

Northern New England ice conditions and jam flood potential
Andy Tuthill – Aerial Observations - 8 March 2006

Overall, ice covers are thinner and less extensive than usual for this time of year as a result of the multiple ice breakups that occurred over the course of the winter.

The Connecticut River from Wells River down has thin ice on the pools and is more or less open in the free flowing sections. I see little or no potential for serious ice jams or ice jam floods on this part the Connecticut.

The White River and First Branch of the White River are mostly open without adequate ice to supply any serious jams.

The same minimal ice conditions exist on the Winooski River and tributaries upstream of Montpelier.

Farther north, the Lamoille at Hardwick is $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ ice covered, and I would assume similar conditions exist for the Israel River at and upstream of Lancaster. Given the “right” conditions, these rivers could still have ice jams.

Northern Vermont is still very winter-like, and the Missisquoi is still completely ice-covered. The same can be said for the rivers across the northern tier of NY State, including the Great Chazy, St. Regis and Grasse Rivers.

I haven't had a look at the classic ice jam rivers in the Adirondacks, such as the Ausable and the Bouquet, but I imagine they have less ice than usual for this time of year.

Although I haven't been up there, I would guess that the rivers in central to northern Maine such as the Piscataquis, Penobscot, Aroostook, and St. John probably still have plenty of ice and could form jams in the event of rapid melting and rain.

The weather for the next week is for gradual warming, ideal for slow melting and continued ice cover deterioration. This should further decrease the ice jam and ice jam flood potential.

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Photos next page

Hardwick VT – Ice Control Structure – 8 March 206 Flow is left to right.



Montpelier, VT – 8 March 2006 Flow is left to right.

