US Army Corps of Engineers ®
St. Paul District

Scoping Document

Appendix D

Public Scoping Comments

Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam 1

Section 216 Disposition Study

May 2023

Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District
332 Minnesota Street, Suite E1500, St. Paul, MN 55101

Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam 1 Disposition Study
Public Comment Sheet – October 2022

Persons submitting comments are advised that all comments received will be available to the public, to include the possibility of posting on a publicly accessible website. Commenters are requested not to include personal privacy information, such as home addresses, in their comments unless they do not object to such information being made available to the public. These comments will be used to prepare a preliminary draft Disposition study report and environmental scoping document, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

Name: _____ affiliation (optional):_____

Please provide your Zip Code: _____

Please check the category/ies below that best represent the nature of your comment/s (Check all that apply):

- ☐ Communication/Coordination
- ☐ Cultural and Historic Resources
- ☐ Dam Removal
- ☒ Economics
- ☐ Environmental
- ☐ Future Use
- ☐ Flooding
- ☐ Hydropower
- ☐ Invasive Species
- ☐ Navigation
- ☐ Ownership
- ☐ Public Access
- ☐ Public Safety
- ☐ Recreation
- ☐ Sediment/Water Quality/Water supply
- ☐ Social concerns
- ☐ Study scope
- ☐ Other (please specify)

_____

HOW WILL THE MEEKER ISLAND LOCK AND DAM WHICH IS ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES BE ADDRESSED IN THE STUDY. IS REMOVAL AN OPTION?

Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam 1 Disposition Study
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Name: BRIAN & ROBIN affiliation (optional):_____

Please provide your Zip Code: [redacted]

Please check the category/ies below that best represent the nature of your comment/s (Check all that apply):

- ☐ Communication/Coordination
- ☐ Cultural and Historic Resources
- ☐ Dam Removal
- ☐ Economics
- ☐ Environmental
- ☐ Future Use
- ☐ Flooding
- ☒ Hydropower
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- ☐ Public Safety
- ☒ Recreation
- ☐ Sediment/Water Quality/Water supply
- ☐ Social concerns
- ☐ Study scope
- ☐ Other (please specify)

_____

GREAT TOUR – VERY INFORMATIVE.
HELPFUL STAFF
thank you.

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Donna and Jerome Adams [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 6:29 AM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] MPLS Locks Disposition

Remove the two dams and restore the natural river.

From: Jerome Adams
Sent from my iPhone

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Jim Adams [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, October 27, 2022 8:00 PM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comments for the Army Corps disposition study for Twin Cities locks and dams

Dear Army Corps of Engineers Disposition Study,

PLEASE EDIT: INCLUDE NAME AND CITY (e.g. My name is ___ I am Jim Adams from Ramsey a soda.

I am writing to you with questions and comments for the disposition study of the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam No. 1. My questions / comments are:
Is the corps of engineers hoping to sell the two lock and dams?
How Would sediment behind the dams be removed without causing environmental damage to river life?
Will you do a net loss or benefit analysis to see if the dams are worth keeping?
Thanks for your attention.

Sincerely,
Jim Adams
[redacted]

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Jim Adams <[redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, December 1, 2022 9:09 PM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comments for the Army Corps disposition study for Twin Cities locks and dams

Dear Army Corps of Engineers Disposition Study,

Hi, my name is Jim Adams and I'm from Ramsey, Mn.

I am writing to you with questions and comments about the disposition study of the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam No. 1. My questions / comments are:
I am wondering about the effect on water quality of removing the two dams. The amount of water would be much less, flowing through the gorge through Minneapolis/St. Paul. But roughly the same amount of stormwater runoff would continue to flow through pipes into the Mississippi, increasing the proportion of pollutants from street runoff flowing into the river.
Also, the sentiment on the river bottom would be stirred up if the dams were removed. How would that be mitigated?
Also, wondering what would be any effects on wildlife and on water fowl, which use the river as a migratory route.
Finally, who pays for dam removal and mitigation efforts. I would like to see a cost benefit analysis, showing the pros and cons and costs of keeping or removing or selling the two dams.

Sincerely,
Jim Adams
[redacted]

From: Garrett Ahern
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Restore the Mississippi River Gorge
Date: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 10:31:19 PM

I am writing to express support for removing Lower Saint Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam 1 on the Mississippi River to restore aquatic habitat.

On the Upper Mississippi River, habitat is degrading faster than it can be rehabilitated through existing conservation programs, and the river's dams are a primary cause of declining aquatic habitat. Saint Anthony Falls and its downstream cataract were one of four big river rapids on the Upper Mississippi. Today there exists only a remnant of the Saint Louis Chain of Rocks rapids. Consequently, the aquatic species that needed these big river rapids to complete parts of their lifecycles are under threat, including sturgeon, paddlefish and freshwater mussels— the most endangered group of animals in North America.

The dams in the Mississippi River Gorge were developed to support industrial and shipping activity that no longer exists. While the Gorge's bluffs have been mostly restored to parkland, the river infrastructure remains, limiting public access while the Pool 1 reservoir fills with sediment. Additionally, continuing to operate and maintain this infrastructure costs federal taxpayers millions annually.

Due to the severe impact that these dams are having on the river and the potential to make a major difference for future river sustainability, American Rivers has named the Mississippi River Gorge one of this year's America's Most Endangered Rivers®.

The time is ripe to take a bold step forward towards a new vision of the Gorge that removes the environmentally damaging features of a 150-year-old industrial plan, restores the natural flow and character of the river, rehabilitates habitat for fish and wildlife, and promotes compatible recreation and business opportunities. Please restore the Mississippi River by recommending to Congress that they authorize the removal of the Lower Saint Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam 1, and call for habitat rehabilitation on the Mississippi River.

Sincerely,

Garrett Ahern

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Barbara Andersen <[redacted]>
Sent: Saturday, December 17, 2022 11:43 AM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comments for the Army Corps disposition study for Twin Cities locks and dams

Dear Army Corps of Engineers Disposition Study,

My name is Barb Heenan Andersen. I live in Crystal

I am writing to you with questions and comments for the disposition study of the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam No. 1. My questions / comments are:

What would the effect be upon the stability of our city water supply in Crystal?
What would the effect be when there are floods? effect on Mississippi and tributaries?

Sincerely,
Barbara Andersen
[redacted]

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Justin Anderson[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2022 2:46 PM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition; Roopali Phadke
Subject: [URL Verdict: Neutral][Non-DoD Source] Lock and Dam Study Comment
Attachments: Comment for Army Corps Twin Cities Locks and Dam Disposition.pdf

Hello Army Corps of Engineers Staff,
Here is my comment on the Minneapolis locks and dams study.

Regards,
Justin Anderson
Macalester College Class of '23

Hello, I am a student at Macalester college majoring in geology with an environmental studies minor. My introduction to the Mississippi River were my almost monthly trips to the Mill City museum as a child, going on the same tour and seeing St. Anthony Falls at the end along with the two locks. I am for the proposed disposal of the structures at the Lower St. Anthony Falls and Lock and Dam #1 sites along with their full removal by their next owners. They are no longer needed, the economic impact would be minimal, and there is an environmental reason to remove them.

A lot has changed a lot since Minneapolis' roots as a river based economy. We have begun to view the river more as a recreational resource than a freightway, with the construction of the Mill City Museum in 2003, Mill Ruins Park in 2001, and the Waterworks Pavillion in 2021 (City of Minneapolis). Following the indefinite closure of the locks, coinciding with the spread of invasive carp, all barge traffic above St. Anthony Falls ended in 2015 (NPR). As a result of this long haul, the Upper Harbor Terminal is already being redeveloped into affordable housing, a community greenhouse, and a music venue owned by First Avenue. The docks are no longer serving their original purpose if no large scale commercial shipping is occuring.

Removing the structures poses some economic challenges, but the impact would be limited. The stretch of the river where barges used to operate still has an economy in place, mostly limited to recreation, like rowing clubs and the Paddleford party boats, along with hydroelectric power generation. The tourism industry could adapt to the undammed and more turbid river with whitewater rafting and photography. I would rather see a natural, whitewater stretch of the Mississippi like the historic photos. I feel like we are missing out on a natural wonder.

Removal of the locks and dams would require an end to at least the hydropower facilities and Lower St. Anthony and Lock and Dam #1. The 27.6 MW loss would be small compared to other carbon free plants in the grid like the 1,186.2 megawatt Prairie Island Nuclear Plant and the 685 MW Monticello Nuclear Facility, and the total output of the solar and wind facilities surrounding the metro (US Energy Information Administration).

There is also an environmental reason to remove as many structures as possible, which is ecosystem continuity. Dams alter riverine ecosystems into lakes, which leads to a decline in biodiversity, especially in migrating fish species. The lock facilities in Twin Cities can only really be traversed if a fish enters a lock or during times of flooding when the locks are left open. Without rapids, the spawning of some species, like paddlefish, has not occured for a while. Sediment accumulation is also an issue, so if the Corps or other entities do not invest in regular dredging, the river could eventually fill up (MCWD). Removal would be dangerous

though, due to historic toxic industrial sediments buried behind the dams, so I hope extensive research goes into this throughout the review period.

I am possibly going to be a Twin Cities resident for the foreseeable future and I'll be following the project closely. I am looking forward to seeing a changed Mississippi!

Justin Anderson, '23

Sources:

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https://growlermag.com/return-of-the-rapids-could-the-upper-mississippi-river-run-wild-again/3/

https://www.minneapolisparks.org/parks-destinations/recreation_centers_program_facilities/water-works-pavilion/#:~:text=Construction%20on%20Water%20Works%20started,in%20the%20summer%20of%202021.

https://www.mprnews.org/story/2015/06/08/upper-st-anthony-lock
https://www.eia.gov/state/?sid=MN#tabs-4

https://fmr.org/tags/upper-harbor-terminal
http://upperharbormpls.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/UHT_DRAFT-COORDINATED-PLAN-February-2021.pdf
https://www.minnehahacreek.org/sites/minnehahacreek.org/files/pdfs/projects/Ecological%20Effects%20of%20Dams%20July2013.pdf

From: Rich Andresen
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Ensuring the best possible future for Mississippi River
Date: Wednesday, December 14, 2022 9:43:43 AM

Dear U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District Engineer St. Paul District,

The study for the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Lock and Dam #1 should be comprehensive so we have the best available information to advance the best possible outcome for the Mississippi River and Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.

We understand that the Army Corps will consider many alternatives in the study, including dam removal. Much has changed since the locks were built. Please analyze and consider the following areas of concern:

1. Behind the structures are years of built-up sand and silt. Please analyze what is in that sediment and where it would go if one or both locks and dams are removed.

2. The Mississippi River was home to more than 90 fish species before the structures were built. Today we have fewer than 30 species and only in small numbers. Please analyze how removal could improve the restoration of native species in the river and whether there would be any impacts on the spread of invasive species.

3. Lock and dam removal will change how the river flows through this section and more shorelines and islands could emerge. Please analyze how removal could change recreational activities on the river, including current and potential new uses.

Thank you for ensuring this critical study helps advance the best possible future for the river.

Regards,
Rich Andresen
[redacted]

From: Matt Angell
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Restore the Mississippi River Gorge
Date: Saturday, September 19, 2020 12:58:01 PM

I am writing to express support for removing Lower Saint Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam 1 on the Mississippi River to restore aquatic habitat.

On the Upper Mississippi River, habitat is degrading faster than it can be rehabilitated through existing conservation programs, and the river's dams are a primary cause of declining aquatic habitat. Saint Anthony Falls and its downstream cataract were one of four big river rapids on the Upper Mississippi. Today there exists only a remnant of the Saint Louis Chain of Rocks rapids. Consequently, the aquatic species that needed these big river rapids to complete parts of their lifecycles are under threat, including sturgeon, paddlefish and freshwater mussels— the most endangered group of animals in North America.

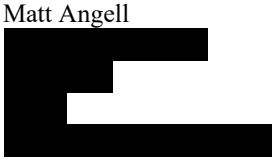
The dams in the Mississippi River Gorge were developed to support industrial and shipping activity that no longer exists. While the Gorge's bluffs have been mostly restored to parkland, the river infrastructure remains, limiting public access while the Pool 1 reservoir fills with sediment. Additionally, continuing to operate and maintain this infrastructure costs federal taxpayers millions annually.

Due to the severe impact that these dams are having on the river and the potential to make a major difference for future river sustainability, American Rivers has named the Mississippi River Gorge one of this year's America's Most Endangered Rivers®.

The time is ripe to take a bold step forward towards a new vision of the Gorge that removes the environmentally damaging features of a 150-year-old industrial plan, restores the natural flow and character of the river, rehabilitates habitat for fish and wildlife, and promotes compatible recreation and business opportunities. Please restore the Mississippi River by recommending to Congress that they authorize the removal of the Lower Saint Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam 1, and call for habitat rehabilitation on the Mississippi River.

