

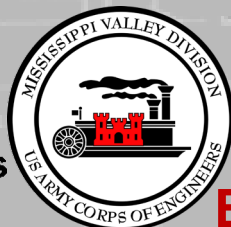
UPPER ST. ANTHONY FALLS LOCK AND DAM, MINNEAPOLIS, MN DISPOSITION STUDY

PUBLIC MEETING

Nanette Bischoff, Project Manager
Sierra Keenan, Project Planner
Mississippi Valley Division/St. Paul
District
March 3, 2021



US Army Corps
of Engineers®



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UPPER ST. ANTHONY FALLS LOCK AND DAM, MINNEAPOLIS, MN DISPOSITION STUDY

VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING

**THIS MEETING WILL BE RECORDED AND
AVAILABLE FOR FUTURE VIEWING**

(A LINK WILL BE POSTED ON THE DISPOSITION STUDY WEB PAGE)



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AGENDA



1. Introduction.
2. Virtual meeting participation tips- how to use the chat feature.
3. Where to go for more information.
4. Presentation.
5. How to post comments and letters of interest.
6. Due date for comments.
7. Questions using the chat feature, with live answers.



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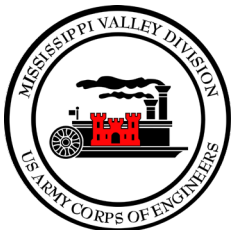
QUESTIONS DURING THE MEETING

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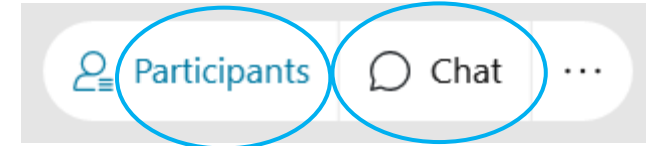


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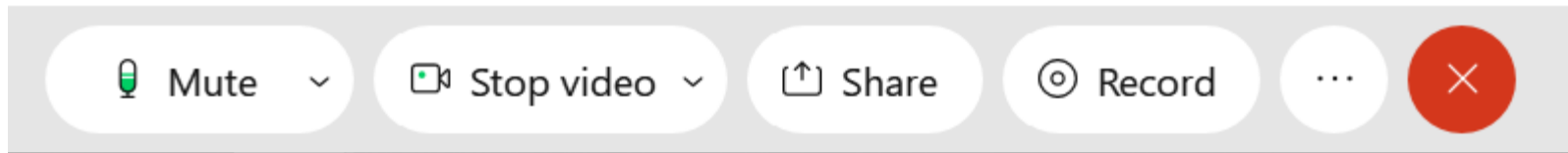


TIPS FOR PARTICIPATING IN WEBEX

- ✓ Open the Chat window & Participant list



- ✓ Type questions in Chat (set To: Everyone)
- ✓ The moderator will share the questions and the presenters will give responses.



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Please visit the disposition study webpage to download the draft report and view the 89-slide pre-meeting briefing information

<https://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/MplsLocksDisposition/>

UPPER ST. ANTHONY FALLS LOCK AND DAM

SECTION 216 DISPOSITION STUDY

DRAFT INTEGRATED DISPOSITION REPORT
AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT



December 2020

(Revised January 2021)



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PRE-MEETING BRIEFING INFO:



The pre-meeting briefing information can be found on the Disposition study webpage
<https://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/MplsLocksDisposition/>

The screenshot shows the US Army Corps of Engineers St. Paul District Website. The navigation bar includes links for About, Business With Us, Missions, Locations, Contact, Careers, Media, Library, and Coronavirus. The breadcrumb trail indicates the path: Home / Civil Works / Programs & Project Management / Minneapolis Locks Disposition Study. The main content area features a section titled "2021 Public Notice and Draft Report" with a "NEW" announcement about a virtual public meeting on March 3. Below this, a red oval highlights the "2021 Public Meeting Materials" link, which leads to a "Virtual Public Meeting Pre-Brief Slideshow". The page is updated as of January 20, 2021. A sidebar on the left contains links for "Resources/Reference", "Public Meeting Materials", "Presentation", "Public Meeting Program", and "Comments Receive". A sidebar on the right provides contact information for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Project Management, Minneapolis Locks Disposition, located at 180 5th St. E., Suite 700, St. Paul, MN 55101. A small image of a bridge over a river is visible in the bottom right corner.

