

Petenwell-Castle Rock Property Owners Association, Inc.

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July 27, 2004

Scott Hassett, Sec'y
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On behalf of the Petenwell-Castle Rock Property Owners Association (PCPOA) members, I write this letter to update you on Wisconsin's second and fifth largest lakes. We have been involved with these lakes since 1974. We were instrumental in seeing that industry remove the stumps and trees from Lake Petenwell, participated in the shaping of NR 217 (The Phosphorus/Algae Bill), have pushed for the removal of carp from these lakes, only to be stone-walled by the WDNR, attended hearings regarding mercury pollution by Wyandotte Chemical and participated in a host of other projects on Petenwell - Castle Rock Lakes. I have enclosed for your perusal a "Chronology of Events" thru 1997, please note the last entry dated December 4, 1997. We will update the chronology by year-end.

Petenwell and Castle Rock Lakes are no longer a primitive recreational type lake. The Wisconsin River Power Company (WRPCO) is selling all their non-project lands to residential developers. WRPCO's plan is to have all the land sold by the year 2010. What this means is we can expect to see approximately 5,000 to 7,000 new homes and condos on these two lakes by year 2010. There are already an estimated 1,000 new homes dotting the land behind the 100 foot buffer strip. Lots are selling for \$160,000 each, these lots are behind the 100 foot buffer strip, NOT on the lake. Total investment per home is averaging \$250,000. These new landowners will want clean water - clean air and good fishing, it is our intent to see that they get it. The three problems facing our lakes are: Algae, mercury and carp, all three of these problems are caused by industry and endorsed by the WDNR. We feel the Department is just as responsible for these problems since they grant environmental variances and issue the WPDES permits.

I'd like to address each problem so you will have some knowledge of the what's happening and what has transpired on our lakes.

- 1) Algae, one pound of phosphorus produces 500 pounds of algae.

The WDNR granted a 50% increase to Domtar (formally Nekoosa Papers) to increase its phosphorus dumping from 1 mg/l to 1.50 mg/l. This variance was granted by WDNR without respect for NR 217. The Department did not require Nekoosa Papers to show financial hardship nor prove that there was an alternative method. Both of these items are required by NR 217. PCPOA called for the hearing and is of the opinion that this variance was "rubber stamp approved" by WDNR prior to the hearing, e.g. DEAD ON ARRIVAL.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE @ WWW.PETENWELLCASTLEROCK.ORG