI 54701  
715-737-2565  
mediainquiries@xcelenergy.com  
xcelenergy.com

## **Xcel Energy increases safety measures and signage at Cedar Falls Hydro ahead of Memorial Day weekend**

**EAU CLAIRE, Wis. (May 19, 2026)** – Xcel Energy is reminding the public to stay out of restricted areas at the Cedar Falls Hydro facility near Menomonie following a recent increase in trespassing incidents in active construction zones, particularly as Memorial Day weekend approaches.

Crews are currently working on a multi-year modernization project at the hydroelectric dam, and unauthorized access to the site—especially along the downstream causeway—has increased in recent weeks. Individuals have been observed bypassing barriers, entering active construction areas and accessing restricted parts of the facility.

“These areas are restricted to help protect the safety of our community,” said Brad Smith, manager of Hydro Operations at Xcel Energy. “Construction zones can involve heavy equipment, uneven terrain and changing water conditions. We’re asking everyone to respect posted restrictions so we can keep people safe while this important work is underway.”

In response, Xcel Energy is implementing additional safety measures ahead of the holiday weekend, including:

- Installing additional “No Trespassing” signage
- Reinforcing barriers with fencing and jersey barriers
- Increasing coordination with local law enforcement for enhanced patrols
- Reviewing access points to further limit unauthorized entry

Local law enforcement has been notified and may increase patrols in the area. Trespassing violations may result in citations.

With increased outdoor activity expected over the Memorial Day holiday, Xcel Energy urges anglers, boaters and recreationists to respect all posted signage and barriers near all hydro facilities and to avoid active construction zones.

###