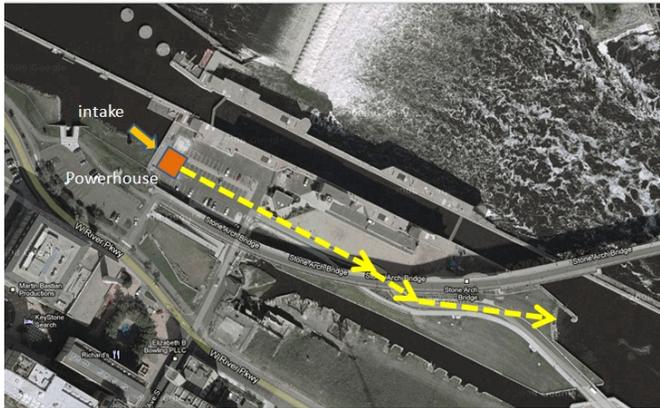




**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
St. Paul District

# Information Paper

## Miscellaneous: Hydropower, Crown Hydro, Minneapolis, Minnesota



*Proposed Crown Hydropower at Upper St. Anthony Falls -  
Minneapolis, Minnesota*

### Contact

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### Location/Description

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued License 11175 to Crown Hydro, LLC, in 1999, which grants it the exclusive rights to develop a hydropower facility in the Mill Ruins Park area on the Mississippi River near Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The currently-proposed hydropower facility will consist of an operations building housing two 1.7-megawatt turbines installed below ground level, which will discharge via a 16-foot diameter conduit into the Mississippi River pool between the upper and lower locks. The intake structure for the proposed hydropower plant is located behind the upper guide wall of Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam. River conditions will allow the project to operate approximately 60 percent of the time; the project will draw up to 1,000 cubic feet per second of flow from the river. The total 3.4-megawatt estimated capacity will be enough to provide power to more than 2,000 households.

### Background

The project is located in the St. Anthony Falls Historic District. The FERC license requires the licensee to determine impacts on the historic district.

Many parties are competing for use of the river flows above St Anthony Falls, including the existing hydropower plant operated by Xcel Energy and navigation interests.

### Status

The Crown Hydro plant was originally proposed to be located in the Crown Roller Building and then, later, underground on land owned by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. Crown Hydro has been unable to reach a real estate agreement with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and ceased discussions with it in April 2011. Crown Hydro began developing a proposal to locate the project on Corps-managed Government land at Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and met to discuss this proposal with the Corps in October 2011 and March 2012. The Corps and Crown signed a real estate access agreement on May 17, 2012, which allows Crown Hydro onto Corps property for the purposes of conducting investigations. On June 14, 2012, FERC issued a notice of pending revocation of Crown's license. The deadline for filing comments was July 19, 2012. FERC will issue a decision on the revocation after reviewing comments and other submittals.

Pertinent correspondence and filings are posted on the FERC eLibrary (<http://elibrary.ferc.gov>) under docket number P-11175.

### Authority

Licensing of hydropower facilities is governed by Part I of the Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 791(a) – 825(r). Licensing at Corps facilities is also governed by a 1981 Memorandum of Understanding between FERC and the Department of the Army.

### Fiscal

A fixed amount, generally \$7,000 per year, is funded under the Investigations account for FERC-related administrative activities and permit review. Activities such as pre-licensing, coordination during construction and relicensing are funded under the Operation and Maintenance program, and these costs are reimbursed by the licensee to the U.S. Treasury through annual charges by FERC.