



Twin Cities Lock & Dam Studies

Updated: September 2022

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Background

To facilitate water-borne commercial navigation (barges and tow boats), Congress directed the construction of Lock and Dam 1 in 1917, Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam in 1956, and Upper St. Anthony Falls in 1963. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers built these three locks projects and continues to operate and maintain them today.

In 2014, Congress directed that Upper St. Anthony Falls be closed within one year. In June 2015, the Corps of Engineers halted lock operations at Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam, eliminating navigation above St. Anthony Falls.

Disposition Studies

The purpose of a disposition study is to determine whether there is federal interest in continuing to own and operate the lock and dams.

If there is no longer a federal interest, the Corps is then directed to identify a viable disposal alternative. **Disposal means the locks and dams would be transferred out of federal ownership to a local, state, or federal agency.**

Before the locks and dams can be disposed of, Congress would need to deauthorize them, ending the navigation mission in Minneapolis.

In 2016, the Corps began studying the disposition of the three Minneapolis locks and dams. In 2018, the Corps was directed to separate the Upper St. Anthony Falls study from the Lower St. Anthony Falls and Lock and Dam 1 study.



Twin Cities Mississippi Locks and Dams

Upper St. Anthony Falls

In January 2021, a draft disposition study for Upper St. Anthony Falls was published. Under the direction of Congress, lands surrounding the lock and dam will be conveyed to the city of Minneapolis. The draft disposition study report proposed disposal of the remainder of Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam.

A final disposition study report and recommendations will be prepared following verification of lands to be conveyed to the city of Minneapolis. The report will be publicly available and published on the St. Paul District website.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – MISSISSIPPI VALLEY DIVISION

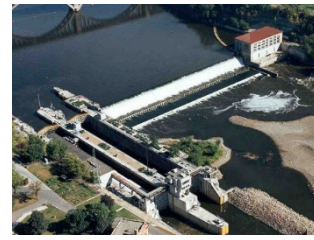
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Upper St. Anthony Falls



Lower St. Anthony Falls



Lock and Dam 1

Lower St. Anthony Falls and Lock & Dam 1

A joint disposition study for Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam 1 started Fall 2022.

Public open houses are planned for October 2022. Details of those and future events and up-to-date information about the disposition study and the locks and dams can be found at <https://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/MplsLocksDisposition/>. Early and continuing participation by a diversity of interests provides essential information and insights on alternatives.

Alternatives Studied

The Corps will study combinations of the following alternatives:

- Full or partial disposal
- Modification of the locks and dams
- Removal of the locks and dams
- Potential opportunities for the locks and dams to serve a new purpose such as ecosystem restoration

A recommendation to Congress, the outcome of this disposition study, is not expected until 2024, at the earliest.

A recommendation will be selected after all alternatives are fully evaluated.

Dam Removal

The Corps is required to *consider dam removal in its disposition studies*. It is currently unknown whether dam removal will occur, if it would be carried out by the Corps prior to disposal, or if it would be carried out by a new owner after disposal.

What Effects Will Be Studied?

The Corps will study the effect of the various alternatives on the environment, including an evaluation of potential effects to water quality, fish and wildlife, historic and cultural resources, local communities, recreation, navigation, climate change, environmental and social justice, and energy generation (to name a few categories).



Learn More



www.mvp.usace.army.mil/MplsLocksDisposition/



Attend Public Meetings

Learn of these events through the St. Paul District website or by following our social media channels.

facebook.com/usace.saintpaul
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Submit comments and questions

Email question and comments on both studies to:

MplsLocksDisposition@usace.army.mil