US Army Corps of Engineers St. Paul District Website

Home / Civil Works / Programs & Project Management / Minneapolis Locks Disposition Study

Resources/Reference

- Public Meeting Materials
- Presentation
- Public Meeting Program
- Comments Receive

2021 Public Notice and Draft Report

NEW Virtual Public Meeting will be held, starting at 2 p.m., March 3. Logon instructions will be posted [here](#) March 1.

2021 Public Meeting Materials

[Virtual Public Meeting Pre-Brief Slideshow](#)

Updated Jan. 20, 2021

[View the public notice and draft report here](#)

Contact Us

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Project Management
Minneapolis Locks Disposition
180 5th St. E., Suite 700
St. Paul, MN 55101

MplsLocksDisposition@usace.army.mil



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PRESENTATION

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- Summarize the Upper St. Anthony Falls Draft Disposition Study report
- Summarize the Tentatively Selected Plan
- Invite public comments and statements of interest in ownership
- Address questions
- Summarize the next steps



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STUDY PURPOSE

The purpose of the Upper St. Anthony Falls lock disposition study is to determine whether or not there is **Federal interest in continuing to own and operate the Upper St. Anthony Falls lock.**

And if not, to identify if there is a viable disposal alternative.



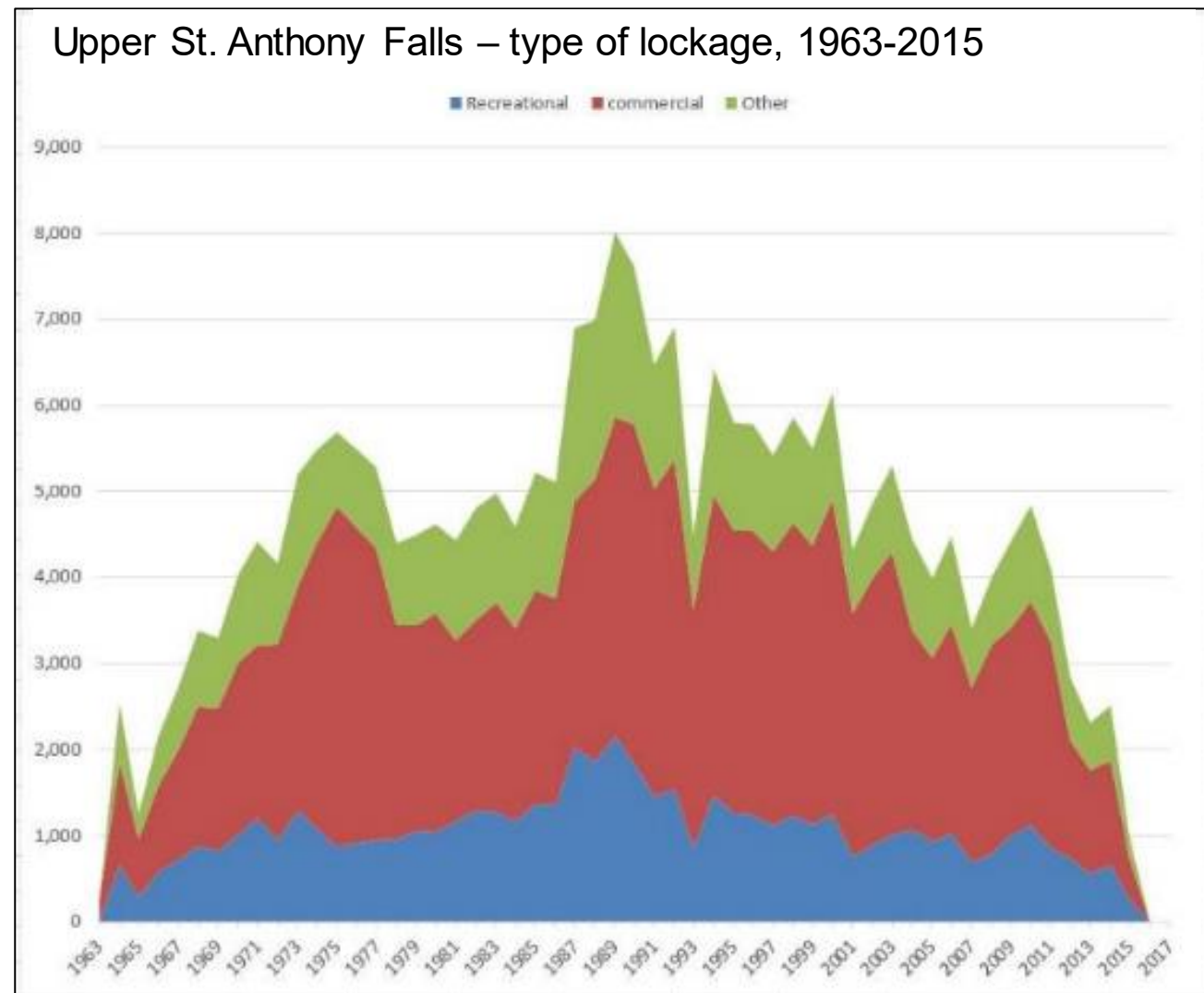
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PROJECT OVERVIEW AND BACKGROUND