Sincerely,

Matt Angell



Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Sarah Anton [redacted] >
Sent: Sunday, December 18, 2022 9:11 AM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comments for the Army Corps disposition study for Twin Cities locks and dams

Dear Army Corps of Engineers Disposition Study,

My name is Sarah Anton. I'm from Minneapolis and I'm a 7 year member of the Minneapolis Rowing Club.
I am writing to you with a comment re: the disposition study of the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam No. 1.
Changes in the river at this location would have a disastrous effect on our club. We need the calm section of the river that we've had for so many years. Our rowing club includes multi-generational athletes from the same families and also many who are new to the sport. A number of us, myself included, are on the river 4+ times a week between April and October. I strongly oppose any river changes which would affect the calm water we need to maintain our club.

Sincerely,
Sarah Anton
[redacted]

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: David Aquilina [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, October 19, 2022 12:26 PM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comments for the Army Corps disposition study for Twin Cities locks and dams

Dear Army Corps of Engineers Disposition Study,

David, Richfield, MN

I am writing to you with comments for the disposition study of the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam No. 1. My comment: For the first time since the urbanization of Minneapolis-St. Paul and the "taming" of the river, we have the opportunity to imagine what a restored, free-flowing Mississippi in the heart of the Twin Cities might look like - and what it might mean for our region. I know there are many issues to resolve. I hope one day to stand on the Stonearch Bridge and marvel at the wild river downstream from the dam on what was St. Anthony Falls.

Sincerely,
David Aquilina
[redacted]

Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam 1 Disposition Study
Public Comment Sheet – October 2022

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Name: Laura Arellano affiliation (optional):_____

Please provide your Zip Code: [redacted]

Please check the category/ies below that best represent the nature of your comment/s [Check all that apply]:

- [x] Communication/Coordination
- [ ] Cultural and Historic Resources
- [ ] Dam Removal
- [ ] Economics
- [ ] Environmental
- [ ] Future Use
- [ ] Flooding
- [ ] Hydropower
- [ ] Invasive Species
- [ ] Navigation
- [ ] Ownership
- [ ] Public Access
- [ ] Public Safety
- [ ] Recreation
- [ ] Sediment/Water Quality/Water supply
- [ ] Social concerns
- [ ] Study scope
- [ ] Other [please specify]

_____

Lock + Dam 1 / Ford Plant —
I'd like the walkway open to the public again. If it's, there's no communication or signage to tell the public the hours. The current sign (wood) says open (dusk - dawn?) but not accurate. Before covid - it was open to public w/o the need for addt'l staffing. So addt'l staffing is not needed now for it to be open again. (Not tours, just open to walk thru as please.) Sign at top + at bottom of hill. I walk there almost daily + so many people drive + walk to find it closed + so disappointed.

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Nicholas Arens <[redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, December 1, 2022 12:27 PM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Lock and Dam Disposition Comemnt

To whom it may concern,

Good afternoon, and thank you for your time and allowing for public comment on current disposition studies concerning Lock and Dam #1 and St. Anthony Lock and Dam. As a Minnesota citizen and past resident of St. Paul, I would like to voice my endorsement of the study, and express my desire for change within Pool 1 and Pool 2 of the Mississippi river. Barring results from the pending study, I believe that restoring a natural flow to this section of the river would bring huge levels of positive change to the river corridor in the form of improved water quality, wildlife habitat, and recreational opportunity. I look forward to seeing the results of the disposition study, and hope for progress and momentum in improving the natural beauty within our state's largest metropolitan area.

Nick Arens
[redacted]

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Scott Armstrong [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, October 23, 2022 3:38 PM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comments for the Army Corps disposition study for Twin Cities locks and dams

Dear Army Corps of Engineers Disposition Study,

My name is Scott Armstrong and I'm from St. Paul.)

I am writing to you with questions and comments for the disposition study of the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam No. 1. My comment is that the 5 mile stretch of river above Lock and Dam No. 1 is ideal for the sport of rowing, and should not be changed. The University of Minnesota has 65 years of rowing tradition, with 100+ men and women rowing each day during the school year, and competing at the national level. Our neighbors Minneapolis Rowing Club count 300+ rowers as members. Rowing requires flat, undisturbed water and any change in the dam could jeopardize these programs. Please maintain the status quo.

Sincerely,
Scott Armstrong
[redacted]

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Brooks Autry <[redacted]
Sent: Saturday, January 7, 2023 9:28 PM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] MPLS Locks Disposition

Name: Brooks Autry
Affiliation: local homeowner, knowledgeable of various plans, knowledgeable of mnwwp.com, avid paddler with high hopes Zip Code: 55406, live [redacted]
Category's: Communication/Coordination, Dam Removal, Economic, Environmental, Future use, Flooding, public access, public safety, Recreation, social concerns, Study Scope
Comments:
Would like to see the river open to more public access, and recreation with a possible whitewater park. This section of river has a one of a kind location, and geology to have one of the worlds best whitewater parks based on natural flow. Please consider!!! It would be such a positive impact on our city.
No matter the options considered for the dams/locks, whitewater recreation should play a large part in all of them.

Thank you!

Brooks Autry
[redacted]

From: Erika B
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Restore the Mississippi River Gorge
Date: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 3:52:50 PM

I am writing to express support for removing Lower Saint Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam 1 on the Mississippi River to restore aquatic habitat.

On the Upper Mississippi River, habitat is degrading faster than it can be rehabilitated through existing conservation programs, and the river's dams are a primary cause of declining aquatic habitat. Saint Anthony Falls and its downstream cataract were one of four big river rapids on the Upper Mississippi. Today there exists only a remnant of the Saint Louis Chain of Rocks rapids. Consequently, the aquatic species that needed these big river rapids to complete parts of their lifecycles are under threat, including sturgeon, paddlefish and freshwater mussels— the most endangered group of animals in North America.

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The time is ripe to take a bold step forward towards a new vision of the Gorge that removes the environmentally damaging features of a 150-year-old industrial plan, restores the natural flow and character of the river, rehabilitates habitat for fish and wildlife, and promotes compatible recreation and business opportunities. Please restore the Mississippi River by recommending to Congress that they authorize the removal of the Lower Saint Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam 1, and call for habitat rehabilitation on the Mississippi River.

Sincerely,

Erika B

,
[redacted]

From: Frances B
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Ensuring the best possible future for Mississippi River
Date: Wednesday, December 14, 2022 2:53:40 PM

Dear U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District Engineer St. Paul District,

The study for the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Lock and Dam #1 should be comprehensive so we have the best available information to advance the best possible outcome for the Mississippi River and Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.

We understand that the Army Corps will consider many alternatives in the study, including dam removal. Much has changed since the locks were built. Please analyze and consider the following areas of concern:

1. Behind the structures are years of built-up sand and silt. Please analyze what is in that sediment and where it would go if one or both locks and dams are removed.

2. The Mississippi River was home to more than 90 fish species before the structures were built. Today we have fewer than 30 species and only in small numbers. Please analyze how removal could improve the restoration of native species in the river and whether there would be any impacts on the spread of invasive species.

3. Lock and dam removal will change how the river flows through this section and more shorelines and islands could emerge. Please analyze how removal could change recreational activities on the river, including current and potential new uses.

Thank you for ensuring this critical study helps advance the best possible future for the river.

Regards,
Frances B


Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Mike B [redacted]
Sent: Monday, December 5, 2022 8:17 AM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] L&D disposition study

For comment:

Since the City of Mpls and other groups have been pushing for the closure of the Lock and Dams for so long, it's time for them to take the responsibility and deal with them since they got what they wanted, and along with that should come the costs associated.

Unless they can show that they don't just want Uncle Sam to pay for the maintenance, there's no compelling reason for the govt to keep the properites.

All those groups wanted this, hand 'em the keys and walk away.

From: Dawn Baker
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Ensuring the best possible future for Mississippi River
Date: Wednesday, December 14, 2022 3:07:07 PM

Dear U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District Engineer St. Paul District,

The study for the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Lock and Dam #1 should be comprehensive so we have the best available information to advance the best possible outcome for the Mississippi River and Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.

We understand that the Army Corps will consider many alternatives in the study, including dam removal. Much has changed since the locks were built. Please analyze and consider the following areas of concern:

1. Behind the structures are years of built-up sand and silt. Please analyze what is in that sediment and where it would go if one or both locks and dams are removed.

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3. Lock and dam removal will change how the river flows through this section and more shorelines and islands could emerge. Please analyze how removal could change recreational activities on the river, including current and potential new uses.

Thank you for ensuring this critical study helps advance the best possible future for the river.

Regards,
Dawn Baker
[redacted]

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Georgia Barnes [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, October 16, 2022 5:49 PM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [URL Verdict: Neutral][Non-DoD Source] Questions I Want Studied and Answered During the Disposition study of Lower St. Anthony Falls and Lock and Dam 1

To: Army Corps of Engineers
From: Georgia Barnes
Date: October 16th, 2022
Subject: Questions I Want Studied and Answered During the Disposition study of Lower St. Anthony Falls and Lock and Dam 1

GENERAL STATEMENT

As a student of Macalester College, and an avid lover of the outdoors, the restoration of the Mississippi River to its original free-flowing state excites me. However, I also hold reservations surrounding the process of lock and dam removal. After attending the open house at the Highland Park Middle School on October 11th, 2022, I was left with the impression that the Army Corps of Engineers was looking for the easiest way out of ownership and responsibility over the three locks and dams. I worry that with such an attitude, aspects of this project may be overlooked in favor of convenience leaving the surrounding and downstream communities, as well as the health of our river, vulnerable to a myriad of long term effects. I urge the Army Corps to complete a comprehensive and in depth disposition study, as I believe that with enough research, a safe and sustainable way for lock and dam removal can be attained, returning the Mississippi to its most natural form.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF SEDIMENT

After one hundred years of the Mississippi River being prevented from its free flowing state, I have great concerns about the buildup of sediment behind each lock and dam structure. Friends of the Mississippi estimates that behind Lock and Dam 1 there is 1.5 million cubic feet of sediment that is potentially full of heavy metals and toxins (Toberman, 2022). If washed downstream at once, it would wreak havoc for community and wildlife health, and potentially choke up the river. So, how can the sediment be tested for harmful components? And how can it be removed safely and where would it go? I ask that the Army Corps not overlook these questions, and to research viable solutions for how sediment can be best handled, and make their findings public knowledge as soon as possible.

INFRASTRUCTURE & RECREATION

The banks of the Mississippi River house valuable real estate, and thus have attracted infrastructure and recreational developments that rely on the river continuing unchanged. I feel it is important to recognize the impacts that dam removal would have on these systems, as water levels, flows, and scour patterns will drastically change, leaving previously functioning systems along the river bed subject to destruction. The University of Minnesota (UMN) campus faces several threats as their infrastructure has been built along the current path of the dammed river (Shaw, 2018). The UMN rowing teams will be met with specific challenges as they would need to relocate their multi-million dollar boat houses and designate new practice areas (Shaw, 2018). How does the Army Corps plan to work in collaboration with institutions that will be most affected by lock and dam removal? Will there be monetary incentives or help in reconstructing and redesigning infrastructure?

An untamed river also has the potential to present new opportunities for recreation, raising the question of what sort of infrastructure will be needed, and who will be responsible for funding and maintaining it. If there are no

willing parties to take on this responsibility, human activity could become harmful to the health of the river, and to recreational users. A close look into the long-term possibilities for new recreation is inextricably important in the review process.

FUNDING & MORE

Recent dam removal and river restoration in Penobscot, Maine, cost roughly $62 million dollars, placing the burden primarily on taxpayers and private funding (Carpenter, 2012). Do the extreme costs that are associated with river restoration lower its priority on the list of community and environmental projects? Has the Army Corps taken into account that even after lock and dam removal, there will still be a need for additional funding to support the new developments, parks, recreation, and infrastructure that will be put in place? The Army Corps needs to ensure that such an investment is the best use of public funds, and be transparent about the costs of lock and dam removal, as well as its long term effects.

CONCLUSION

As a member of the demographic that will live to see the future of Lock and Dam 1 and Lower St. Anthony Falls, I feel strongly about ensuring the best possible outcomes for both. While I would love to see the river restored to its pre-industrial state, I am concerned about the environmental and infrastructure impacts, as well as long term funding for the project. I want the Army Corps to treat this disposition study with care, and to answer the questions I have posed before moving forward.

SOURCES

Carpenter, Murray. "Maine Dam Removal a Start to Restoring Spawning Grounds." *The New York Times*, 11 June 2012, https://www.nytimes.com/2012/06/12/us/maine-dam-removal-a-start-to-restoring-spawning-grounds.html.

Shaw, Bob. "University of Minnesota, rowing clubs worried about proposal to remove dams from Mississippi River." *InForum*, St. Paul Pioneer Press, 27 August 2018, https://www.inforum.com/news/university-of-minnesota-rowing-clubs-worried-about-proposal-to-remove-dams-from-mississippi-river.

Toberman, Colleen O'Connor. "The case for and against lock and dam removal." *Friends of the Mississippi River*, 21 September 2022, https://fmr.org/updates/land-use-planning/case-and-against-lock-and-dam-removal.

