



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

# Information Paper

## Miscellaneous: Hydropower, Twin Cities Hydro (aka Ford Plant), Minneapolis, Minnesota



*Twin Cities Hydropower at Lock and Dam 1  
Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota*

### Contact

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### Location/Description

Twin Cities Hydro, LLC, holds Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license number 362, which allows it to operate the Ford hydropower plant on the Mississippi River in St. Paul, Minnesota. The hydropower facility consists of a powerhouse, four 5,800-horsepower Francis turbines and four 4,880-kilowatt generating units, a 2-foot-high inflatable flashboard system atop the concrete dam spillway, and a power distribution system. The total capacity of the plant is 17.92 megawatts, or enough to provide power to 15,600 households.

### Background

FERC issued License 362 to the Ford Corporation in 1923. The original license expired June 6, 1973. FERC reissued the license for a period of 20 years on July 2, 1980, and extended the license yearly until it was reissued on November 18, 2004. The current license expires on November 1, 2034.

On October 15, 2001, the licensee (at the time, Ford) and the Corps signed a "Use, Occupation and License" agreement.

### Status

On April 14, 2008, ownership of the hydropower license was transferred from Ford Hydropower to Twin Cities Hydro, LLC, which is owned by Brookfield Power. All prior agreements between the Corps and the previous license holder are enforceable with the current license holder.

FERC conducts annual safety inspections.

Pertinent correspondence and filings are posted on the FERC e-Library (<http://elibrary.ferc.gov>) under docket number P-362.

### 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.