

SECTION 216 DISPOSITION STUDY UPPER AND LOWER ST. ANTHONY FALLS LOCKS AND DAMS AND LOCK AND DAM NO. 1 MINNEAPOLIS, MN

Presentation for the
Public Meetings July 2018

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FACILITATOR INTRO

Room logistics

Program handout

Comment card handout

Meeting format



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WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A GOVERNMENT PROPERTY IS NO LONGER FULFILLING ITS PURPOSE?



Duluth harbor south breakwater lighthouse - Photo courtesy of U.S. General Services Administration

Recently in the news.

U.S. Coast Guard proposes to dispose of the Duluth harbor south breakwater lighthouse.

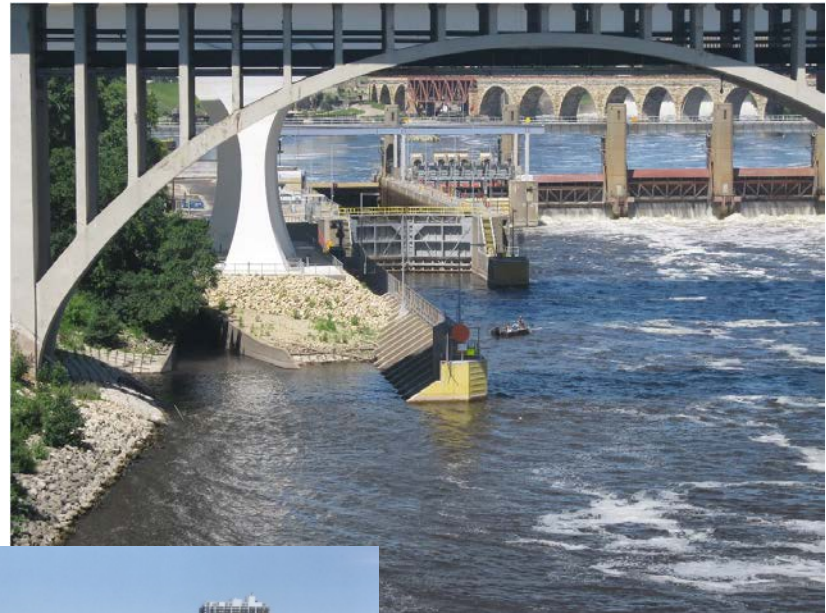


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WE FACE THE SAME QUESTION AT 3 LOCKS IN THE TWIN CITIES

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MEETING PURPOSE

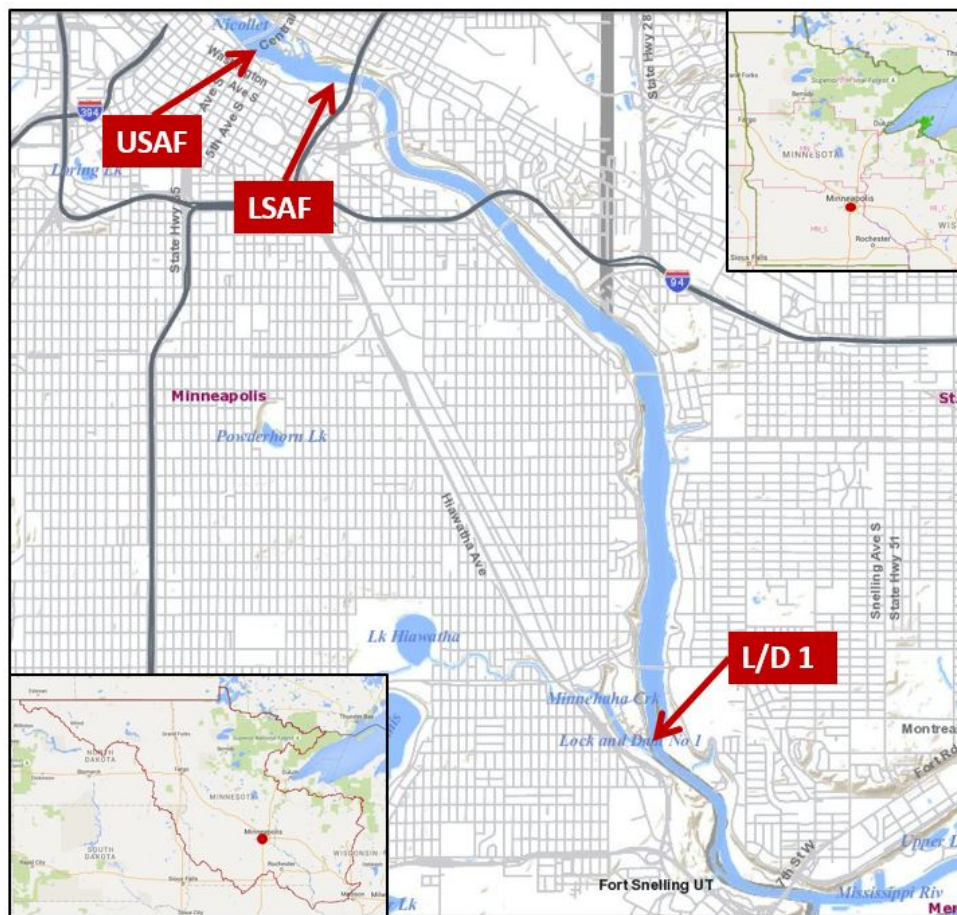
- Introduce the study.
- Timeline.
- Address questions & concerns.
- Solicit public input.
- How to keep informed.
- How/when to provide comments.
- How/when to express interest in owning.