From: don barrett
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Ensuring the best possible future for Mississippi River
Date: Wednesday, December 14, 2022 9:40:04 AM

Dear U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District Engineer St. Paul District,

The study for the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Lock and Dam #1 should be comprehensive so we have the best available information to advance the best possible outcome for the Mississippi River and Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.

We understand that the Army Corps will consider many alternatives in the study, including dam removal. Much has changed since the locks were built. Please analyze and consider the following areas of concern:

1. Behind the structures are years of built-up sand and silt. Please analyze what is in that sediment and where it would go if one or both locks and dams are removed.

2. The Mississippi River was home to more than 90 fish species before the structures were built. Today we have fewer than 30 species and only in small numbers. Please analyze how removal could improve the restoration of native species in the river and whether there would be any impacts on the spread of invasive species.

3. Lock and dam removal will change how the river flows through this section and more shorelines and islands could emerge. Please analyze how removal could change recreational activities on the river, including current and potential new uses.

Thank you for ensuring this critical study helps advance the best possible future for the river.

Regards,
don barrett
[redacted]

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Cynthia Bartoo <[redacted]>
Sent: Tuesday, December 6, 2022 1:24 PM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [EEMSG-SPAM: Suspect] [Non-DoD Source] Comments for the Army Corps disposition study for Twin Cities locks and dams

Dear Army Corps of Engineers Disposition Study,

I am a resident of St. Paul MN and had the opportunity this summer to attend the presentations regarding possible removal of the Lock & Dam #1 (Ford) in St. Paul, and the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock & Dam and the Upper St. Anthony Lock in downtown Minneapolis.

I am grateful for the fine work that was done in preparation and in presentation of the issues. I am very impressed with the efforts to reach the public in making this decision and in the solicitation of opinions of the public on the matter.

Removal of the locks and dams is a clear win for wildlife. We needs wins for wildlife. I am in favor of the eventual removal of the locks and dams.

I understand this is a complex issue with many decision points, and am unable to form an opinion regarding future ownership of these facilities, but it is clear to me that the costs for deconstruction will need to be borne by multiple entities.

thank you for all your efforts,

Cynthia Bartoo

Sincerely,
Cynthia Bartoo
[redacted]

From: Timothy Bauer
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Restore the Mississippi River Gorge
Date: Monday, March 30, 2020 8:10:52 PM

I am writing to express support for removing Lower Saint Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam 1 on the Mississippi River to restore aquatic habitat.

On the Upper Mississippi River, habitat is degrading faster than it can be rehabilitated through existing conservation programs, and the river's dams are a primary cause of declining aquatic habitat. Saint Anthony Falls and its downstream cataract were one of four big river rapids on the Upper Mississippi. Today there exists only a remnant of the Saint Louis Chain of Rocks rapids. Consequently, the aquatic species that needed these big river rapids to complete parts of their lifecycles are under threat, including sturgeon, paddlefish and freshwater mussels— the most endangered group of animals in North America.

The dams in the Mississippi River Gorge were developed to support industrial and shipping activity that no longer exists. While the Gorge's bluffs have been mostly restored to parkland, the river infrastructure remains, limiting public access while the Pool 1 reservoir fills with sediment. Additionally, continuing to operate and maintain this infrastructure costs federal taxpayers millions annually.

Due to the severe impact that these dams are having on the river and the potential to make a major difference for future river sustainability, American Rivers has named the Mississippi River Gorge one of this year's America's Most Endangered Rivers®.

The time is ripe to take a bold step forward towards a new vision of the Gorge that removes the environmentally damaging features of a 150-year-old industrial plan, restores the natural flow and character of the river, rehabilitates habitat for fish and wildlife, and promotes compatible recreation and business opportunities. Please restore the Mississippi River by recommending to Congress that they authorize the removal of the Lower Saint Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam 1, and call for habitat rehabilitation on the Mississippi River.

Sincerely,

Timothy Bauer

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Douglas Bello <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, December 2, 2022 4:58 PM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comments for the Army Corps disposition study for Twin Cities locks and dams

Dear Army Corps of Engineers Disposition Study,

PLEASE EDIT: INCLUDE NAME AND CITY (e.g. My name is __Douglas_____ and I'm from St. Paul.)

I am writing to you with questions and comments for the disposition study of the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam No. 1. My questions / comments are:We know it is not easy or simple but letting the river win and removing,locks and dams,will renew not only the river but many generations of us and all that call it home.What ever the cost to remove them is we can estimate it we can not estimate the benefits too us or to are future.My estimate….is priceless.

Sincerely,
Douglas Bello
[redacted]

From:	Eric Benson
To:	DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Ensuring the best possible future for Mississippi River
Date:	Wednesday, December 14, 2022 9:44:15 AM

Dear U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District Engineer St. Paul District,

The study for the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Lock and Dam #1 should be comprehensive so we have the best available information to advance the best possible outcome for the Mississippi River and Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.

We understand that the Army Corps will consider many alternatives in the study, including dam removal. Much has changed since the locks were built. Please analyze and consider the following areas of concern:

1. Behind the structures are years of built-up sand and silt. Please analyze what is in that sediment and where it would go if one or both locks and dams are removed.

2. The Mississippi River was home to more than 90 fish species before the structures were built. Today we have fewer than 30 species and only in small numbers. Please analyze how removal could improve the restoration of native species in the river and whether there would be any impacts on the spread of invasive species.

3. Lock and dam removal will change how the river flows through this section and more shorelines and islands could emerge. Please analyze how removal could change recreational activities on the river, including current and potential new uses.

Thank you for ensuring this critical study helps advance the best possible future for the river.

Regards,
Eric Benson
[redacted]

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Josh Berndtson <[redacted]>
Sent: Tuesday, October 4, 2022 5:21 PM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Lock and Dam No. 1 Recommendation/Request

To whom it may concern
I was encouraged to reach out about the future planning of Lock and Dam 1.
My name is Josh (I go by Jay online) and in 2019 I kayaked the entire Mississippi from Lake Itasca to the Gulf of Mexico. Since then I have been part of several groups that help others plan as well as make their own journeys down the mighty Mississippi.
With the severely reduced operational hours of Lock 1 there have been several issues that have arisen putting paddlers in a bad spot. Many travel the river not knowing that Lock 1 has limited hours and they find themselves atop of one of the tallest dams on the river with seemingly nowhere to go and no notice that the lock will not be there for them to use. Located down in the gorge portaging this structure is extremely difficult especially to paddlers who are fully loaded with camping gear and other supplies needed to make this journey. They can have hundreds of lbs when you include water as part of the cargo. In addition to the challenge of crawling out of the gorge paddlers would also need to hike well over 1.5 miles just to find a way around the lock and dam and get back down to the river. The portage also takes folks through an area that can be a little unsafe especially with the amount of expensive equipment people have with them.

What I am asking/recommending
I was working with [redacted] in the St. Paul district about this issue. He stated that he completely understands and agrees that something needs to be done to solve this situation. He was looking into options and was going to get back to me but I have yet to hear from him again.
-At the very least: A portage needs to be established. Clear signs that show people where to take out, the route and the put in.
-A more accessible portage: A portage at the Lock where people can take out before the gates, walk through the parking lot (against that tall rock wall on the west side of the structure) and put in below the lower/down river gates.
-Removal of the structure all together since it is becoming obsolete

Other options:
-Remote operation of the lock to allow paddlers through
-An "appointment" that paddlers can call, set up a lock time and be given a 2 hour window to make it through
-Staffing the lock during daylight hours. I know this option does not make sense finically nonetheless it is an option

The risks to paddlers with the limited use of this lock are
-Being "stuck" at the top of lock 1 with no obvious way to go around the structure
-Paddlers making risky ascents from the river up to street level with a lot of gear and a boat.
-Potentially walking through areas of elevated crime
-Paddlers making risky and dangerous attempts to go around the structure

Every year there are many people who wish to paddle the Mississippi River whether for a day or to go all the way. All I am asking is that you reestablish freedom of navigation for everyone that wishes to utilize,

experience and travel this beautiful river.
I am very willing to answer any questions and speak further on all of these points.
My direct number is [redacted]
Thank you for your time
Josh Berndtson
(Jay)

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Michael Berkland <[redacted]>
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2022 10:18 AM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] lock and dam study

Hello
i'm writing to express support for removal of upper st anthony lock and dam and lock and dam #1.
the possibility of rapids and islands, and more accessible shoreline would be a huge benefit to the area. it would help beautify the areas adjacent.
thanks
mike

Sent from my iPhone
.

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Jonathan Berry <[redacted]>
Sent: Saturday, December 17, 2022 9:43 PM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comments for the Army Corps disposition study for Twin Cities locks and dams

Dear Army Corps of Engineers Disposition Study,

I believe going back to nature and removing the locks As a Minneapolis resident living near the river is the right choice. Thanks for your consideration

Sincerely,
Jonathan Berry
[redacted]

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Michele Bevis <[redacted]>
Sent: Monday, December 5, 2022 8:31 AM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comments for the Army Corps disposition study for Twin Cities locks and dams

Dear Army Corps of Engineers Disposition Study,

PLEASE EDIT: INCLUDE NAME AND CITY (e.g. My name is _____ and I'm from St. Paul.)

I am writing to you with questions and comments for the disposition study of the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam No. 1. My questions / comments are:
Questions:
1- What precautions and plans does the AC have for preventing the spread of invasive carp into further MN waters if the dams are removed?
2-How will the AC examine the toxicity levels of sediment behind the dams? And what procedures would the AC propose to mitigate further contamination to the river health?
3-What would be the cost of dam removal or dam maintained and who pays for this in the future?
Comments:
1- Because this could be the largest dam removal project to date for the US, the AC should take ample time to study the pros and cons of dam removal and dam maintenance.
2- The AC should include financial experts and structural engineers to determine the actual cost of both dam removal and non dam removal.
3- Because the ultimate effects of this project will affect Twin City and MN residents, the AC should engage and involve local governments and local citizenry in every aspect of the research for this project.
4- The AC, along with other knowledgeable experts, should create a plan for river, habitat and shoreline restoration as part of their proposal going forward.

Sincerely,
Michele Bevis
[redacted]

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Natalee Bigger Stockdale <[redacted]>
Sent: Saturday, December 17, 2022 4:14 PM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comments for the Army Corps disposition study for Twin Cities locks and dams

Dear Army Corps of Engineers Disposition Study,

My name is Natalee Stockdale and I'm from Stillwater MN.

I am writing to you with comments for the disposition study of the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam No. 1. My comments are Minneapolis Rowing Club is a contributing member to the wellbeing of Minneapolis like no others I have participated in. I have been in three other clubs in the Metro area. I would be so grateful if the dams were able to stay to maintain our beautiful rowing pools.

Sincerely,
Natalee Bigger Stockdale
[redacted]

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Robert Binger <[redacted]>
Sent: Sunday, December 18, 2022 1:04 PM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comments for the Army Corps disposition study for Twin Cities locks and dams

Dear Army Corps of Engineers Disposition Study,

PLEASE EDIT: INCLUDE NAME AND CITY (e.g. My name is _____ and I'm from St. Paul.)

I am writing to you with questions and comments for the disposition study of the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam No. 1. My questions / comments are:

My name is Rob from St. Paul MN,
We closed St Anthony for invasive species, are we just going to ignore this?

How will this effect flood waters from St Paul through Hastings?

Sincerely,
Robert Binger
[redacted]

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Jonathan Binks <[redacted]>
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2022 10:55 AM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Twin Cities locks and dams

As a Minneapolis resident who lives along the Mississippi River and sees and “experiences" the locks daily, I would advocate for a very comprehensive and thorough study of options for the locks and dams. From an economic perspective, no doubt the Corps would like to sell or otherwise release its underused assets. But there are so many other issues to face. A recent *Star Tribun*e Editorial Board article summarized many key questions and recommended conducting studies to gather data:

> The first, essential step is to conduct studies to answer a multitude of questions, among them: What are the potential environmental effects of removing the locks and dams? What would happen to the hydropower plants operating along the river? Would the removal of two dams weaken the river's defenses against invasive carp? Would bridges and retaining walls need to be rebuilt or reinforced? How might accumulated tons of river sediment be managed to keep from flushing it down the river? How much would all this cost, and where would the funds come from?

As to process: There could a number of unfortunate, unintended consequences of relying on testimony of a group of advocates who haven’t thought through all the implications of change and who have their own simplistic and narrow agendas. What have other river communities (nationally or internationally) experienced—short and long-term--who have removed dams? I’d recommend a creative mindset to future options for our river—but coupled with the real-world rigor (and respect for data) for which engineers are renowned. Such a creative mindset begins by asking: What are the broader and longer-term goals or “aims in view”?

All best,
Jon Binks

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Jon Blumenthal <[redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2022 10:04 AM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comments for the Army Corps disposition study for Twin Cities locks and dams

Dear Army Corps of Engineers Disposition Study,

Hi, this is Jon Blumenthal (they/them) from Edina
We are writing to you with questions and comments for the disposition study of the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam No. 1. Our questions / comments are:

If funding is scarce, we would like priority for new spending to go to river-adjacent neighborhoods in north and northeast Minneapolis, which have been cut off from their riverfront by industry, highways aging infrastructure, and, racial and class discrimination.

