



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

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# **Appendix H: Draft Finding of No Significant Impact**

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UPPER ST. ANTHONY FALLS LOCK AND DAM

SECTION 216 DISPOSITION STUDY

REVISED DRAFT INTEGRATED DISPOSITION STUDY AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

June 2025



## DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, ST. PAUL DISTRICT  
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### FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

#### Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam Section 216 Disposition Study Minneapolis, Minnesota

The St. Paul District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has conducted an environmental analysis in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. The final Integrated Disposition Study and Environmental Assessment, dated XX, 2025, for the Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam Disposition Study, Minneapolis, Minnesota, addresses whether the federal project is serving its authorized purpose(s). If not (negative determination), the study further investigated whether sufficient federal interests exist for the federal government to continue to own, operate and maintain the project or portions thereof that have/have not been conveyed to the city of Minneapolis under Section 356 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020. The study was based on an evaluation and comparison of the benefits, costs and impacts (positive or negative) of continued operation, maintenance, repair, replacement and rehabilitation. Under a negative determination, the study further examined whether it is feasible to dispose of some or all of the federal property and the means by which the property will be disposed. The Water Resources Development Act of 2022 (WRDA 2022) prohibits the Secretary of the Army from recommending deauthorization and disposal of USAF Lock and Dam until such time as a willing and capable nonfederal public entity is identified to assume ownership of the lock and dam. The final recommendation will be contained in the report of the Chief of Engineers, dated XX, 2025.

The final Integrated Disposition Study and Environmental Assessment, incorporated herein by reference, evaluated the environmental effects of the action and no action alternatives.

In addition to the no-action plan, two action alternatives were evaluated as part of the analysis:

- Full Disposal: complete deauthorization and disposal, thus ending USACE's primary mission of navigation at the USAF Lock and all other secondary missions.
- Partial Disposal: modification of authorization and partial disposal of improvements not required for continued operation of the Tainter gate and project integrity.

For all alternatives, the potential effects were evaluated, as appropriate. A summary assessment of the potential effects of the recommended plan are listed in Table 1:

**Table 1: Summary of Potential Effects of the Action Alternatives**

	Insignificant effects	Insignificant effects as a result of mitigation	Resource unaffected by action
Aesthetics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Air quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Aquatic resources/wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Invasive species	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fish and wildlife habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Threatened/Endangered species/critical habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Historic properties	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other cultural resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Floodplains	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hazardous, toxic and radioactive waste	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hydrology	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Land use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Navigation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Noise levels	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Public infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Socioeconomics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Soils	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tribal trust resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Water quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Each action alternative would require Congressional action prior to disposal. Each action alternative includes disposal of some project improvements and assumes no physical or operational changes from current conditions. The environmental assessment concludes no effects to any of the resources with the exception of cultural and historic properties. All practicable and appropriate means to avoid or minimize adverse effects to cultural and historic properties were analyzed and incorporated into the action alternatives.

Public review of the draft environmental assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was completed on XX, 2025. All comments submitted during the public review period were responded to in the final Integrated Disposition Study and Environmental Assessment and FONSI. A 30-day state and agency review of the final Integrated Disposition Study and Environmental Assessment was completed on XX, 2025.

Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, USACE determined that the action alternatives would have no effect on federally listed species or their designated critical habitat.

To comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 pursuant to 36 CFR 800.14, USACE plans to implement the use of a Programmatic Agreement (PA) for any action alternative recommended, allowing for phased surveys, reviews, and further coordination

with consulting parties. The PA would be developed with consulting parties and be executed prior to approval of any action alternative.

Pursuant to the Clean Water Act of 1972, as amended, no discharge of dredged or fill material is anticipated for any alternative.

A water quality certification pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act of 1972 was determined unnecessary, as there would be no discharge of pollutants into navigable waters from any alternative.

All applicable environmental laws have been considered, and coordination with appropriate agencies and officials has been completed.

All applicable laws, executive orders, regulations, and local government plans were considered in evaluation of alternatives. Based on this report, the reviews by other federal, state and local agencies and tribes, the input of the public, and the review by my staff, it is my determination that the recommended plan would not cause significant adverse effects on the quality of the human environment; therefore, preparation of an environmental impact statement is not required.

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Date

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Joshua D Rud  
LTC, Corps of Engineers  
Deputy District Commander