



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

# Information Paper

## Miscellaneous: Hydropower, Lock and Dam 8, Genoa, WI



*Potential hydropower site, Lock and Dam 8,  
Genoa, Wisconsin*

### Contact

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### Location/Description

Lock and Dam 8, is located near Genoa, Wisconsin, at Mississippi river mile 679.2.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued hydropower permit number P-13010 to Symbiotics in June 2008 for a hydropower project to be located at Lock and Dam 8. Symbiotics proposed installing 28 very-low-head turbines within 6 of the 10 tainter gates and 3 of the 4 roller gates of the existing movable dam, a control house and electrical switchyard on lands adjacent to the dam, and connection to the electrical grid via a nearby transmission line.

### Background

Symbiotics' original permit expired in June 2011. Both Symbiotics and Free Flow Power applied for a new FERC Permit at the site in June 2011. In April 2012, FERC granted Symbiotics first priority for a permit, and issued a successive permit to Symbiotics on May 11, 2012.

### Status

On September 4, 2012, Symbiotics surrendered its permit, citing economic infeasibility. The decision on granting a preliminary permit to Free Flow Power rests with FERC.

### 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. As part of this agreement, the licensee must provide free power to the Corps' facility. The Corps must provide written approval of the design before FERC will allow construction to begin.

### 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.