

Aug.1, 2014

WATER SAFETY REMINDER: STAY CLEAR OF HYDROELECTRIC STATIONS AND DAMS

Toronto – Ontario Power Generation (OPG) is urging people to exercise extreme care around Ontario waterways this civic holiday long weekend, particularly on rivers and lakes near hydroelectric stations and dams.

“Holiday weekends are a popular time to enjoy Ontario’s lakes and rivers,” says Mike Martelli, OPG Senior Vice President of Hydro-Thermal Operations. “If you find yourself near a hydroelectric facility, please obey all warning signs and do not cross fences, booms and other barriers meant for your protection.”

Most hydroelectric facilities are remotely controlled by operators located many kilometres away. Dams can be opened and stations can be started throughout the day. This causes frequent and rapid changes to water levels and flows. These changing conditions can create strong undertows and sudden, powerful gushes of water in what were previously calm-looking areas.

Visit www.stayclearstaysafe.ca for information that will help keep you and your family safe this summer. In addition to OPG online resources, the website links to OPG’s water safety partners – the Ontario Provincial Police and the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters’ Tackleshare Program.

Please enjoy your summer and remember: “Stay Clear, Stay Safe!”

- 30 -

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