Investing in the “Above the Falls” area is our top priority to enact a healthier and more accessible and equitable north and northeast Minneapolis riverfront.

If removing dams in south Minneapolis could compete with the funding needed for new parks, trails and community amenities along the river north of downtown, then we would oppose removing dams. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Jon Blumenthal
[redacted]

From: Larry Bogolub
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Ensuring the best possible future for Mississippi River
Date: Wednesday, December 14, 2022 10:01:11 AM

Dear U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District Engineer St. Paul District,

The study for the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Lock and Dam #1 should be comprehensive so we have the best available information to advance the best possible outcome for the Mississippi River and Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.

We understand that the Army Corps will consider many alternatives in the study, including dam removal. Much has changed since the locks were built. Please analyze and consider the following areas of concern:

1. Behind the structures are years of built-up sand and silt. Please analyze what is in that sediment and where it would go if one or both locks and dams are removed.

2. The Mississippi River was home to more than 90 fish species before the structures were built. Today we have fewer than 30 species and only in small numbers. Please analyze how removal could improve the restoration of native species in the river and whether there would be any impacts on the spread of invasive species.

3. Lock and dam removal will change how the river flows through this section and more shorelines and islands could emerge. Please analyze how removal could change recreational activities on the river, including current and potential new uses.

Thank you for ensuring this critical study helps advance the best possible future for the river.

Regards,
Larry Bogolub
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Restore the Mississippi River Gorge
Date: Monday, July 22, 2019 10:33:48 PM

I am writing to express support for removing Lower Saint Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam 1 on the Mississippi River to restore aquatic habitat.

On the Upper Mississippi River, habitat is degrading faster than it can be rehabilitated through existing conservation programs, and the river's dams are a primary cause of declining aquatic habitat. Saint Anthony Falls and its downstream cataract were one of four big river rapids on the Upper Mississippi. Today there exists only a remnant of the Saint Louis Chain of Rocks rapids. Consequently, the aquatic species that needed these big river rapids to complete parts of their lifecycles are under threat, including sturgeon, paddlefish and freshwater mussels— the most endangered group of animals in North America.

The dams in the Mississippi River Gorge were developed to support industrial and shipping activity that no longer exists. While the Gorge's bluffs have been mostly restored to parkland, the river infrastructure remains, limiting public access while the Pool 1 reservoir fills with sediment. Additionally, continuing to operate and maintain this infrastructure costs federal taxpayers millions annually.

Due to the severe impact that these dams are having on the river and the potential to make a major difference for future river sustainability, American Rivers has named the Mississippi River Gorge one of this year's America's Most Endangered Rivers®.

The time is ripe to take a bold step forward towards a new vision of the Gorge that removes the environmentally damaging features of a 150-year-old industrial plan, restores the natural flow and character of the river, rehabilitates habitat for fish and wildlife, and promotes compatible recreation and business opportunities. Please restore the Mississippi River by recommending to Congress that they authorize the removal of the Lower Saint Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam 1, and call for habitat rehabilitation on the Mississippi River.

Sincerely,

Todd Borgen
[redacted]

From: Dean Borgeson
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Ensuring the best possible future for Mississippi River
Date: Wednesday, December 14, 2022 10:20:39 AM

Dear U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District Engineer St. Paul District,

The study for the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Lock and Dam #1 should be comprehensive so we have the best available information to advance the best possible outcome for the Mississippi River and Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.

We understand that the Army Corps will consider many alternatives in the study, including dam removal. Much has changed since the locks were built. Please analyze and consider the following areas of concern:

1. Behind the structures are years of built-up sand and silt. Please analyze what is in that sediment and where it would go if one or both locks and dams are removed.

2. The Mississippi River was home to more than 90 fish species before the structures were built. Today we have fewer than 30 species and only in small numbers. Please analyze how removal could improve the restoration of native species in the river and whether there would be any impacts on the spread of invasive species.

3. Lock and dam removal will change how the river flows through this section and more shorelines and islands could emerge. Please analyze how removal could change recreational activities on the river, including current and potential new uses.

Thank you for ensuring this critical study helps advance the best possible future for the river.

Regards,
Dean Borgeson
[redacted]

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Dean Borgeson <[redacted]>
Sent: Tuesday, November 1, 2022 9:57 AM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comments for the Army Corps disposition study for Twin Cities locks and dams

Dear Army Corps of Engineers Disposition Study,

Before committing to such an enormous undertaking commit to a robust and extensive exploration process with plenty of time for community members and other stakeholders to collaboratively raise questions, look at alternatives, examine evidence and seek solutions. Please chart the best course to protect and restore the health of our river and all the communities and wildlife that depend on it.

Sincerely,
Dean Borgeson
[redacted]

From: Lyle Brandt
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Ensuring the best possible future for Mississippi River
Date: Wednesday, December 14, 2022 2:20:52 PM

Dear U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District Engineer St. Paul District,

The study for the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Lock and Dam #1 should be comprehensive so we have the best available information to advance the best possible outcome for the Mississippi River and Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.

We understand that the Army Corps will consider many alternatives in the study, including dam removal. Much has changed since the locks were built. Please analyze and consider the following areas of concern:

1. Behind the structures are years of built-up sand and silt. Please analyze what is in that sediment and where it would go if one or both locks and dams are removed.

2. The Mississippi River was home to more than 90 fish species before the structures were built. Today we have fewer than 30 species and only in small numbers. Please analyze how removal could improve the restoration of native species in the river and whether there would be any impacts on the spread of invasive species.

3. Lock and dam removal will change how the river flows through this section and more shorelines and islands could emerge. Please analyze how removal could change recreational activities on the river, including current and potential new uses.

Thank you for ensuring this critical study helps advance the best possible future for the river.

Regards,
Lyle Brandt
[redacted]

From:	Brenda Bridges
To:	DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Ensuring the best possible future for Mississippi River
Date:	Wednesday, December 14, 2022 3:13:52 PM

Dear U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District Engineer St. Paul District,

The study for the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Lock and Dam #1 should be comprehensive so we have the best available information to advance the best possible outcome for the Mississippi River and Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.

We understand that the Army Corps will consider many alternatives in the study, including dam removal. Much has changed since the locks were built. Please analyze and consider the following areas of concern:

1. Behind the structures are years of built-up sand and silt. Please analyze what is in that sediment and where it would go if one or both locks and dams are removed.

2. The Mississippi River was home to more than 90 fish species before the structures were built. Today we have fewer than 30 species and only in small numbers. Please analyze how removal could improve the restoration of native species in the river and whether there would be any impacts on the spread of invasive species.

3. Lock and dam removal will change how the river flows through this section and more shorelines and islands could emerge. Please analyze how removal could change recreational activities on the river, including current and potential new uses.

Thank you for ensuring this critical study helps advance the best possible future for the river.

Regards,
Brenda Bridges
[redacted]

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Kris Brodersen <[redacted]>
Sent: Sunday, December 4, 2022 4:26 PM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comments for the Army Corps disposition study for Twin Cities locks and dams

Dear Army Corps of Engineers Disposition Study,

I am writing to you with questions and comments for the disposition study of the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam No. 1.

I am interested in learning how the dam removal may effect the return and or revival of native species and how this might change the ecosystem of the gorge? Would this help keep invasive carp out of the river? Encourage native fish spawning and native mussels?

What recreational opportunities come with this change and what would be lost? Would residents have greater access to the banks of the river for fishing and paddling than they currently have to the banks of the gorge?

I am a Minneapolis resident for the last 29 years and I cross the river most days of the week. I enjoy the beauty of the river and seeing the wildlife it supports and biking and walking along its trails. Thank you for studying this unique opportunity for our community,
Kris Brodersen
Minneapolis

Sincerely,
Kris Brodersen
[redacted]

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: JEFF BROSI [redacted] >
Sent: Friday, December 16, 2022 6:29 PM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] MPLS Locks Disposition

Jeff & Suzanne Brosi
Affiliation: Rapidsriders.org mnwwp.com FMR.org

Category's: Communication/Coordination, Dam Removal, Economic, Environmental, Future use, Flooding, public access, public safety, Recreation, social concerns, Study Scope

We would like to see the river open to more public access, and recreation with a possible whitewater park. This section of river has a one of a kind location, and geology to have one of the worlds best whitewater parks based on natural flow.
No mater the options considered for the dams/locks whitewater recreation should play a large part in all of them.

See mnwwp.com (minnesotawhitewaterproject.com) for study's on similar whitewater parks, and the benefits they bring to the community.

Thank you,

Jeff & Suzanne Brosi

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Owen Brown <[redacted]>
Sent: Wednesday, September 28, 2022 9:34 PM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comments for the Army Corps disposition study for Twin Cities locks and dams

Dear Army Corps of Engineers Disposition Study,

I'm Owen Brown, from Minneapolis

I am writing to you with questions and comments for the disposition study of the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam No. 1. My questions / comments are regarding

1. possible noxious sedimentation due to years of industrial activity, and how it might be disposed,
2. removal of the locks; costs and benefits (both natural and community/social) thereof and
3. restoration of a more "natural" river, with ongoing support for the "rewilding" of former aquatic species

I look forward to learning more.

Yours,

Owen Brown

Sincerely,

[redacted]

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Terrance Brueck <[redacted]>
Sent: Monday, December 5, 2022 10:52 PM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comments for the Army Corps disposition study for Twin Cities locks and dams

Dear Army Corps of Engineers Disposition Study,

My name is Terrance Brueck and I've lived in St. Paul for over 40 years, the last 20 years on Summit Avenue with my backyard on Mississippi River Boulevard. I regularly, almost daily... bike, walk, run, or skate along the river, between downtown Minneapolis and downtown St. Paul on both sides of the Mississippi. I've also canoed this section of the river many times including going through Lock and Dam #1. I have a masters degree in Environmental Engineering and am a registered Professional Engineer in MN.

I am writing to you with questions and comments for the disposition study of the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam #1. My questions / comments are:

1. To see the possible effects of dam removal for Lock and Dam #1, can the gates be opened and rollers be raised to create a drawdown? In 2020, a drawdown for the Lower St. Anthony Dam gave a view of the river without the water pool effect – but I'm not sure if the flows were reduced since it was for the purpose of dam inspection and maintenance. Will a drawdown at Lock and Dam #1 under differing seasonal flows show the partial effect of dam removal to give the public a preview of dam removal?

2. With dam removal, what will be the impact on storm sewer overflow locations? How will the pipes and tunnels flow into a lower level of the Mississippi River? Will there be impacts that require structural reconstruction – who will be responsible and pay for the remedy if required? What will be the water quality impacts of storm sewer overflows, especially during river low flows?

3. If dams are removed, will the sediment buildup be removed prior to dam removal, to prevent downstream impacts of potential concentrated toxic materials? What testing of water quality and sediment will be conducted before, during and after dam removal? What will be the result of river scouring during flood flows, without the pooling effect of the dams?

4. If dams are removed, what changes will result in the Mississippi River water quality downstream of the Minnesota River confluence. The muddy and sediment/fertilizer laden Minnesota River currently has a brown plume that enters the green Mississippi River at Fort Snelling. If dam removal changes the Mississippi at the confluence, what will be the resulting impact?

I'm in favor of dam removal, if the disposition process can and will be conducted to mitigate the negative impacts of the removal. I've lived along the Mississippi River most of my life and seen it's flooding impacts where I grew up in Burlington, IA. I've seen the positive results of other major dam removals – including my firsthand experience before and after the dam removal on the Chattahoochee River in Columbus, GA where it is now a great whitewater recreation river.

Thank you for considering and addressing my comments and questions.

Terry Brueck
[redacted]

Sincerely,
Terrance Brueck
[redacted]

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Stefan Bruvelis <s[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, October 28, 2022 11:33 PM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comments for the Army Corps disposition study for Twin Cities locks and dams

Dear Army Corps of Engineers Disposition Study,

PLEASE EDIT: INCLUDE NAME AND CITY (e.g. My name is _____ and I'm from St. Paul.)

I am writing to you with questions and comments for the disposition study of the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam No. 1. My questions / comments are: I would love to see the river restored to its natural flow within the Mississippi gorge. I often search online for pictures of the historic waterfalls or river flats that appeared before the Ford Dams construction. Dam removal would present a magical opportunity to re-engage with this long lost river. I would also like to see boulders returned to the channel to further improve the aesthetics and habitat for mussels and migratory fish.

Sincerely,
Stefan Bruvelis
[redacted]

From: Cindy Buschena
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Ensuring the best possible future for Mississippi River
Date: Wednesday, December 14, 2022 11:04:25 AM

Dear U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District Engineer St. Paul District,

The study for the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Lock and Dam #1 should be comprehensive so we have the best available information to advance the best possible outcome for the Mississippi River and Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.

I understand that the Army Corps will consider alternatives in the study, including dam removal. Much has changed since the locks were built. Please analyze and consider the following:

1. Behind the structures are years of built-up sand and silt. Please analyze what is in that sediment and where it would go if one or both locks and dams are removed.