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STUDY LOCATIONS



- **Upper St. Anthony Falls lock**
- **Lower St. Anthony Falls lock and dam**
- **Lock and Dam 1 (Ford lock and dam)**



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INTRODUCTION - BACKGROUND

- Every federal project is authorized for a specific purpose(s) by Congress.

Navigation



Recreation



Flood Mitigation



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UPPER ST. ANTHONY FALLS (USAF) LOCK



(Note: Xcel Energy owns the dam and spillway)

Primary Authorized Purpose:

- Navigation

Secondary Authorized Purpose:

- Recreation

Integral to:

- Flood damage mitigation.
- Hydropower production.
- Mpls Water supply.



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LOWER ST. ANTHONY FALLS (LSAF) LOCK AND DAM



Primary Authorized Purpose:

- Navigation

Secondary Authorized Purpose:

- Recreation

Integral to:

- Hydropower production.

(Note: Brookfield Renewable owns SAF Hydropower project located within dam).



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LOCK AND DAM NO. 1 (LD 1) – A.K.A. FORD DAM



Primary Authorized Purpose:

- Navigation

Secondary Authorized Purpose:

- Recreation

Integral to:

- Hydropower production.

(Note: Brookfield Renewable owns Twin Cities Hydropower project located at end of dam).



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INTRODUCTION - BACKGROUND

- The cost of constructing, operating and maintaining federal projects is funded by taxes.
- Before a project is constructed, the costs are weighed against the benefits they provide.



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INTRODUCTION - BACKGROUND

- When a federal project is no longer fulfilling its authorized purpose...what then?



- Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 – Congress authorized the Corps to do studies to re-examine costs and benefits of existing projects, and to make a recommendation.

WHY DO A DISPOSITION STUDY NOW?

- The Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 ordered Upper St. Anthony Falls (USAF) Lock and Dam closed to navigation.

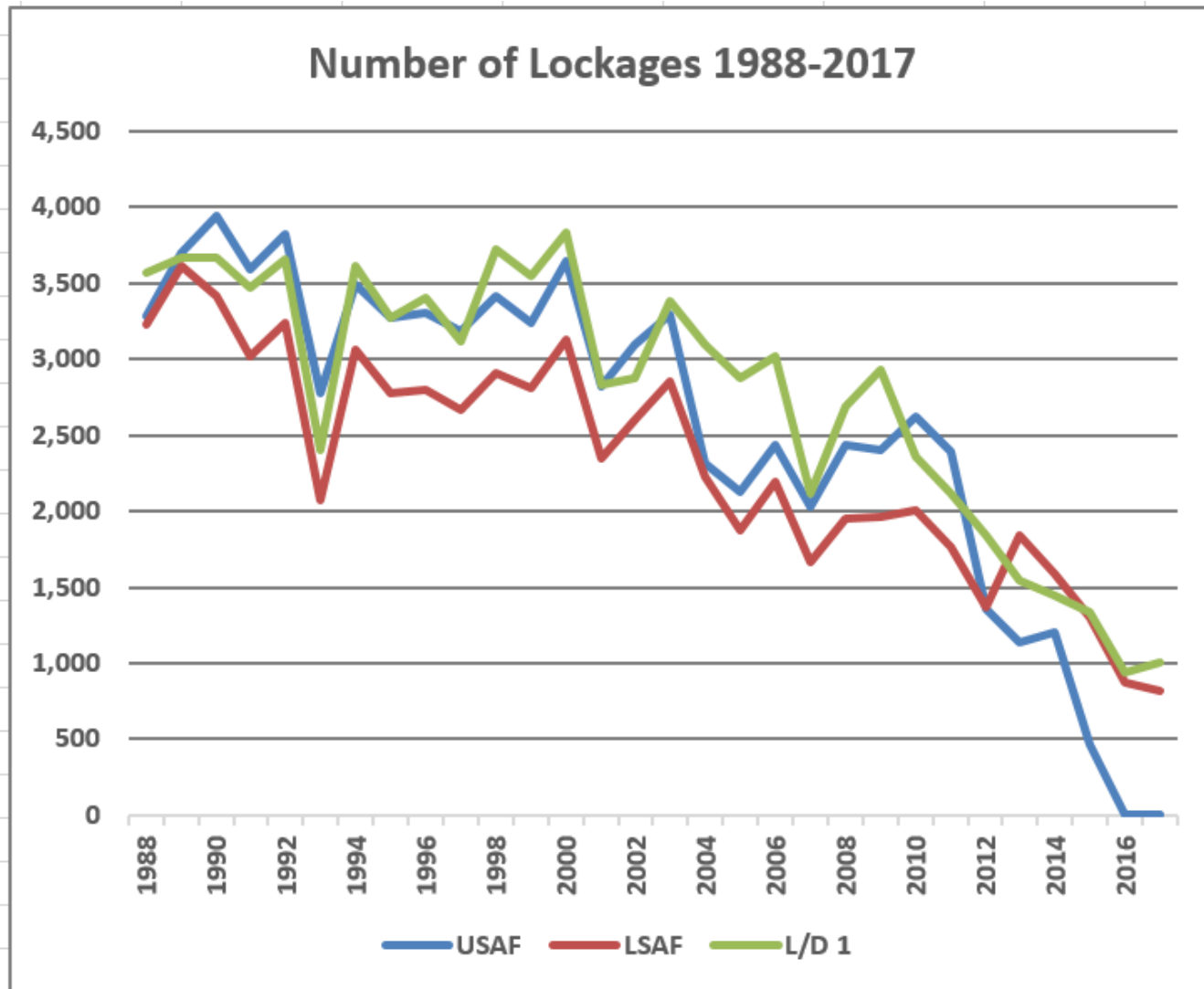


- The last lockage at USAF was on 9 June 2015.
- Usage has dropped at LSAF and Lock and Dam 1.