- USAF was constructed in 1963 for the authorized purpose of commercial navigation.
- Lockages peaked in 1990.
- In 2012, local groups discouraged recreational lockages due to the fear of the spread of invasive Asian carp.
- Congress directed closure of the lock in 2014.
- Minneapolis closed the Upper Harbor to river-based commerce in December 2014.
- The lock closed June 2015.





DISPOSITION STUDY TIMELINE



- 2016 – Initial appraisal of all three twin cities locks and dams.
- 2018 – Disposition study initiated for all three twin cities locks and dams simultaneously.
- 2018 – Public meetings held.
- 2018 – Congress directed the disposition study for USAF be conducted separately & completed first.
- 2019 – Disposition study resumed, limited to just USAF.
- 2019 – Public scoping meetings held for disposition of USAF.
- 2020 – Draft USAF Disposition study report released for public review.
- 2021 – Public meetings & comment period.
- 2021 – Proposed: Complete USAF Disposition report & forward to Congress for action.



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WHAT IS THE USAF SITE CURRENTLY USED FOR?

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- Closed to all navigation uses.
- Temporary license agreement with the National Park Service to conduct tours during the summer season.
- Occasional open house events for the public (Open Doors Minneapolis, 2020 pool drawdown).
- Periodic Inspections are conducted on a 5-year cycle.
- Flood gate operated for maintenance of dam and flooding events.
- Access for water rescues by Mpls and Hennepin County.
- Access for Xcel dam maintenance



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PRESENT CONDITIONS - MAINTAINING THE UPPER LOCK SITE

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The Corps does the following to maintain the site:

- Maintains the concrete lock structure.
- Exercises and maintains the miter gate, flood gate and operating equipment.
- Maintains the Security system (lighting, alarms, fencing).
- Maintains the buildings and grounds.
- Maintains the handrailing, bridge and stairways.
- Performs safety inspections.



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PRESENT CONDITIONS - UNCERTAINTY IN FUTURE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE



The Corps has limited funds to maintain its infrastructure nation-wide. Without a navigation purpose, funds for operation and maintenance of the upper lock will get lower priority than a site with navigation. Maintenance on some features has already been deferred, and the project is expected to deteriorate over time.



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ESTIMATED FEDERAL COST TO OWN/OPERATE

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Estimated Federal cost to maintain the project in its current condition over the next 50 years: ~ \$7 million

Because the project no longer provides any navigation benefit, it will receive low priority for operation and maintenance funds

The Corps will take appropriate steps to preserve the historic structure, while reducing long-term maintenance costs.



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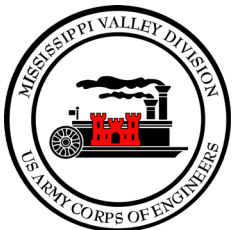


PLAN FORMULATION



The pre-meeting slide deck contains a lot of information on the history of the project, the lands, structures, current conditions, and operational procedures and considerations.

That information was used to formulate and screen alternatives for the study using the Corps 6-step planning process.



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STUDY PROCESS



1. Identify problems, opportunities, objectives and constraints
2. Forecast future conditions
3. Formulate alternative plans
4. Evaluate effects of alternative plans
5. Compare alternative plans
6. Tentatively select a plan



The tentatively-selected plan is then coordinated with agencies, stakeholders and the public, prior to finalizing the report.



