



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

# Information Paper

## Miscellaneous: Hydropower, Lock and Dam 2, Hastings, Minnesota



*Hastings hydropower at Lock and Dam 2, Hastings, Minnesota*

### Contact

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### Location/Description

The city of Hastings, Minnesota, holds Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license number 4306, which granted it the authority to design, construct and operate a hydropower facility on the Mississippi River at Lock and Dam 2 in Hastings, Minnesota. The licensed facility consists of a powerhouse, which is adjacent to the dam and contains two 2,200-kilowatt turbine/generators and a power distribution system. An amendment to the license permitted the construction of two 100-kilowatt barge-mounted hydrokinetic generating units downstream of the traditional hydropower plant. The total 4.47-megawatt estimated capacity is enough to provide power to 3,900 households.

### Background

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission issued License 4306 to the city of Hastings on June 10, 1985. Construction began in 1986 and was substantially completed in 1987.

In 2006, Hydro Green Energy, LLC, a private company, approached the city of Hastings with a proposal to expand the capacity of the existing hydropower plant by installing two barge-mounted hydrokinetic generating units downstream of the plant to serve as a pilot project for their hydrokinetic technology. The hydrokinetic power systems generate electricity exclusively from moving water. The power generated by the floating plant feeds into the existing plant where it is distributed to the electrical grid.

FERC granted an amendment to the existing license on December 13, 2008. One barge-mounted hydrokinetic unit was installed in early 2009, and Hydro Green was able to demonstrate their operability. The city of Hastings has recently applied to FERC to remove the hydrokinetic units from its license. The hydrokinetic unit will be removed from the site and moved to temporary storage in St. Paul, Minnesota, until it can be removed from the license and sold to another party.

### Status

The traditional hydropower plant is fully operational.

### Authority

Licensing of hydropower facilities is governed by Part I of the Federal Power Act (FPA), 16 U.S.C. §§ 791(a) – 825(r). Licensing at Corps facilities is also governed by a 1981 Memorandum of Understanding between The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission 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.