USAGE TRENDS

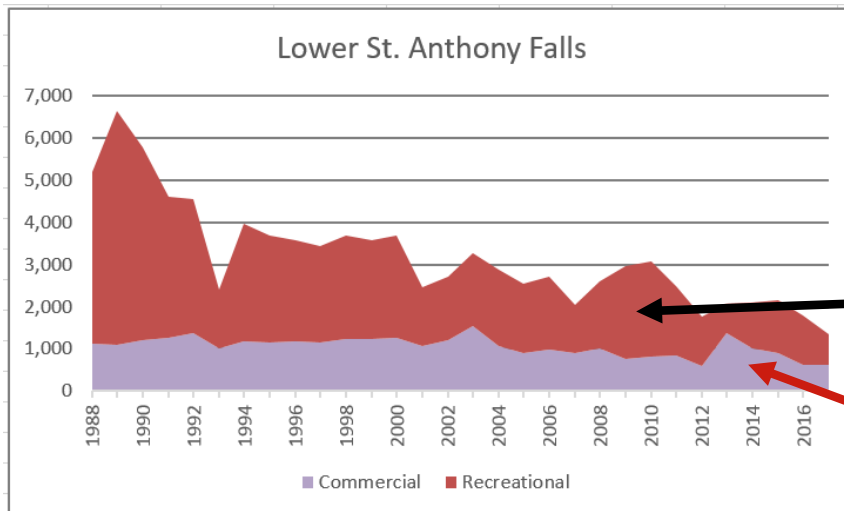
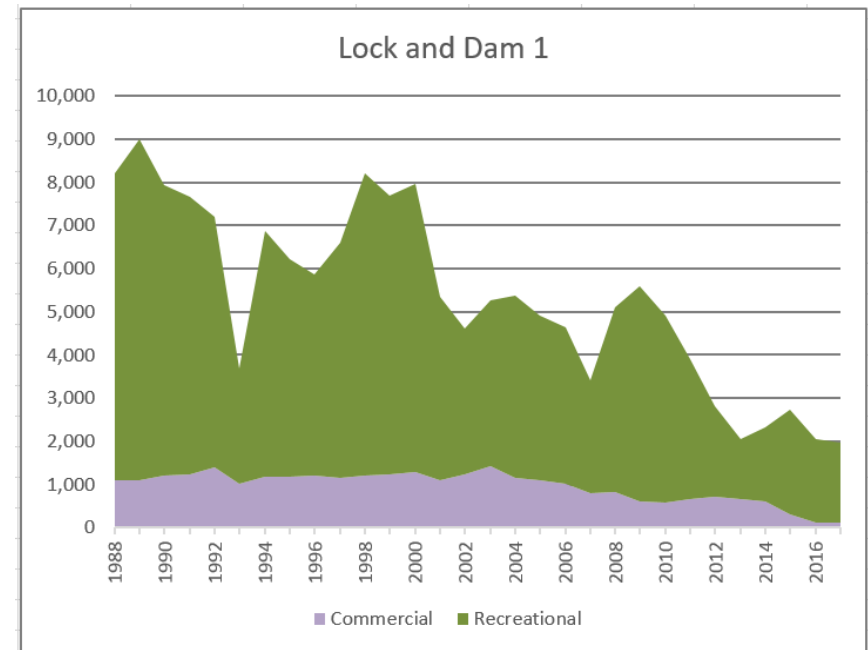
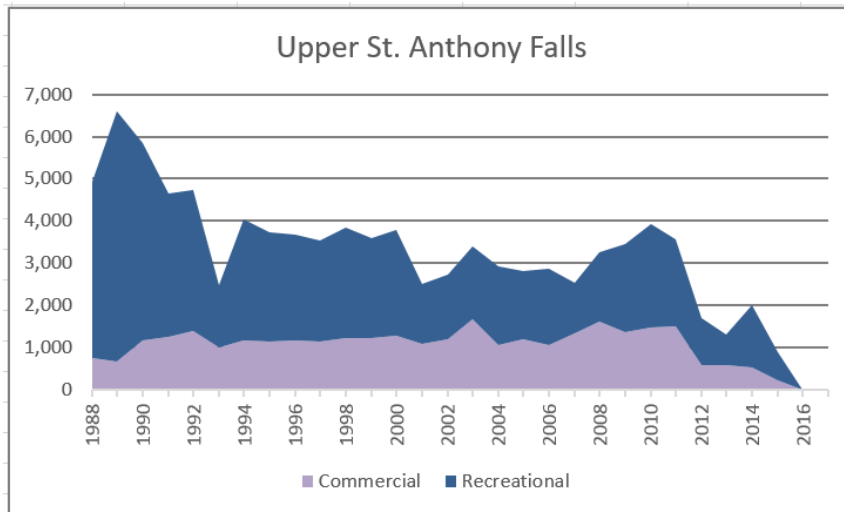
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TYPE OF VESSELS USING LOCKS



Recreational vessels

Commercial vessels including
tour boats



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COSTS FOR MAINTAINING THIS SERVICE @ 3 SITES

- Staffing and routine maintenance: \$1.5M per year
- Dredging to maintain channel above lock 1:
 - 30,000 cubic yards
 - \$10 per cubic yard
 - \$300k/year
 - + Disposal sites.
- Occasional major maintenance (replace or rehabilitate steel and concrete structures) - \$\$\$\$\$



The Study....