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WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2020 (WRDA 2020)

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- Section 356 of WRDA 2020, which was enacted on December 27, 2020, authorizes the Secretary to convey, upon request, real property adjacent to the Upper St. Anthony Falls lock to the city of Minneapolis or its designee.
- The Corps is anticipating receiving implementation guidance for Section 356 of WRDA in the next several months.



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ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

No Action - The Corps would continue to be responsible for operating and maintaining all structures and lands at USAF.

1. Full Disposal – The Corps would dispose of all structures and lands at USAF.

1a. Full Disposal *with a monetary incentive* - The Corps would dispose of all structures and lands at USAF, paying a monetary incentive for a quick conveyance.

2. Partial Disposal - The Corps would retain operation and maintenance and funding responsibilities for features needed to operate the flood gate. Other features that are not integral to flood operations could be disposed of.

2a. Partial Disposal *with project partner funding future expenses* - The Corps would retain operation and maintenance responsibilities for features needed to operate the flood gate, but a project partnership agreement would be signed, and a local sponsor would provide the funding for the Corps operations. Other features that are not integral to flood operations could be disposed of.



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STUDY CONCLUSIONS



After evaluation and comparison of alternatives, the study concludes that the project no longer serves its authorized purpose and that continued operation and maintenance of the site is not in the Federal interest.

The alternative which best meets the study objectives is Alternative 1a: the deauthorization of the project and complete disposal of the property combined with a monetary incentive for expediting the disposal.



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THE TENTATIVELY SELECTED PLAN

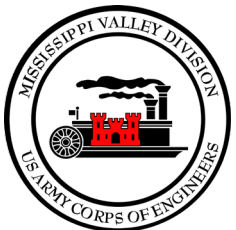


The Tentatively-Selected Plan recommends that all Federal missions at the site be deauthorized and the project disposed of.

The Tentatively-Selected Plan recommends that Corps be given two years in which to negotiate the terms of the transfer with a willing owner and that a monetary incentive to be authorized to be paid to the new owner.

The report concludes that the Tentatively Selected Plan would not have significant environmental effects.

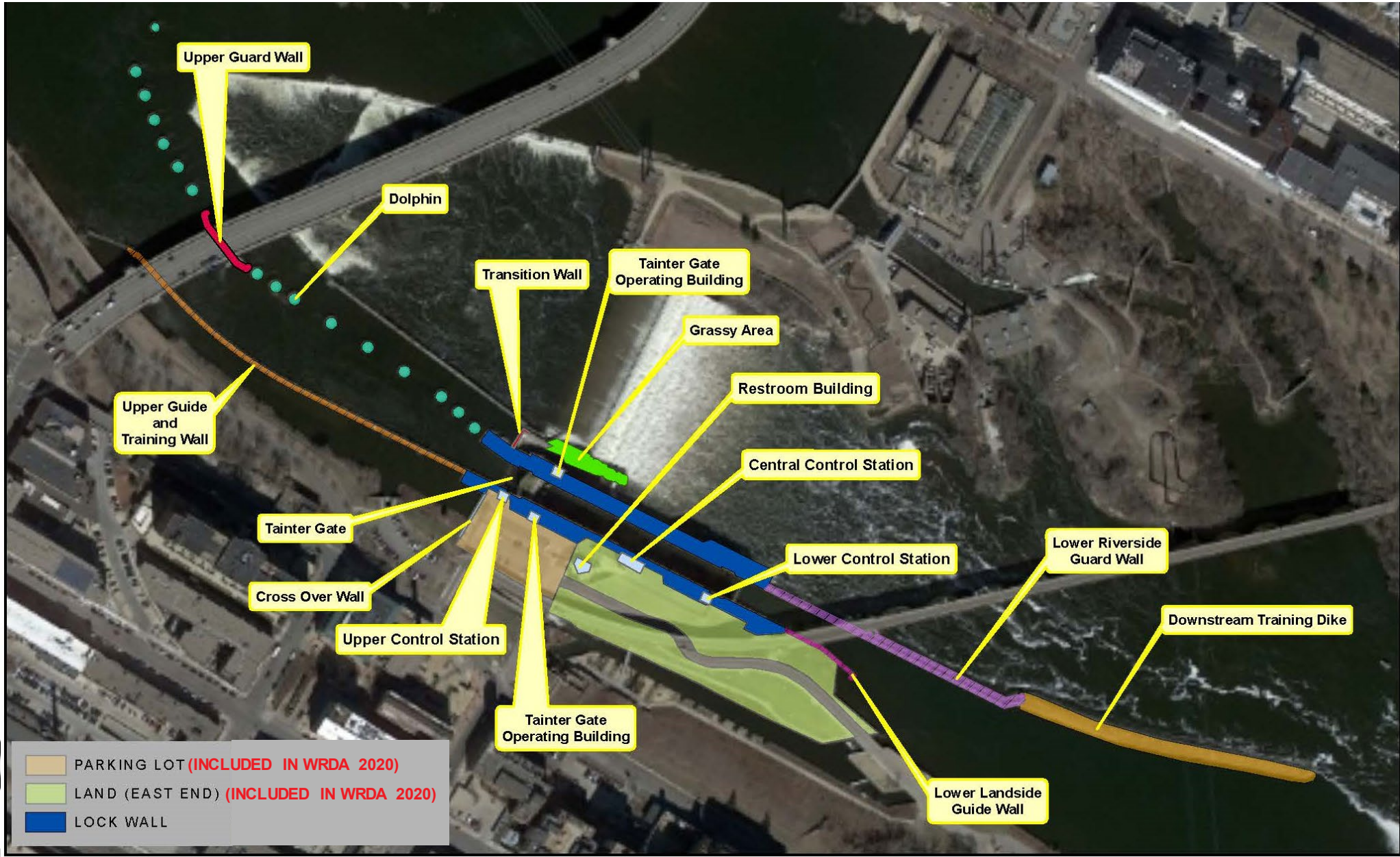
The Tentatively-Selected Plan is deemed to be consistent with WRDA 2020.