2. The Mississippi River was home to more than 90 fish species before the structures were built. Today we have fewer than 30 species and only in small numbers. Please analyze how removal could improve the restoration of native species in the river and whether there would be any impacts on the spread of invasive species.

3. Lock and dam removal will change how the river flows through this section and more shorelines and islands could emerge. Please analyze how removal could change recreational activities on the river, including current and potential new uses.

Thank you for ensuring this critical study helps advance the best possible future for the river.

Regards,
Cindy Buschena
[redacted]

Tallman, Clayton E CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Daniel Burbank <[redacted]>
Sent: Sunday, October 16, 2022 7:11 PM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comments for the Army Corps disposition study for Twin Cities locks and dams

Dear Army Corps of Engineers Disposition Study,

My name is Daniel Burbank, and I live in Minneapolis.

I am writing to you with questions and comments for the disposition study of the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam No. 1. My questions are:

What are the monetary costs of dam removal, and what are the costs of maintaining the dams as they are?

Since the dams predate the introduction of raw sewage diversion and treatment, I am concerned that the sludge released by removing the dams may release large amounts of smelly and toxic material deposited before sewage diversion. How would this sludge be removed and safely disposed? What are the estimated costs of doing that operation safely?

My comments: I'd be quite happy with leaving the dams in place and continuing to maintain them. The benefits of a free flowing river between the upper lock and dam and lock and dam #1 don't seem large enough to offset the risks from disturbing the sludge.

Sincerely,
Daniel Burbank
[redacted]

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Daniel Burbank [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, October 16, 2022 7:11 PM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comments for the Army Corps disposition study for Twin Cities locks and dams

Dear Army Corps of Engineers Disposition Study,

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My comments: I'd be quite happy with leaving the dams in place and continuing to maintain them. The benefits of a free flowing river between the upper lock and dam and lock and dam #1 don't seem large enough to offset the risks from disturbing the sludge.

Sincerely,
Daniel Burbank
[redacted]

From: Paul Busch
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Restore the Mississippi River Gorge
Date: Sunday, February 13, 2022 7:41:55 AM

I am writing to express support for removing Lower Saint Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam 1 on the Mississippi River to restore aquatic habitat.

On the Upper Mississippi River, habitat is degrading faster than it can be rehabilitated through existing conservation programs, and the river's dams are a primary cause of declining aquatic habitat. Saint Anthony Falls and its downstream cataract were one of four big river rapids on the Upper Mississippi. Today there exists only a remnant of the Saint Louis Chain of Rocks rapids. Consequently, the aquatic species that needed these big river rapids to complete parts of their lifecycles are under threat, including sturgeon, paddlefish and freshwater mussels— the most endangered group of animals in North America.

The dams in the Mississippi River Gorge were developed to support industrial and shipping activity that no longer exists. While the Gorge's bluffs have been mostly restored to parkland, the river infrastructure remains, limiting public access while the Pool 1 reservoir fills with sediment. Additionally, continuing to operate and maintain this infrastructure costs federal taxpayers millions annually.

Due to the severe impact that these dams are having on the river and the potential to make a major difference for future river sustainability, American Rivers has named the Mississippi River Gorge one of this year's America's Most Endangered Rivers®.

The time is ripe to take a bold step forward towards a new vision of the Gorge that removes the environmentally damaging features of a 150-year-old industrial plan, restores the natural flow and character of the river, rehabilitates habitat for fish and wildlife, and promotes compatible recreation and business opportunities. Please restore the Mississippi River by recommending to Congress that they authorize the removal of the Lower Saint Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam 1, and call for habitat rehabilitation on the Mississippi River.

As a whitewater kayaker, I have a deep love of rivers. Seeing part of the Mississippi River restored to its natural state would be a great gift to everyone and would leave a lasting legacy for future generations!

Sincerely,

Paul Busch

From: [redacted]
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Restore the Mississippi River Gorge
Date: Thursday, July 18, 2019 1:17:47 PM

I am writing to express support for removing Lower Saint Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam 1 on the Mississippi River to restore aquatic habitat.

On the Upper Mississippi River, habitat is degrading faster than it can be rehabilitated through existing conservation programs, and the river's dams are a primary cause of declining aquatic habitat. Saint Anthony Falls and its downstream cataract were one of four big river rapids on the Upper Mississippi. Today there exists only a remnant of the Saint Louis Chain of Rocks rapids. Consequently, the aquatic species that needed these big river rapids to complete parts of their lifecycles are under threat, including sturgeon, paddlefish and freshwater mussels— the most endangered group of animals in North America.

The dams in the Mississippi River Gorge were developed to support industrial and shipping activity that no longer exists. While the Gorge's bluffs have been mostly restored to parkland, the river infrastructure remains, limiting public access while the Pool 1 reservoir fills with sediment. Additionally, continuing to operate and maintain this infrastructure costs federal taxpayers millions annually.

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The time is ripe to take a bold step forward towards a new vision of the Gorge that removes the environmentally damaging features of a 150-year-old industrial plan, restores the natural flow and character of the river, rehabilitates habitat for fish and wildlife, and promotes compatible recreation and business opportunities. Please restore the Mississippi River by recommending to Congress that they authorize the removal of the Lower Saint Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam 1, and call for habitat rehabilitation on the Mississippi River.

Sincerely,

Sam Butler
[redacted]

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Theo Byrnes [redacted] >
Sent: Sunday, December 18, 2022 9:46 AM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comments for the Army Corps disposition study for Twin Cities locks and dams

Dear Army Corps of Engineers Disposition Study,

My name is Theo Byrnes, I own Paddle Bridge Guide Collective and we use the locks to provide tour oppurtunities on the Mississippi River for locals and also tourist.

I am writing to you with questions and comments for the disposition study of the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam No. 1. My questions / comments are:

I currently have struggled to be able to provide tours in the river gorge due to reliablility of the ford lock being open as scheduled. This area on the river is literally only accesible as a through paddle by use of the locks. To keep this area accesible to public access we need to maintain a expanded schedule of locakage. This is a beautiful stretch of water that is completely unique on the Mississippi. Whatever the future holds for this section we shouldn't limit access to the public.

The army corp could have an oppurtunitiy to expand their mission to include public access. The current mandate is commericial traffic but across the country there is a push to prove that through recreation and the industry's around it we can help local communities with jobs, and public space.

The Gorge between lower st anthony and ford lock and dam provides a unique opportunity to trial a potential paddle sports/ low wake/ low noise area.

Theo Byrnes

Sincerely,
Theo Byrnes
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Restore the Mississippi River Gorge
Date: Tuesday, August 6, 2019 9:27:11 AM

I am writing to express support for removing Lower Saint Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam 1 on the Mississippi River to restore aquatic habitat.

On the Upper Mississippi River, habitat is degrading faster than it can be rehabilitated through existing conservation programs, and the river's dams are a primary cause of declining aquatic habitat. Saint Anthony Falls and its downstream cataract were one of four big river rapids on the Upper Mississippi. Today there exists only a remnant of the Saint Louis Chain of Rocks rapids. Consequently, the aquatic species that needed these big river rapids to complete parts of their lifecycles are under threat, including sturgeon, paddlefish and freshwater mussels— the most endangered group of animals in North America.

The dams in the Mississippi River Gorge were developed to support industrial and shipping activity that no longer exists. While the Gorge's bluffs have been mostly restored to parkland, the river infrastructure remains, limiting public access while the Pool 1 reservoir fills with sediment. Additionally, continuing to operate and maintain this infrastructure costs federal taxpayers millions annually.

Due to the severe impact that these dams are having on the river and the potential to make a major difference for future river sustainability, American Rivers has named the Mississippi River Gorge one of this year's America's Most Endangered Rivers®.

The time is ripe to take a bold step forward towards a new vision of the Gorge that removes the environmentally damaging features of a 150-year-old industrial plan, restores the natural flow and character of the river, rehabilitates habitat for fish and wildlife, and promotes compatible recreation and business opportunities. Please restore the Mississippi River by recommending to Congress that they authorize the removal of the Lower Saint Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam 1, and call for habitat rehabilitation on the Mississippi River.

Sincerely,

Bridget Callaghan
[redacted]

From: Mary Campbell
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Ensuring the best possible future for Mississippi River
Date: Wednesday, December 14, 2022 10:07:30 AM

Dear U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District Engineer St. Paul District,

The study for the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Lock and Dam #1 should be comprehensive so we have the best available information to advance the best possible outcome for the Mississippi River and Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.

We understand that the Army Corps will consider many alternatives in the study, including dam removal. Much has changed since the locks were built. Please analyze and consider the following areas of concern:

1. Behind the structures are years of built-up sand and silt. Please analyze what is in that sediment and where it would go if one or both locks and dams are removed.

2. The Mississippi River was home to more than 90 fish species before the structures were built. Today we have fewer than 30 species and only in small numbers. Please analyze how removal could improve the restoration of native species in the river and whether there would be any impacts on the spread of invasive species.

3. Lock and dam removal will change how the river flows through this section and more shorelines and islands could emerge. Please analyze how removal could change recreational activities on the river, including current and potential new uses.

Thank you for ensuring this critical study helps advance the best possible future for the river.

Regards,
Mary Campbell
[redacted]

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Rachel Campbell <[redacted]>
Sent: Sunday, October 16, 2022 9:25 PM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [URL Verdict: Neutral][Non-DoD Source] Public Comment on the Future of Lock and Dam 1

The Army Corp's proposal to investigate alternative uses to Lock and Dam 1 in St. Paul, MN raises several serious concerns about the future of Lock and Dam 1 and the Mississippi River. As a student of Macalester College, the Mississippi River holds great value to me and makes the future of Lock and Dam 1 an outcome in which I am invested.

The Mississippi River is a trademark of the Twin Cities and it supplies a great deal of outdoor involvement. With parks bordering its shores and companies renting out paddle boards and kayaks, the Mississippi provides a sense of wilderness in an urban area. As both an outdoor enthusiast and an environmentalist with the future of the Mississippi at heart, it is important to me to be a part of the scoping process for Lock and Dam 1.

Environmental Implications and Sediment Concerns:
The removal of Lock and Dam 1 is a large job, especially because sediment has built up by the dam structures in the last 100 years. According to Friends of the Mississippi, Lock and Dam 1 might be holding back around 1.5 million cubic feet of sediment including sand, dirt, and other materials that float in the waters of the Mississippi. If Lock and Dam 1 were to be removed, all of this sediment could be released which could impact downstream waters and require great amounts of dredging (Friends of the Mississippi). It is unknown what effect this sediment could have on the river and the surrounding ecosystems but it is essential to conduct a detailed study to learn more about it. I am curious as to how the Army Corps will go about looking into sediment concerns.

Infrastructure Impact:
Whether Lock and Dam 1 is removed, no longer used, or stays functioning as is, it will still have an infrastructure impact. As of now structures such as bridges, retaining walls, and storm drains have been built to accommodate the current flow of the river. Removing the dam would both change water levels and river patterns but also risk intact infrastructure and expose more shorelines and islands (Friends of the Mississippi). Although there could be consequences of dam removal, I am curious to learn if a more free-flowing river would allow for more recreational infrastructure–could new parks be built on these shorelines to open up this body of water more to the public?
If the dam were to remain functioning or simply remain intact, there would be no guessing of how infrastructure could be impacted. Parks and shorelines would remain as they are. But there would be a large structure in the middle of the Mississippi River that may or may not be serving much of a purpose.

Scoping, Outreach, and Investigation Concerns:
I recently visited Lock and Dam 1 and also attended the open house at the Highland Park Middle School hosted by the Army Corps itself. At the open house, I was presented with the opportunity to ask Army Corps representatives questions regarding Lock and Dam 1. While their responses proved quite informative, I couldn't help but notice the biases of both the representatives as well as the Army Corps itself. It worries me that the Army Corps seems anxious to transfer ownership of the dam to another entity and that representatives aren't remaining neutral.
I am also worried that the Army Corps scoping process is not reaching all of the demographics it should. I was one of few attendees under 40 years old at the Highland Park open house. Not enough young people know about

the appeal to reconsider the future of Lock and Dam 1. In addition, the open house was lightly attended, showing me that it's possible not that many people know about the deliberation of Lock and Dam 1 in general. The Army Corps needs to make this widespread information so that Twin Cities residents who will actually see the impact of the decision, can help inform that decision.
Finally, while the Army Corps representatives were highly knowledgeable, there was a lack of specialized knowledge. Engineers and other experts should be present at open houses during the scoping process so that people can understand more fully what's at stake. I wonder how the Army Corps will reach other demographics to spread more awareness.

Closing:
While I am in favor of seeing a free-flowing Mississippi river, I do have some concerns that I have presented above. The environmental concerns urge me to prompt the Army Corps to conduct an in-depth investigation of possible effects removing the dam might have. The potential infrastructure impact could mean great things for the Mississippi River and the future of outdoor recreation in the Twin Cities, but it must be approached carefully and after great consideration. As an engaged young person in the Twin Cities community, I am grateful to know about the deliberation surrounding Lock and Dam 1 and I urge the Army Corps to reach out to different demographics so that all people have the opportunity to know about and comment on this issue.