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PROPOSED STUDY PRODUCT

Integrated Section 216 Disposition Study and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance document.



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STUDY TIMELINE

- July-August, 2018 – Public outreach
- Assess and document interest by potential future owners.
- August 20, 2018 – comments and letters of interest requested.
- August 2018 – March 2019 – gather information and prepare draft report and Environmental Assessment.
- June-July, 2019 - Public review of draft report and Environmental Assessment.
- December 2019 – Final report



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TYPICAL PLANNING STUDY SCOPING QUESTIONS

1. What problem are we are trying to solve?
2. What opportunities are there?
3. What are the issues?
4. What are the constraints?



WHAT IS NOT IN THE STUDY SCOPE?

- Invasive Asian carp.
- Dam removal.
- Proposals for future uses.
- Pending hydropower licenses.

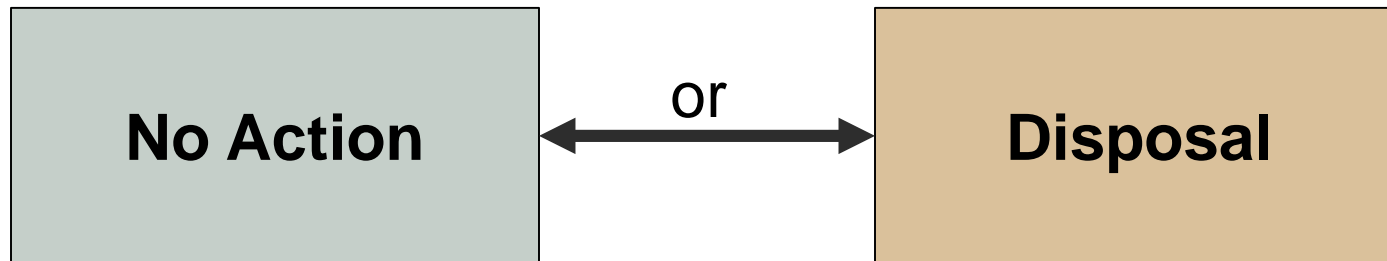
(If the scope changes, additional public meetings will be required).



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OUR CURRENT GUIDELINES LIMIT US TO TWO POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATIONS



1. Examine Costs.
2. Examine Benefits.
3. Assess environmental, economic, social, cultural impacts.
4. Make a recommendation.

WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE NO ACTION RECOMMENDATION?

1. The United States continues to own the property.
2. The Corps continues to operate and maintain the projects.
3. The Corps continues to dredge the channel according to need and funding priority.
4. The Corps may continue to grant temporary real estate permits for compatible uses (tours, etc.).



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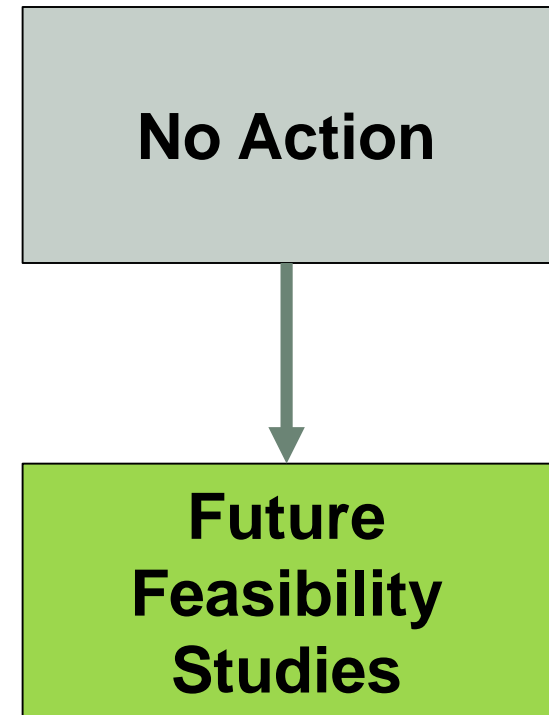


“NO ACTION” OPENS DOOR FOR OTHER STUDIES...

Interested local sponsors may propose feasibility studies to examine modifying the projects for additional public purposes.

Cost of study shared if authorized as a new start by Congress. Otherwise cost would be borne by the study sponsor.

The cost of design, construction, operation and maintenance would be borne by the sponsor.



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WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE DISPOSAL RECOMMENDATION?

