

MEMO TO: Tina Morgan
FROM: Andy Tuthill
DATE: 12 Dec. 2003
SUBJECT: Ice jam on Ompomanoosuc River , Norwich VT.

A small ice jam formed on the Ompomanoosuc River about 1.5 miles downstream of Union Village, VT on 12 Dec. 2003. The ice cover upstream of the jam had released as the result of warm air temperatures and rain during the previous day and a half. Greg Hanlon (NAE), Andy Tuthill (CRREL) and Heather Morse, (Corps Ranger at Union Village Dam) visited the site at 9:30 AM, observing a 600-ft-long ice jam that was forcing flow into the left floodplain and across Campbell Flats Road. About 100-ft-of roadway was flooded several inches deep, but was still easily passable by car. Outflow from the dam at the time was 650 cfs, significantly less than the open water channel capacity of 2400 cfs. Since air temperatures were expected to climb into the high 30's it was decided to increase outflow from the dam to 750 for the remainder of the day, in an effort to erode and smooth the ice jam underside, improve flow conveyance and lower stage. Air temperatures are forecast to drop to the teens and below during the next few days. This will freeze the jam in place and promote frazil ice formation in the open water reach upstream. This frazil will likely build an ice cover upstream of the jam and possibly deposit frazil beneath to thicken the jam. Downstream of the jam, the Ompomanoosuc was covered in sheet ice all the way to the Connecticut River.