Sincerely,
Rachel Campbell

References:
Colleen O'Connor Toberman September 21. "The Case for and against Lock and Dam Removal." *Friends of the Mississippi River*, 12 Oct. 2022, https://fmr.org/updates/land-use-planning/case-and-against-lock-and-dam-removal.

"What's Going on with Twin Cities Locks and Dams?" *Friends of the Mississippi River*, 11 Oct. 2022, https://fmr.org/updates/land-use-planning/whats-going-twin-cities-locks-and-dam.

From: June Cancell
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Restore the Mississippi River Gorge
Date: Sunday, April 5, 2020 12:43:10 PM

I am writing to express support for removing Lower Saint Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam 1 on the Mississippi River to restore aquatic habitat.

On the Upper Mississippi River, habitat is degrading faster than it can be rehabilitated through existing conservation programs, and the river's dams are a primary cause of declining aquatic habitat. Saint Anthony Falls and its downstream cataract were one of four big river rapids on the Upper Mississippi. Today there exists only a remnant of the Saint Louis Chain of Rocks rapids. Consequently, the aquatic species that needed these big river rapids to complete parts of their lifecycles are under threat, including sturgeon, paddlefish and freshwater mussels— the most endangered group of animals in North America.

The dams in the Mississippi River Gorge were developed to support industrial and shipping activity that no longer exists. While the Gorge's bluffs have been mostly restored to parkland, the river infrastructure remains, limiting public access while the Pool 1 reservoir fills with sediment. Additionally, continuing to operate and maintain this infrastructure costs federal taxpayers millions annually.

Due to the severe impact that these dams are having on the river and the potential to make a major difference for future river sustainability, American Rivers has named the Mississippi River Gorge one of this year's America's Most Endangered Rivers®.

The time is ripe to take a bold step forward towards a new vision of the Gorge that removes the environmentally damaging features of a 150-year-old industrial plan, restores the natural flow and character of the river, rehabilitates habitat for fish and wildlife, and promotes compatible recreation and business opportunities. Please restore the Mississippi River by recommending to Congress that they authorize the removal of the Lower Saint Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam 1, and call for habitat rehabilitation on the Mississippi River.

Sincerely,

June Cancell

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Denny Caneff <[redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, September 29, 2022 11:52 AM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Questions regarding Mpls. lock and dam disposition study

Hello, good people at USACE:

I'm reviewing the materials your agency posted recently about disposition studies for the 3 ACE-operated locks and dams in Minneapolis. As I understand it, a disposition study was completed regarding the Upper St. Anthony L&D, which concluded that lands surrounding that facility will be conveyed to the City of Minneapolis. Then the announcement states: "The draft disposition study report proposed disposal of the remainder of Upper St. Anthony Lock and Dam."

Here are my questions:

1. What does "disposal" mean, in this context: removal? Repurposing?

2. It's been a couple of years since I've down to that area. What has been "disposed of" at Upper St. Anthony that leaves "remainder" is left to be disposed of?

3. What kind of comments would be helpful to your agency regarding the disposition study for Lower St. Anthony and L&D 1 -- suggestions for what to study, or ideas or suggestions of what we'd like to see for the Mississippi River in that area that is now affected by those two dams?

Thank you for your consideration of these questions.

Denny Caneff
Madison, WI

From: Barbara Carlson
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Ensuring the best possible future for Mississippi River
Date: Thursday, December 15, 2022 6:14:42 PM

Dear U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District Engineer St. Paul District,

The study for the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Lock and Dam #1 should be comprehensive so we have the best available information to advance the best possible outcome for the Mississippi River and Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.

We understand that the Army Corps will consider many alternatives in the study, including dam removal. Much has changed since the locks were built. Please analyze and consider the following areas of concern:

1. Behind the structures are years of built-up sand and silt. Please analyze what is in that sediment and where it would go if one or both locks and dams are removed.

2. The Mississippi River was home to more than 90 fish species before the structures were built. Today we have fewer than 30 species and only in small numbers. Please analyze how removal could improve the restoration of native species in the river and whether there would be any impacts on the spread of invasive species.

3. Lock and dam removal will change how the river flows through this section and more shorelines and islands could emerge. Please analyze how removal could change recreational activities on the river, including current and potential new uses.

Thank you for ensuring this critical study helps advance the best possible future for the river.

Regards,
Barbara Carlson
[redacted]

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Dana Chabot <[redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, December 1, 2022 10:14 AM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comments for the Army Corps disposition study for Twin Cities locks and dams

Dear Army Corps of Engineers Disposition Study,

My name is Dana Chabot and I'm from Minneapolis.

I am writing to you with questions and comments for the disposition study of the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam No. 1. My main concerns are that we maintain good water quality (for drinking and wildlife), and that any decisions we make about potential dam removal make improvement of wildlife habitat a priority. Of course, we have to maintain the integrity of structures like bridges. There may a balance to be struck between maintaining structural integrity and improving habitat for wildlife. If so, then how to strike that balance would be the main issue to be studied, in my view.

Sincerely,
Dana Chabot
[redacted]

From: Donna Cerkvenik
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Ensuring the best possible future for Mississippi River
Date: Wednesday, December 14, 2022 10:50:44 AM

Dear U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District Engineer St. Paul District,

The study for the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Lock and Dam #1 should be comprehensive so we have the best available information to advance the best possible outcome for the Mississippi River and Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.

We understand that the Army Corps will consider many alternatives in the study, including dam removal. Much has changed since the locks were built. Please analyze and consider the following areas of concern:

1. Behind the structures are years of built-up sand and silt. Please analyze what is in that sediment and where it would go if one or both locks and dams are removed.

2. The Mississippi River was home to more than 90 fish species before the structures were built. Today we have fewer than 30 species and only in small numbers. Please analyze how removal could improve the restoration of native species in the river and whether there would be any impacts on the spread of invasive species.

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Thank you for ensuring this critical study helps advance the best possible future for the river.

Regards,
Donna Cerkvenik


From: [redacted]
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Restore the Mississippi River Gorge
Date: Monday, June 17, 2019 5:56:00 PM

I am writing to express support for removing Lower Saint Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam 1 on the Mississippi River to restore aquatic habitat.

On the Upper Mississippi River, habitat is degrading faster than it can be rehabilitated through existing conservation programs, and the river's dams are a primary cause of declining aquatic habitat. Saint Anthony Falls and its downstream cataract were one of four big river rapids on the Upper Mississippi. Today there exists only a remnant of the Saint Louis Chain of Rocks rapids. Consequently, the aquatic species that needed these big river rapids to complete parts of their lifecycles are under threat, including sturgeon, paddlefish and freshwater mussels— the most endangered group of animals in North America.

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The time is ripe to take a bold step forward towards a new vision of the Gorge that removes the environmentally damaging features of a 150-year-old industrial plan, restores the natural flow and character of the river, rehabilitates habitat for fish and wildlife, and promotes compatible recreation and business opportunities. Please restore the Mississippi River by recommending to Congress that they authorize the removal of the Lower Saint Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam 1, and call for habitat rehabilitation on the Mississippi River.

Sincerely,

Dan Chandler
[redacted]

From: Steph Charboneau
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comments for the Army Corps disposition study for Twin Cities locks and dams
Date: Friday, November 11, 2022 9:45:09 AM

Dear Army Corps of Engineers Disposition Study,

My name is Steph and I live in South Minneapolis.

I am writing to you with questions and comments for the disposition study of the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam No. 1. My questions / comments are:

What options are there to offset the loss of electricity production from the dams?

What steps can be taken to encourage the restoration of biodiversity to the gorge if the dams are removed?

If the dams are removed, what other mitigating projects will be needed to restore the river and how will they be funded?

How can a restored river gorge bring in tourism, recreation, and other economic benefits to the community?

How long would initial removal, and then mitigating projects not including ongoing maintenance, take to complete?

I think the possibility of rewilding the metropolitan section of the river gorge is fascinating and exciting. I look forward to knowing more about this potential project!

Sincerely,
Steph Charboneau
[redacted]

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Steven Chesney <[redacted]>
Sent: Sunday, October 23, 2022 4:31 PM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comments for the Army Corps disposition study for Twin Cities locks and dams

Dear Army Corps of Engineers Disposition Study,

My name is Steven Chesney and I'm from Brooklyn Park, MN.

I am writing to you witha comment for the disposition study of the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam No. 1.

Whether considering complete dam removal or another less drastic option, include impact on bird life (both birds that breed in the area and migrants.) Lower river levels with exposed shoreline, reefs and islands can favor shorebirds and warblers. This is in addition to the effects on subaquatic life, mussels, mammals and fish.

Sincerely,
Steven Chesney
[redacted]

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: jmchev [redacted] >
Sent: Friday, December 16, 2022 10:58 PM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] MPLS Locks Disposition

Hello, I would like to see any project moving forward incorporate greater access to water based recreation on the Mississippi river. It is such an under utilized resource for recreation that many do not even consider because of it's lack of convenient access. This would be an amazing location for a whitewater park. Other similar white water parks in other cities provide tourism as well as recreation. I believe removing the dam and restoring the river to it's natural flow sounds like a good idea, but in any case, a whitewater park should be a priority.

Thanks,
John Chevalier

From: Phylis Cohen
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Ensuring the best possible future for Mississippi River
Date: Wednesday, December 14, 2022 10:34:29 AM

Dear U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District Engineer St. Paul District,

The study for the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Lock and Dam #1 should be comprehensive so we have the best available information to advance the best possible outcome for the Mississippi River and Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.

We understand that the Army Corps will consider many alternatives in the study, including dam removal. Much has changed since the locks were built. Please analyze and consider the following areas of concern:

1. Behind the structures are years of built-up sand and silt. Please analyze what is in that sediment and where it would go if one or both locks and dams are removed.

2. The Mississippi River was home to more than 90 fish species before the structures were built. Today we have fewer than 30 species and only in small numbers. Please analyze how removal could improve the restoration of native species in the river and whether there would be any impacts on the spread of invasive species.

3. Lock and dam removal will change how the river flows through this section and more shorelines and islands could emerge. Please analyze how removal could change recreational activities on the river, including current and potential new uses.

Thank you for ensuring this critical study helps advance the best possible future for the river.

Regards,
Phylis Cohen
[redacted]

Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam 1 Disposition Study
Public Comment Sheet – October 2022

Persons submitting comments are advised that all comments received will be available to the public, to include the possibility of posting on a publicly accessible website. Commenters are requested not to include personal privacy information, such as home addresses, in their comments unless they do not object to such information being made available to the public. These comments will be used to prepare a preliminary draft Disposition study report and environmental scoping document, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

Name: JOHN COLLINS affiliation (optional): CITIZEN

Please provide your Zip Code: [redacted]

Please check the category/ies below that best represent the nature of your comment/s (Check all that apply):

- ☐ Communication/Coordination
- ☐ Cultural and Historic Resources
- ☐ Dam Removal
- ☐ Economics
- ☐ Environmental
- ☒ Future Use
- ☐ Flooding
- ☒ Hydropower
- ☒ Invasive Species
- ☐ Navigation
- ☐ Ownership
- ☐ Public Access
- ☐ Public Safety
- ☐ Recreation
- ☐ Sediment/Water Quality/Water supply
- ☐ Social concerns
- ☐ Study scope
- ☐ Other (please specify)

I HAVE LIVED IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD ALONG THE RIVER GORGE MOST of MY LIFE. THE LOCKS AND DAMS HAVE BEEN PART OF THE RIVER ALL MY LIFE. THE RIVER GORGE IS A GREAT RESOURCE AND IS IMPORTANT TO ALL OF US. I WANT THE GORGE AND THE LOCK/DAMS TO BE ADAPTED TO BEST MEET OUR COMMUNITIES NEEDS. THE PRIORITIES FROM MY PERSPECTIVE ARE:

1. PREVENTING FURTHER SPREAD OF ASIAN CARP UPSTREAM.

2. USING THE EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE TO OUR COMMUNITY BENFIT.

TO THESE ENDS I WANT TO SEE USE OF THE LOCKS DISCONTINUED. I ALSO WANT THE DAMS TO REMAIN FOR 2 PURPOSES

1. MAINTAIN AND DEVELOP HYDROELECTRIC POWER
2. MAINTAIN THE WATER LEVELS IN THE GORGE FOR BOATING AND POWER.

Comments can be handed in during the meeting, mailed to the address shown, or emailed to MplsLocksDisposition@usace.army.mil. We would appreciate your comments by November 25, 2022.

----------fold----------

----------fold----------

MINNEAPOLIS MN 553
15 OCT 2022 PM 4 L

GEORGE MORRISON
FOREVER / USA

US Army Corps of Engineers
332 Minnesota St, Ste E1500
St Paul, MN 55101-1323
Attn: Regional Planning and Environment Division North

55101-132350

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Celia Connoy <[redacted]>
Sent: Monday, October 24, 2022 3:06 PM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] comments for the 10/25

To Whom it May Concern:

I am putting my support behind the Friends of the Mississippi River. After reading their positions on future plans for removing locks from the river, I sincerely back their thoughtful approach.