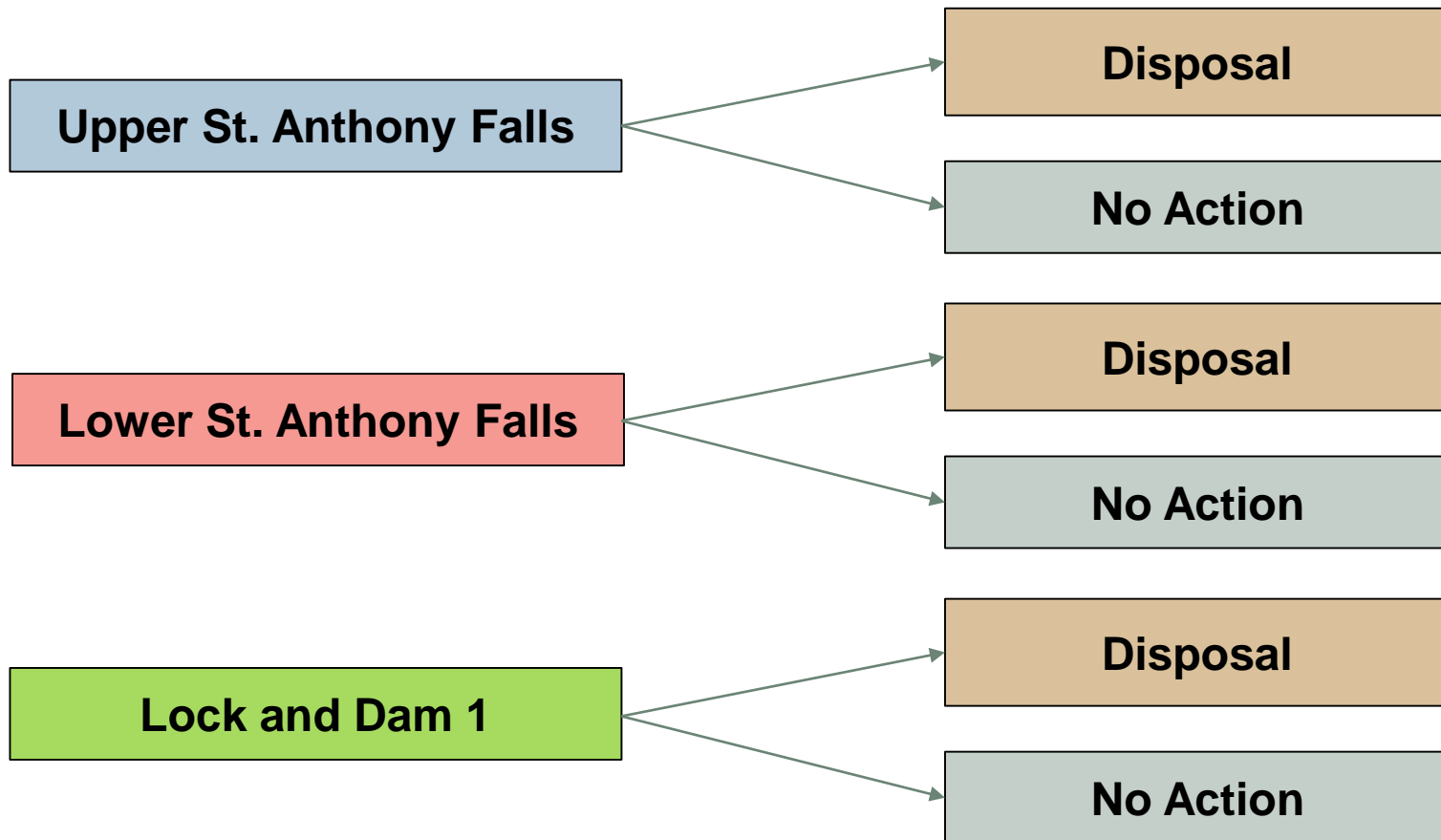
1. The federal role in navigation will be deauthorized by Congress. The Corps will no longer be authorized operate the locks or dredge the channel.
2. Congress will order the General Services Administration (GSA) to dispose of the properties (or direct to whom it be disposed).
3. GSA will dispose of the properties according to priorities mandated by federal law.
4. New owners assume responsibility and control.
5. A portion of the river remains a “waters of the U.S.” but no longer part of the authorized “9-foot channel project”.



