



US Army Corps
of Engineers
St. Paul District

Information Paper

Section 216 Disposition Study, Upper and Lower St. Anthony Falls and Lock and Dam 1, Upper Mississippi River



Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

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Description

A Section 216 study would investigate the appropriate future disposition of three locks and dams located in Minneapolis, Minnesota, including Upper St. Anthony Falls (USAF), Lower St. Anthony Falls and Lock and Dam 1.

Due to concerns regarding the spread of invasive Asian carp, Section 2010 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (WRRDA 2014) directed the Secretary of the Army to close the Upper St. Anthony Falls lock to navigation within one year after enactment. The WRRDA 2014 was signed into law on June 10, 2014. The WRRDA 2014 allows the lock to continue to be operated for emergency flood control. The lock was closed to navigation on June 9, 2015. The WRRDA 2014 did not direct further disposition of the lock.

Background

Upper and Lower St. Anthony Falls locks and dams were constructed in 1963 and 1956, respectively, as part of the Minneapolis Upper Harbor project. The present Lock and Dam 1 was constructed in 1930.

Status

An initial appraisal (IA) report was completed in October 2015, which recommended studying the future disposition or beneficial use of the USAF site. Since the operations at two downstream locks and dams (Lower St. Anthony Falls and Lock and Dam 1) have been impacted by the decrease in commercial traffic at Upper St. Anthony Falls, the study would address the future of these two sites as well.

Section 216 studies typically examine the following four alternatives:

- 1) No action – continue with minimal operation, maintenance and repair.
- 2) Transfer ownership to other Federal or non-Federal owner.
- 3) Reauthorize the project to include other purposes, which would involve additional non-Federal sponsors.
- 4) Deauthorize the project and dispose of it.

Authority

The Mississippi River 9-foot channel was authorized as part of the Rivers and Harbors Act, approved July 3, 1930.

Construction of the locks at Upper and Lower St. Anthony Falls was authorized by the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1937, which approved extension of the 9-foot channel to the Minneapolis upper harbor.

Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 allows the Corps to study completed projects or their operation when found advisable due to significantly changed physical or economic conditions.

Section 2010 of WRRDA 2014 directed that the Secretary of the Army close the USAF lock to navigation.

Fiscal

No funding has been received to-date and \$100,000 is necessary to develop the scope and estimate the cost for completing a Section 216 disposition study.