Celia Connoy
[redacted]

Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam 1 Disposition Study
Public Comment Sheet – October 2022

Persons submitting comments are advised that all comments received will be available to the public, to include the possibility of posting on a publicly accessible website. Commenters are requested not to include personal privacy information, such as home addresses, in their comments unless they do not object to such information being made available to the public. These comments will be used to prepare a preliminary draft Disposition study report and environmental scoping document, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

Name: CECILIA CONNOY affiliation (optional): MPLS RESIDENT

Please provide your Zip Code: [redacted]

Please check the category/ies below that best represent the nature of your comment/s (Check all that apply):

- ☐ Communication/Coordination
- ☐ Cultural and Historic Resources
- ☐ Dam Removal
- ☐ Economics
- ☐ Environmental
- ☐ Future Use
- ☐ Flooding
- ☐ Hydropower
- ☐ Invasive Species
- ☐ Navigation
- ☐ Ownership
- ☐ Public Access
- ☐ Public Safety
- ☐ Recreation
- ☐ Sediment/Water Quality/Water supply
- ☐ Social concerns
- ☐ Study scope
- ☐ Other (please specify)

I've made a comment online. As an average city person, I wonder what good the locks + dams do if they are not used: to me they look like a hunk of ugly cement. I realize that they are much more than that, and believe doing nothing is not a good option. I support Friends of the Mississippi, and believe a measured rein is the best idea now. I also question who might in the future pay for this massive project. The possible cost overruns me.

Lastly, thank you for these public meetings.

Tallman, Clayton E CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Philip Coolidge <[redacted]>
Sent: Wednesday, October 19, 2022 8:54 PM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Considerations Regarding Lock & Dam #1

I am a student at Macalester college and I have had a tour of the dam and its surroundings. As a registered voter in St. Paul, I believe that it is important how the Army Corp and potential owners of the dam deal with the consequences of keeping or removing it.

Rowing

One factor that comes to mind is the rowing that occurs on the river. While the river is dammed, the water level is raised to the extent that rowing is allowable on the river. This has caused rowing organizations to spring up. Rowing is an expensive investment for these organizations and I think that it would be a shame to see that go to waste through the removal of the dam system.

Climate change & fossil fuel emissions

As the Army Corp explain themselves within the lock and dam structure, boat travel is much more fuel efficient than other forms of cargo transport such as trucks and trains. As climate change becomes a more politically salient problem it might be likely that river traffic would increase as companies become conscious of their carbon footprint and the St. Paul/Minneapolis ports might need to be reopened.

River safety

If the river were to become undammed, the flow rate would increase and perhaps would prove more dangerous for people should they accidentally fall in the water or purposefully try to swim in it. I am from New Orleans where the Mississippi also flows and it is often a problem that people become intoxicated and try to swim in the fast-flowing Mississippi which swallows them up.

Species Richness

Another consideration is that undamming the river could allow aquatic species that live below the dam currently could move to above it around St. Paul and Minneapolis. This could allow for a fishing community to spring up in the Twin Cities that never really existed before.

Indigenous Control

One other thing to consider is the land claims that Native American tribes in the area might have claim to the area around the dam since it was settled by them hundreds of years ago. By allowing them control of the locks and dams, it allows some sort of justice to be done about the harms of U.S. settlers that forcefully expelled them from their lands in Minnesota and elsewhere.

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: CEMVP-PA
Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2023 12:02 PM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: FW: [URL Verdict: Neutral][Non-DoD Source] RE: Upper St Anthony Dam

I know the comment period is closed for the disposition study, but this e-mail came into the Public Affairs office this week.

Dave

From: David Conrad <[redacted]>
Sent: Monday, January 9, 2023 11:36 AM
To: CEMVP-PA <CEMVP-PA@usace.army.mil>
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: [URL Verdict: Neutral][Non-DoD Source] RE: Upper St Anthony Dam

Thanks for the update. We're glad those of the National Preservation Act and those charged with WRDA 2020 are working on the future of the Dam. Please, if you can, suggest a public planning group to include the kayaking community (e.g. rapidsriders.org).

I've included in this email's cc line that group's general email address.

Members of rapidsriders may be able to give insight into creating a whitewater venue at the St. Anthony Dam site.

Have a major league day!
David Conrad

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

On Tue, Jan 3, 2023 at 7:07 AM, CEMVP-PA <CEMVP-PA@usace.army.mil> wrote:

> Hi David. Thanks for the e-mail. We have a page with details about the Twin Cities disposition studies here:
>
> https://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/MplsLocksDisposition/
>
> The comment period for the Lower St. Anthony and Lock and Dam 1 disposition study just ended in December, and the Corps is looking at several alternatives.
>
> As for Upper St. Anthony, this is the current situation:

The Water Resources and Development Act of 2020 was signed into law December 27, 2020, and directed that lands at Upper St. Anthony Falls be conveyed to the city of Minneapolis or their designee, and that the federal government provide the city of Minneapolis or its designee licenses on the remaining property for a comprehensive recreational, touristic and interpretive experience. Excerpts from WRDA 2018 and 2020 are linked below:

The St. Paul District is working with the city of Minneapolis to identify and expedite the lands and licenses to be conveyed under WRDA 2020. The St. Paul District has begun Section 106 coordination required under the National Historic Preservation Act. The disposition study report and integrated Environmental Assessment for Upper St. Anthony Falls will be finalized following completion of these tasks. Federal property disposal is managed by the General Services Administration as governed by federal law.

As for photos, if you browse around that link you should find many. Also, try this link:

If you search our photos section for "St. Anthony" you will find many photos of the upper and lower locks:

https://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Media/Images/?igsearch=%22st.%20anthony%22

(Those photos can be downloaded for your use.)

Dave

From: David Conrad <[redacted]
Sent: Friday, December 30, 2022 1:51 PM
To: CEMVP-PA <CEMVP-PA@usace.army.mil>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Upper St Anthony Dam

I'm a member of that Mpls/StPaul area whitewater group which desires a whitewater park at the Upper St Anthony Dam if the deposition of the area goes to Minneapolis,

A quasi-historian in Mississippi River navigation development, I'd like to understand what is now going on.

If you have any insights to what the deposition decision was, please share it with us.

I'm almost 72 and probably won't see that park completed in my lifetime. The subject of a St. Anthony Falls whitewater park has been discussed for over 30 years with the UofM once proposing the idea.

Who am I? Grew up next to a creek in Blackhawk Hills neighborhood in Rock Island IL that leads to Rock River at what used to be Blackhawk State Park. A real huckleberry finn childhood. Just downstream from there is the confluence into the Mississippi. I'm a Rocky and Augustana graduate.

I discovered whitewater about 20 years ago, when I was in my 50s. Before that I didn't know how to spell kayak. Actually I suck at it but was a varsity swimmer at Rocky and scuba/skin diver in my day. At the Wausua WI Whitewater Park competitions, I'm usually #2 oldest. Maybe it's #1 by now. My first trip to Wausau was with a rental, paid my money, went to the top of the course, sat there freaked out, a guy said "you're new aren't you." Got down to the expert hole and got flipped over. Not understanding any procedures and not having a roll, I didn't understand why all these boaters where around me trying to rescue. I thought I'd get out of their way and went deep until where was less traffic. Freaked them out completely. Got a reputation for that move.

My wife's from Moline. Our family was big into river boats at Sunset marina. Big brother Mike was dock master at the marina in Moline, he owned and was married on the last Kahlke Boat Yards craft made by Kahlke himself as a personal craft (twin screw 42'). Mike made the mistake of selling it to some yahoo who took it out of the water to dry out (bad move). Dad was the guy in 1945 who flew his Navy Hellcat as a Loop under was the new Centennial bridge in order to impress my mom. Mom is pictured below and is the one who got that Rocky boulder moved from Big Island on the Rock to the high school campus in the 1970. She was born in a house along the Rock River at the base of 30th Street in Rock Island IL in 1923. At the top of the hill was John Looney's hide-out party-cake house.

Thanks for whatever you are allowed to share about the dam. Send pictures that I can share with the club.

David Conrad

Prior Lake Minnesota

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Tim Cowdery [redacted] >
Sent: Sunday, October 9, 2022 12:30 PM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comments for the Army Corps disposition study for Twin Cities locks and dams

Dear Army Corps of Engineers Disposition Study,

My name is Tim Cowdery and I'm from Minneapolis.

I am writing to you with comments for the disposition study of the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam No. 1. I want to see all three locks (upper and lower St. Anthony Falls Locks and Lock number 1) completely removed and the River restored in these areas. This includes restoration of the 2 arches in the Stone-Arch Bridge removed for barge traffic. I understand that the pool above St. Anthony Falls must be maintained for many reasons. But this does not preclude the removal of the St. Anthony Falls locks. I want to see the lower St. Anthony Falls dam removed and restored to its natural state of rapids. I am equivocal about the removal of the dam at Lock & Dam number 1 (the Ford dam). I am persuaded by arguments to leave the dam in place for hydropower. But if the dam is not used for hydropower, it should be removed. Finally, as part of the restoration of the river between St. Anthony Falls and the Ford dam, I want to see access for people to the river for non-motorized recreation (boating, wading, and swimming).

Thanks, and best regards.

Sincerely,
Tim Cowdery
[redacted]

From: Jocelyn Cox
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Ensuring the best possible future for Mississippi River
Date: Friday, December 16, 2022 7:17:48 AM

Dear U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District Engineer St. Paul District,

The study for the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Lock and Dam #1 should be comprehensive so we have the best available information to advance the best possible outcome for the Mississippi River and Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.

We understand that the Army Corps will consider many alternatives in the study, including dam removal. Much has changed since the locks were built. Please analyze and consider the following areas of concern:

1. Behind the structures are years of built-up sand and silt. Please analyze what is in that sediment and where it would go if one or both locks and dams are removed.

2. The Mississippi River was home to more than 90 fish species before the structures were built. Today we have fewer than 30 species and only in small numbers. Please analyze how removal could improve the restoration of native species in the river and whether there would be any impacts on the spread of invasive species.

3. Lock and dam removal will change how the river flows through this section and more shorelines and islands could emerge. Please analyze how removal could change recreational activities on the river, including current and potential new uses.

Thank you for ensuring this critical study helps advance the best possible future for the river.

Regards,
Jocelyn Cox


Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Kenneth Crabb MD [redacted] >
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2022 10:00 AM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Please do not remove lock and dams

To Whom It May Concern;

I feel the environmental and ecosystem changes by removing dams on the Mississippi would be detrimental to all concerned. You'd have release of toxic sediment now safely contained behind each dam. These toxins when released would contaminate many miles of the river. There would be an adverse effect on current wildlife who have adapted to the presence of the dam.

Furthermore, it would reduce electricity generated in a very clean manner that is continuous regardless of the sun shining or the wind blowing.

The removal would also make it more difficult for recreational use of the river.

For all these reasons, I urge you to not remove any lock and dam.

Thank you.

Ken Crabb
Kenneth W Crabb, MD,FACOG
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Restore the Mississippi River Gorge
Date: Tuesday, July 9, 2019 11:56:38 AM

I am writing to express support for removing Lower Saint Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam 1 on the Mississippi River to restore aquatic habitat.

On the Upper Mississippi River, habitat is degrading faster than it can be rehabilitated through existing conservation programs, and the river's dams are a primary cause of declining aquatic habitat. Saint Anthony Falls and its downstream cataract were one of four big river rapids on the Upper Mississippi. Today there exists only a remnant of the Saint Louis Chain of Rocks rapids. Consequently, the aquatic species that needed these big river rapids to complete parts of their lifecycles are under threat, including sturgeon, paddlefish and freshwater mussels— the most endangered group of animals in North America.

The dams in the Mississippi River Gorge were developed to support industrial and shipping activity that no longer exists. While the Gorge's bluffs have been mostly restored to parkland, the river infrastructure remains, limiting public access while the Pool 1 reservoir fills with sediment. Additionally, continuing to operate and maintain this infrastructure costs federal taxpayers millions annually.

Due to the severe impact that these dams are having on the river and the potential to make a major difference for future river sustainability, American Rivers has named the Mississippi River Gorge one of this year's America's Most Endangered Rivers®.

The time is ripe to take a bold step forward towards a new vision of the Gorge that removes the environmentally damaging features of a 150-year-old industrial plan, restores the natural flow and character of the river, rehabilitates habitat for fish and wildlife, and promotes compatible recreation and business opportunities. Please restore the Mississippi River by recommending to Congress that they authorize the removal of the Lower Saint Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam 1, and call for habitat rehabilitation on the Mississippi River.

Sincerely,

robert curtin

[redacted]

From: Cathy Curtis
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Ensuring the best possible future for Mississippi River
Date: Friday, December 23, 2022 12:35:35 AM

Dear U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District Engineer St. Paul District,

The study for the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Lock and Dam #1 should be comprehensive so we have the best available information to advance the best possible outcome for the Mississippi River and Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.