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THERE WILL BE A SEPARATE RECOMMENDATION FOR EACH SITE



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ENVIRONMENTAL MEMORANDA, LAWS & REGULATIONS TO BE CONSIDERED

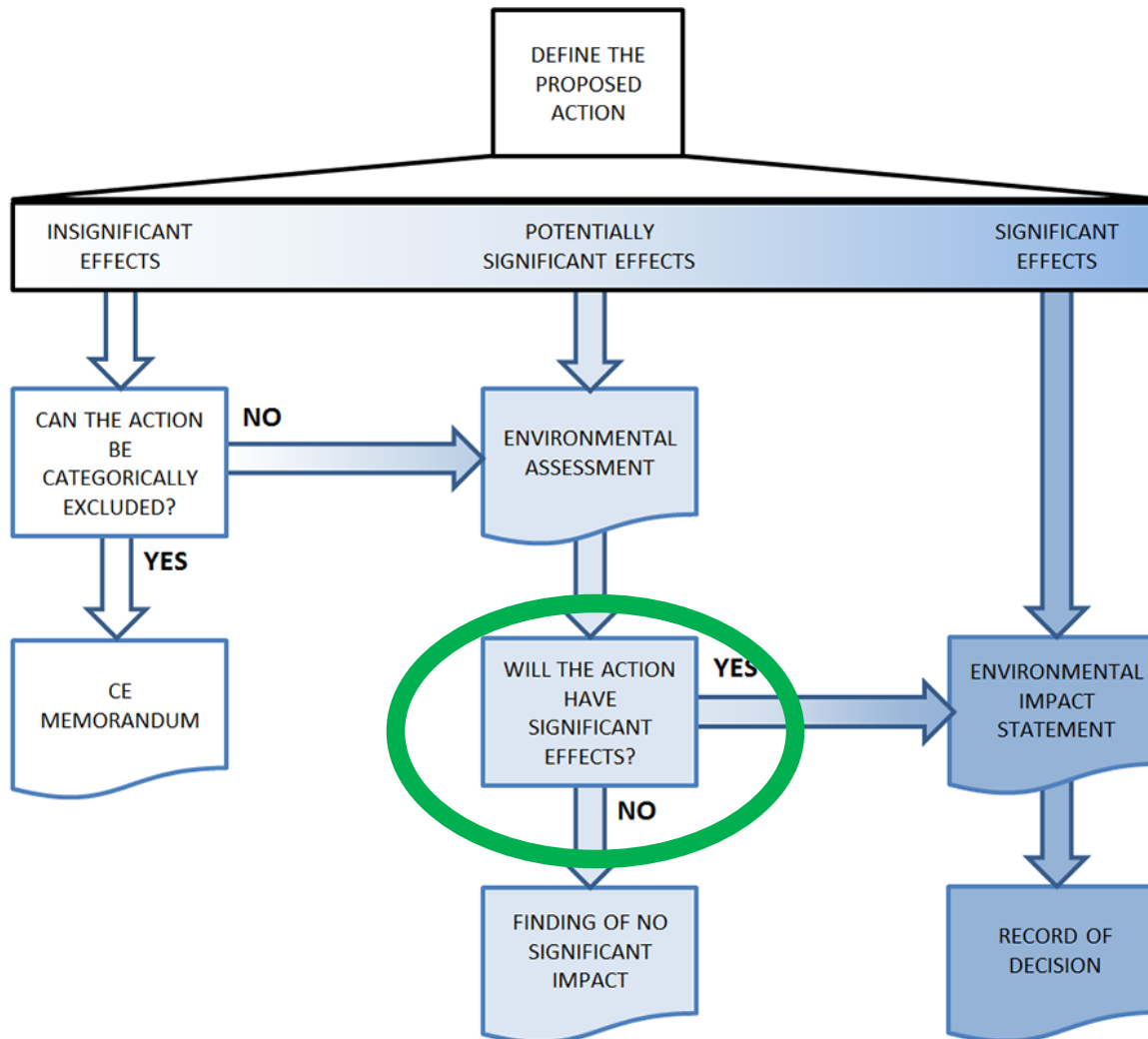
- Clean Air Act
- Clean Water Act
- Consultation with Indian Tribal Governments (EO 13175)
- Endangered Species Act
- Environmental Justice (EO 12898)
- Federal Water Project Recreation Act
- Fish & Wildlife Coordination Act
- Invasive Species (EO 13112)
- National Environmental Policy Act
- National Historic Preservation Act
- Watershed Protection & Flood Prevention Act



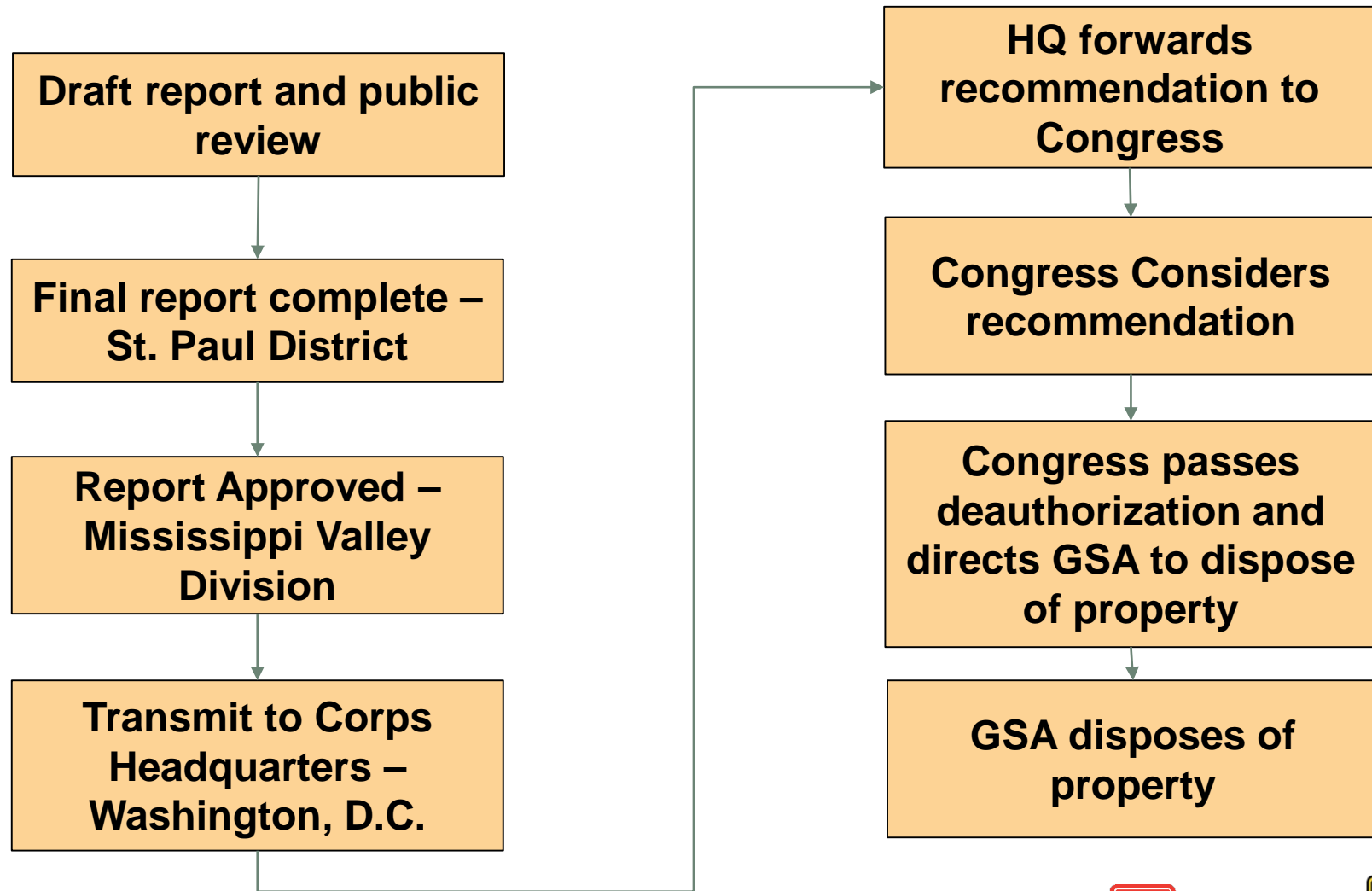
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NEPA PROCESS



