

For immediate release



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CURE Conducts Mercury Awareness Campaign with Ice Fishermen on Lac qui Parle

Clean Up the River Environment (CURE) has been talking to ice fishermen on Lac qui Parle Lake about disturbing information on mercury levels in Minnesota River fish that has been gleaned from Minnesota Department of Health studies of DNR fish samples from the entire length of the Minnesota River. The fish were tested in 2004 and show that mercury levels in sampled fish rise significantly in the Granite Falls and Montevideo area when compared to the rest of the river.

“We can’t be sure where this mercury is coming from, but it could correlate with studies done in Canada that show that mercury tends to accumulate in lake sediments 21 miles downwind from coal burning power plants,” stated CURE Executive director Patrick Moore. “More research is needed to determine the source of this mercury and why levels seem to jump so dramatically in the Montevideo area. Nevertheless, we think it has implications for the upcoming hearing on the proposed Big Stone II power plant near Ortonville,” Moore added.

The Minnesota Department of Commerce is hosting a public hearing on the newly downsized Big Stone II Power plant at the Ortonville Community Center on January 10, 2008 at 6 p.m. For the past two years, CURE has been raising awareness about the proposed plant’s impact on the health and future of the Upper Minnesota River watershed. A decision is expected in April of 2008 on whether or not the state of Minnesota should allow transmission lines from the South Dakota plant to be constructed in Minnesota. For more information, call CURE at 1-877-269-2873.

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MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH DATA 2004				
SAMPLE#	LOCATION	SPECIES	LENGTH	MERCURY PARTS PER MILLION
040560	RM 258, NEAR GRANITE FALLS	CHANNEL CATFISH	21.0	0.245
040562	RM 258, NEAR GRANITE FALLS	CHANNEL CATFISH	22.8	0.787
040542	RM 258, NEAR GRANITE FALLS	WALLEYE	28.0	0.963
040557	RM 275, NEAR MONTEVIDEO	CHANNEL CATFISH	18.9	0.495
040561	RM 275, NEAR MONTEVIDEO	CHANNEL CATFISH	21.4	0.604
040563	RM 275, NEAR MONTEVIDEO	CHANNEL CATFISH	22.7	0.692
040567	RM 290, AT LAC QUI PARLE LAKE	CHANNEL CATFISH	24.0	0.538



CURE Organizer Brooke Herling passes out informational flyers to ice fishermen on Lac qui Parle on New Year’s Day.