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TENTATIVELY SELECTED PLAN – FULL DISPOSAL





IDENTIFYING INTERESTED PARTIES



Publication of the draft report provides an opportunity for interested parties to express interest in future ownership.

During the public review period of this Draft Report, all interested future owners are encouraged to submit a written statement of interest.

The final report will be submitted for approval regardless of whether or not a new owner is identified during the study period.

If no owner is identified and the Corps is not able to negotiate a transfer within a 2-year period, the disposal will be made according to existing Federal laws.





SUBMIT COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT REPORT



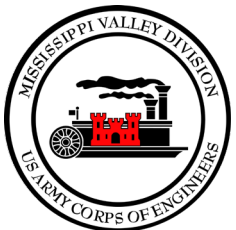
The draft Disposition Study report is available on the website:

<https://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/MplsLocksDisposition/>

Comments will be accepted through **March 18, 2021**.

MplsLocksDisposition@usace.army.mil

St. Paul District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
ATTN: Regional Planning and Environment Division North,
180 5th St. E., Suite 700,
St. Paul, MN 55101.



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STATEMENTS OF INTEREST IN SITE OWNERSHIP



Statements of Interest should be addressed to:

Colonel Karl D. Jansen
Commander, St. Paul District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
180 5th St. E., Suite 700,
St. Paul, MN 55101



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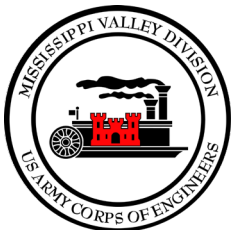
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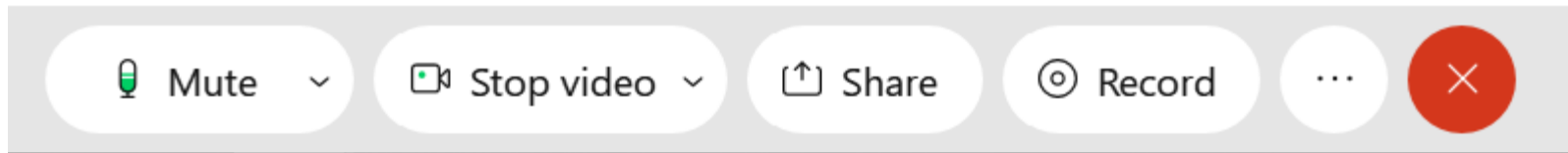
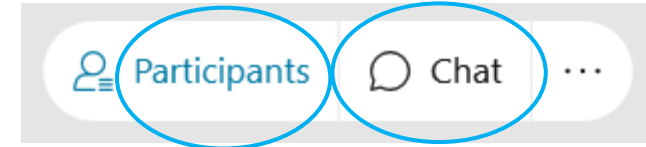


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ADJOURN



Thank you for joining the meeting today.



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