



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

Information Paper

Miscellaneous: Hydropower, LSAF Hydro, Minneapolis, Minnesota



LSAF Hydropower – Minneapolis, Minnesota– overview



*LSAF Hydropower - Minneapolis, Minnesota
Operating platform and flow over inflatable gates*

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Location/Description

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued license number 12451 on February 21, 2006, granting the authority to SAF Hydropower, LLC, to construct and operate a hydropower facility on the Mississippi River at Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The hydropower project includes an 8.98-megawatt generating system composed of a 16-unit turbine matrix, a control building, a transmission line and ancillary facilities. The total capacity of the plant is enough to provide power to 7,840 households.

Background

SAF Hydro, LLC, is co-owned by Brookfield Renewable Power and Spaulding Consultants and is operated by Brookfield Power. SAF Hydro and the Corps signed a memorandum of agreement for access, design and construction in September 2006. Construction began in April 2009 and was completed in October 2011. Commercial operation began in December 2011.

Status

SAF Hydro and the Corps signed an operating memorandum of agreement in November 2010, including a draft hydropower regulating plan. The draft regulating plan is being updated as more is learned about how hydropower operations and the Corps navigation mission work together. Of primary concern is ensuring safety for small-boat operators. Several navigational testing sessions have been performed and will be used to formulate safe operating procedures and safety devices to be used in conjunction with hydropower operation.

The FERC license required the licensee to purchase land on the left (north) embankment, which was previously owned by Xcel Energy. This embankment, together with the Corps' lock, dam and other structures make up the damming surface at the lower falls. The licensee will be required to maintain this property as part of its license.

Pertinent correspondence and filings are posted on the FERC eLibrary (<http://elibrary.ferc.gov>) under docket number P-12451.

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

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.