IF CORPS RECOMMENDS DISPOSAL – WHAT THEN?



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DISPOSAL OF FEDERAL PROPERTY - GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (GSA) PROCEDURE

1. Other Federal Agencies – no cost transfer.

2. Consult with Department of Housing and Urban Development for homeless use.

3. Negotiated sale to State or Local government or non-profit for a public purpose. (Low or no cost if partnering with a Federal agency).

4. Public auction or sealed bid.

Future Owner
(Your picture here)



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FEDERAL PROPERTY IS.....

- Lands held in fee
- Some easements (access easement, flowage easement)
- Structures

(See posters for info on what lands the federal government owns at each site).



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FEDERAL PROPERTY AT USAF

Lock



Observation Platform



Restroom



Parking lot

Central Control station w/workshop



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FEDERAL PROPERTY AT LSAF

Gated Dam



Lock with Control Building



Warehouse Building



Shop Building



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FEDERAL PROPERTY AT LOCK AND DAM 1

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Locks with Central Control Building



Retaining Wall



Dam



Workshop/ restrooms/ observation platform



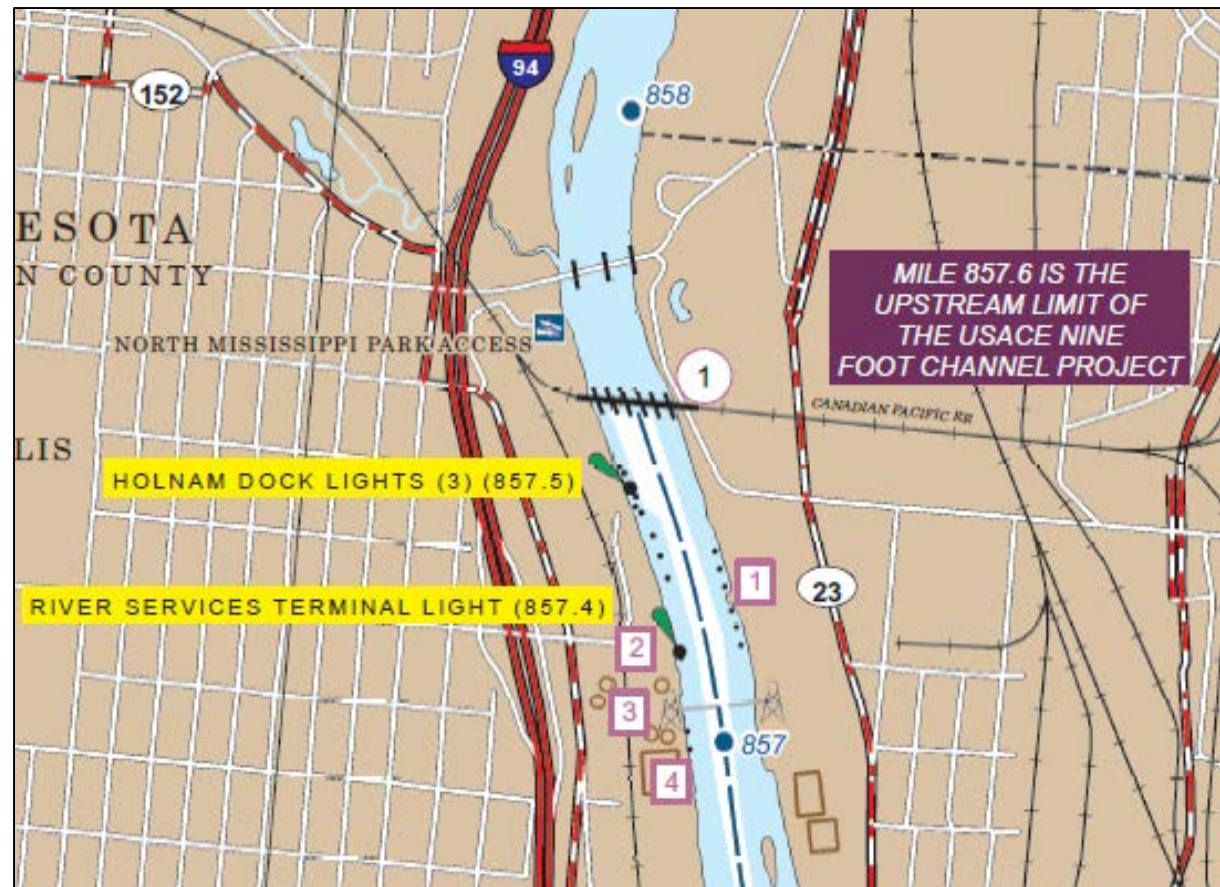
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WHERE DID WE DREDGE BEFORE USAF CLOSED?

