Minnesota Power is replacing five gates at the Island Lake Main Dam as part of its continuing investment in Island Lake Reservoir.

As the project continues this year, the Island Lake Dam Recreation Area will be closed from mid-July through the end of the year to ensure the safety of construction workers and the public. The closure will include all facilities at the area, including the boat launch, public beach, parking lots, canoe portage, and fishing pier that complies with Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility guidelines.

**The construction activity will not affect water levels at Island Lake Reservoir.** Water levels are dependent on spring snowmelt and rains, and the gate replacement project will allow for normal reservoir operations to capture that runoff into the reservoir.

**Five cast iron sluice gates at the Island Lake Main Dam are being replaced.** The gates allow dam operators to control the discharge of water from the dam’s outlet structure. Original to the construction of the dam in 1914 and 1915, the gates are nearing the end of their service life.

Island Lake Reservoir is part of Minnesota Power’s hydroelectric system and provides water for wintertime energy generation at Minnesota Power’s downstream hydroelectric generating stations—Knife Falls, Scanlon, Thomson, and Fond du Lac. The reservoir also provides water regulation to help mitigate high downstream flows and water for recreational opportunities and aquatic habitat in the reservoir and downstream.