

To: Infrastructure Committee
From: Engineering Department
Date: January 22, 2015
Re: Discussion Concerning River Ice on the Penobscot

Staff from the City of Bangor has recently attended a presentation put on by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) concerning river ice and susceptibility to flooding due to winter and spring rain events, snow melt, and ice jams. Of particular interest for Bangor is the recent removal of the Veazie Dam and how this will impact the river flow with ice conditions during winter and spring rain events.

Based on discussions at the attended seminar, the removal of the Veazie dam may increase the amount of supply ice to the Bangor area which can result in greater probability of ice jams occurring within our portion of the Penobscot River. Historical river stage data that has been utilized in the past to forecast potential flooding is no longer reliable with the removal of the Veazie dam.

City Departments will be contacting the Coast Guard to discuss scheduling for ice breaking of the river to reduce the potential for ice jams. The City will also be putting a renewed effort on developing a system for better communicating with downtown businesses that are more at risk to damages resulting from river flood events.