



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
St. Paul District

# Information Paper

## Mississippi River: Lock and Dam 6 Winter Maintenance, Trempealeau, Wisconsin



*Lock and Dam 6 lock chamber dewatered, winter 2009-2010, Minneiska, Minnesota*

### Contact

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### Location/Description

Lock and Dam 6 is located near the community of Trempealeau, Wisconsin. The Corps of Engineers completed the facility in 1936 as part of the overall 9-foot channel project. After more than 50 years of service, the Corps undertook a major maintenance program to replace much of the operating equipment and construct a new control building, which was completed in 1999.

Lock and Dam 6 was dewatered first in 1977 and again 17 years later in 1994. It is scheduled for dewatering in fiscal year 2013. The St. Paul District locks are now dewatered on an approximate 20-year cycle.

Between normal project lower and upper pools is a 6-foot lift. The average flow is 15,900 cubic feet per second or 118,900 gallons per second. The dam consists of 5 roller gates and 10 tainter gates to control flow.

The lock consists of the upper miter gates, which are 23 feet high, and the lower miter gates, which are 25 feet

high. The chamber is 110 feet wide by 600 feet long. The lock chamber is dewatered to perform maintenance on the miter gates and bubbler system and repair damaged concrete on the walls. The work is performed during the traffic closure period to avoid impacts to users of the navigation system. The lock is scheduled to close to traffic on December 6, 2012, and will reopen on March 12, 2013.

To stop the water from flowing into the chamber, bulkheads are placed upstream and downstream of the chamber. The St Paul District will place into service a new barge crane with sufficient capacity to place the bulkheads.

Once the water is pumped from the chamber, the miter gates, bubbler system, and concrete are inspected. The miter gates are sandblasted and painted, and equipment is replaced as needed. Concrete repairs are made on the walls and floor as needed. The bubbler system is removed and replaced with stainless steel.

### Status

The Corps' maintenance and repair crew will perform the work. The crew specializes in sandblasting, painting, welding, carpentry and equipment operation. This crew will place the sill beam and bulkheads, dewater the chamber, perform the inspections and repairs on the miter gates, sandblast and paint the miter gates, remove and replace the bubbler system, and repair areas of concrete on the lock walls within the chamber.

Each year one day is set aside as media day. Local media is welcome to visit the site during construction.

### Authority

The project was authorized as part of the Rivers and Harbors Act approved July 3, 1930.

### Fiscal

Project design and construction costs are 100 percent Federal.

Total cost	\$3,300,000
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