Up to river mile 857.6 (approx. 40th Ave N, in Mpls).

Extent of Mississippi River 9-foot channel project.

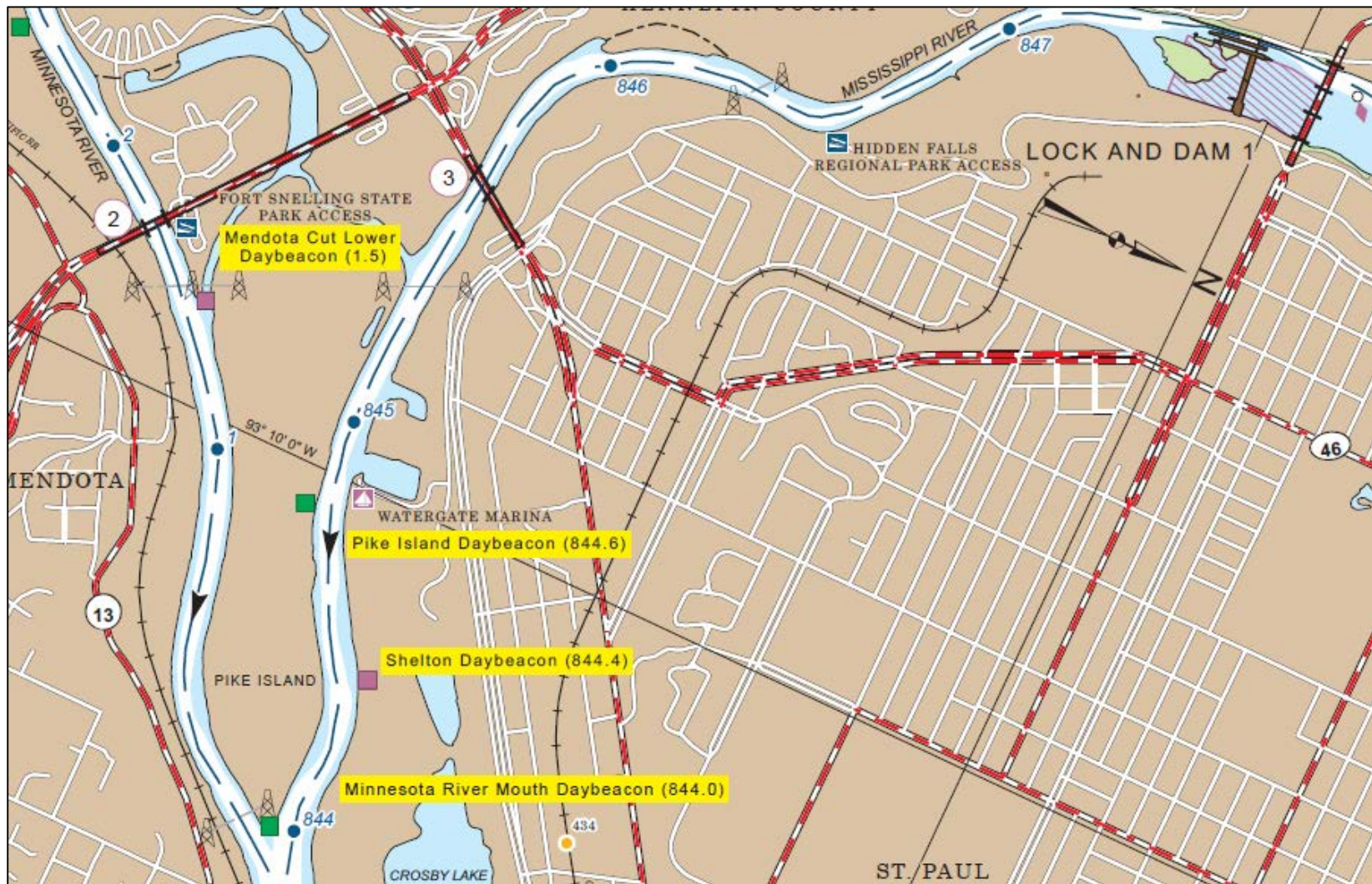


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TBD - WHERE WILL WE CONTINUE DREDGING?

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HOW TO STAY INVOLVED

Interested in being a future owner?

- Send us a letter of interest (see address on handout).

Want to submit a comment?

- Return the comment card, or send an email to:
MplsLocksDisposition@usace.army.mil

Want to stay informed?

- visit our website at:
<http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/MplsLocksDisposition/>
- Watch for public notices in spring 2019 for the draft report public review (local media and Federal Register).
- Follow the St. Paul District on Twitter & Facebook.
- This presentation will be posted on 7/17/18.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION



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Extra slides



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HYDROPOWER

- The Corps and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) cooperate in matters of new hydropower development at Corps sites.
- Disposal of a project with FERC-licensed hydropower would be addressed in the disposition study and the FERC license, when renewed.
- FERC has been advised of the Corps intent to conduct a disposition study.



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HYDROPOWER

- Xcel Energy
- Crown Hydropower
- Symphony Hydropower
- Brookfield Renewable Energy



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