We understand that the Army Corps will consider many alternatives in the study, including dam removal. Much has changed since the locks were built. Please analyze and consider the following areas of concern:

1. Behind the structures are years of built-up sand and silt. Please analyze what is in that sediment and where it would go if one or both locks and dams are removed.

2. The Mississippi River was home to more than 90 fish species before the structures were built. Today we have fewer than 30 species and only in small numbers. Please analyze how removal could improve the restoration of native species in the river and whether there would be any impacts on the spread of invasive species.

3. Lock and dam removal will change how the river flows through this section and more shorelines and islands could emerge. Please analyze how removal could change recreational activities on the river, including current and potential new uses.

Thank you for ensuring this critical study helps advance the best possible future for the river.

Regards,
Cathy Curtis


From: Jerry Dawson
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Ensuring the best possible future for Mississippi River
Date: Friday, December 16, 2022 5:51:13 AM

Dear U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District Engineer St. Paul District,

The study for the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Lock and Dam #1 should be comprehensive so we have the best available information to advance the best possible outcome for the Mississippi River and Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.

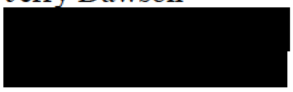
We understand that the Army Corps will consider many alternatives in the study, including dam removal. Much has changed since the locks were built. Please analyze and consider the following areas of concern:

1. Behind the structures are years of built-up sand and silt. Please analyze what is in that sediment and where it would go if one or both locks and dams are removed.

2. The Mississippi River was home to more than 90 fish species before the structures were built. Today we have fewer than 30 species and only in small numbers. Please analyze how removal could improve the restoration of native species in the river and whether there would be any impacts on the spread of invasive species.

3. Lock and dam removal will change how the river flows through this section and more shorelines and islands could emerge. Please analyze how removal could change recreational activities on the river, including current and potential new uses.

Thank you for ensuring this critical study helps advance the best possible future for the river.

Regards,
Jerry Dawson


From: Chase Davies
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Ensuring the best possible future for Mississippi River
Date: Wednesday, December 14, 2022 9:46:49 AM

Dear U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District Engineer St. Paul District,

The study for the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Lock and Dam #1 should be comprehensive so we have the best available information to advance the best possible outcome for the Mississippi River and Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.

We understand that the Army Corps will consider many alternatives in the study, including dam removal. Much has changed since the locks were built. Please analyze and consider the following areas of concern:

1. Behind the structures are years of built-up sand and silt. Please analyze what is in that sediment and where it would go if one or both locks and dams are removed.

2. The Mississippi River was home to more than 90 fish species before the structures were built. Today we have fewer than 30 species and only in small numbers. Please analyze how removal could improve the restoration of native species in the river and whether there would be any impacts on the spread of invasive species.

3. Lock and dam removal will change how the river flows through this section and more shorelines and islands could emerge. Please analyze how removal could change recreational activities on the river, including current and potential new uses.

Thank you for ensuring this critical study helps advance the best possible future for the river.

Regards,
Chase Davies


Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: John Davis [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, October 27, 2022 3:49 PM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comments for the Army Corps disposition study for Twin Cities locks and dams

Dear Army Corps of Engineers Disposition Study,

PLEASE EDIT: INCLUDE NAME AND CITY (e.g. My name is _____ and I'm from St. Paul.)

I am writing to you with questions and comments for the disposition study of the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam No. 1. My questions / comments are:

I would like to see the locks and dams being removed to increase recreational activites - fishing and kayaking - on the river.

Sincerely,
John Davis
[redacted]
[redacted]

From:	Mike Davis
To:	DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Ensuring the best possible future for Mississippi River
Date:	Thursday, December 15, 2022 10:38:40 AM

Dear U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District Engineer St. Paul District,

The study for the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Lock and Dam #1 should be comprehensive so we have the best available information to advance the best possible outcome for the Mississippi River and Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.

We understand that the Army Corps will consider many alternatives in the study, including dam removal. Much has changed since the locks were built. Please analyze and consider the following areas of concern:

1. Behind the structures are years of built-up sand and silt. Please analyze what is in that sediment and options regarding where it would go if one or both locks and dams are removed.

2. The Mississippi River was home to more than 90 fish species and at least 43 mussel species before the structures were built. Today we have fewer than 30 fish species and about 15 mussel species and only in small numbers. Please analyze how removal could improve the restoration of native species in the river and whether there would be any impacts on the spread of invasive species.

3. Lock and dam removal will change how the river flows through this section and more shorelines and islands could emerge. Please analyze how removal could change recreational activities on the river, including current and potential new uses.

Thank you for ensuring this critical study helps advance the best possible future for the river.

Regards,
Mike Davis
[redacted]

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Bob Davis [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, October 5, 2022 12:07 PM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Portage

I hear the Corp is taking comments regarding the future of Mississippi Lock and Dam 1.

1) Provide a portage due to the limited hours and its unique location, or

2) Removal of the structure to restore freedom of navigation on this stretch of river.

Thank-you,

Robert Davis

[redacted]

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Tom Davis [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, December 1, 2022 3:28 PM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comments for the Army Corps disposition study for Twin Cities locks and dams

Dear Army Corps of Engineers Disposition Study,

My name is Tom Davis. I live in Rochester. My family has had a cabin on the Mississippi for over 60 years, so I am well aware what a treasure the river really is.
My primary question for the disposition study of the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam No. 1 is: how will dam removal impact the Mississippi ecosystem?
Thanks for your attention,
Tom

Sincerely,
Tom Davis
[redacted]

From: Tom Davis
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Ensuring the best possible future for Mississippi River
Date: Thursday, December 15, 2022 11:59:26 AM

Dear U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District Engineer St. Paul District,

At age 82, I've spent many treasured hours on the Mississippi River. I have come to the conclusion that the best possible plan for the locks and dams is to remove them, starting with the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam #1.
Please seriously consider this option as the best possible outcome for the Mississippi River and Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.

I understand that the Army Corps will consider dam removal as one of the alternatives in the study. Much has changed since the locks were built. Please analyze and consider the following areas of concern:

1. Behind the structures are years of built-up sand and silt. Please analyze what is in that sediment and where it would go if one or both locks and dams are removed.

2. The Mississippi River was home to more than 90 fish species before the structures were built. Today we have fewer than 30 species and only in small numbers. Please analyze how removal could improve the restoration of native species in the river and whether there would be any impacts on the spread of invasive species.

3. Lock and dam removal will change how the river flows through this section and more shorelines and islands could emerge. Please analyze how removal could change recreational activities on the river, including current and potential new uses.

Thank you for ensuring this critical study helps advance the best possible future for the river.

Regards,
Tom Davis
[redacted]

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Grace Davies [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, December 1, 2022 9:43 AM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comments for the Army Corps disposition study for Twin Cities locks and dams

Dear Army Corps of Engineers Disposition Study,

My name is Grace Davies and I live in Minneapolis between the Marshall Avenue bridge and the Ford Parkway bridge, and quite near Lock & Dam No. 1.

I am writing to you with questions and comments for the disposition study of the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam No. 1. My questions / comments are: What impacts would different outcomes have on our river environment, including water quality, wildlife populations, climate resilience, and more?
How much sediment is built up between Lower St. Anthony Falls and Lock & Dam No. 1 and is it polluted? What would happen to this sediment if the dams were removed? How much would it cost to address that?
Will any bridges or other structures be jeopardized if one or both of these dams is removed?

I'm concerned about the water quality in the river if the dams are removed.
I think the Army Corps should study dam removal's potential impacts on improving ecosystem health and the surrounding environment. I also think the Army Corps should study the geology of the river corridor to make sure it would be stable if these structures were removed to ensure the River flow is not negatively impacted.

It is imperative that we understand exactly what will happen to the river and all the effects that will result from any dam removal so we can make the best plan for this most precious area of the Mississippi River. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Grace Davies
[redacted]

From: Zachary DeLane
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Ensuring the best possible future for Mississippi River
Date: Saturday, December 17, 2022 8:26:26 AM

Dear U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District Engineer St. Paul District,

The study for the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Lock and Dam #1 should be comprehensive so we have the best available information to advance the best possible outcome for the Mississippi River and Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.

We understand that the Army Corps will consider many alternatives in the study, including dam removal. Much has changed since the locks were built. Please analyze and consider the following areas of concern:

1. Behind the structures are years of built-up sand and silt. Please analyze what is in that sediment and where it would go if one or both locks and dams are removed.

2. The Mississippi River was home to more than 90 fish species before the structures were built. Today we have fewer than 30 species and only in small numbers. Please analyze how removal could improve the restoration of native species in the river and whether there would be any impacts on the spread of invasive species.

3. Lock and dam removal will change how the river flows through this section and more shorelines and islands could emerge. Please analyze how removal could change recreational activities on the river, including current and potential new uses.

Thank you for ensuring this critical study helps advance the best possible future for the river.

Regards,
Zachary DeLane
[redacted]

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Roger Delavy [redacted]
Sent: Monday, December 5, 2022 8:09 AM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] MPLS Locks Disposition

Lock no.1 and lower St.Anthony lock are still being used by boaters.
A big concern would be if these locks would be transferred to anybody else. Are they really capable to maintain them and guarantee public safety?
The US Army Corps of engineers knows these locks in and out so to keep the save and operational but also maintaining water levels it should stay with them.

Roger Delavy

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Ella Deutchman [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2022 7:01 PM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [URL Verdict: Neutral][Non-DoD Source] Public Comment on Lock and Dam Removal

To: Army Corps of Engineers

General Comments

As a resident and student of St. Paul, who recreates by the river several times a week, I strongly believe that the integrity and health of the river as an ecosystem be among the top priorities for the Army Corps disposition study for Lower St. Anthony Falls lock and dam and Lock and Dam 1.

Ecological Benefits of Free-Flowing Rivers

Biodiversity

Reconnecting the river could reinstate a flourishing biodiversity. Dozens of species of fish could repatriate this segment of the Mississippi, if they are given the uninterrupted stretches of river they require to spawn [1]. This, in turn, could instigate larger populations of native freshwater mussels, a keystone species which could reinvigorate the water's cleanliness, and, thus, the river's vitality [1] [2]. Lock and dam removal will benefit fish in myriad other ways, as well; the slowed flow of rivers caused by dams allows sediment to build, which destroys spawning habitat. This will be a non-issue if the dams are removed. Additionally, fish who are being killed, or who have their reproductive systems affected by the colder and less oxygenated water from the bottom of the reservoir, would have their health restored [6]. Between 1970 and 2016, migratory freshwater fish under observation have, on average, decreased seventy-six percent [7]. Dam removal is vital to stopping this decline.

Climate Crisis

Additionally, lock and dam removal could reduce greenhouse gas emissions, thus contributing to the fight against the climate crisis. This is because the flooding caused by dams can result in the breaking down of trees and grasses, which releases methane, and restoring the river could cease those emissions [3].

Floodplains

Floodplains are a vital ecosystem, providing an instrumental habitat that the Mississippi River is currently devoid of [1]. Going beyond the scope of providing just a terrestrial and/or aquatic habitat, floodplains bestow upon their environment flood zones, areas that oscillate between wet and dry zones [4]. The unique nature of floodplains controls natural floods and erosion, protects fish and wildlife habitat, grants higher quality recreational opportunities, maintains surface quality, bolsters biological productivity, and recharges groundwater [5].

Closing

I am aware of the gravity of the removal of Lower St. Anthony Falls lock and dam and Lock and Dam 1 as undertakings. I recognize the enormous cost, the disruption to communities, such as the rowing one, that depend on the river in its current state, the potential for sediment upheaval, the impact on local communities and residents, the breadth of the unpredictability, and all the other issues that arise when contending with a project of this scale. I think all of these factors must be given careful consideration. With that in mind, I want to

highlight my belief that the ecological health of the river should be on the forefront of our minds, as I believe that restoring the river to a biologically diverse, floodplain-laden, free-flowing entity, will not only benefit us, but myriad other species, and every generation of humans that will come after us.

Sincerely,
Ella Deutchman

[1] The case for and against lock and dam removal
https://fmr.org/updates/land-use-planning/case-and-against-lock-and-dam-removal

[2] Native Freshwater Mussel Health
https://www.usgs.gov/centers/nwhc/science/native-freshwater-mussel-health#:~:text=Native%20freshwater%20mussels%20are%20a,the%20health%20of%20the%20ecosystem.

[3] 8 Benefits of Healthy, Free-Flowing Rivers
https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2022/09/22/8-benefits-of-healthy-free-flowing-rivers

https://www.umesc.usgs.gov/documents/reports/1999/status_and_trends/99t001_ch02lr.pdf

[4] Floodplain River Ecology and the Concept of River Ecological Health
https://www.umesc.usgs.gov/documents/reports/1999/status_and_trends/99t001_ch02lr.pdf

[5] Benefits of Natural Floodplains
https://www.fema.gov/floodplain-management/wildlife-conservation/benefits-natural

[6] Removing Dams and Restoring Rivers
https://news.climate.columbia.edu/2011/08/29/removing-dams-and-restoring-rivers/#:~:text=Dam%20removal%20restores%20a%20river's,food%20for%20additional%20wildlife%20species.

[7] Removing Barriers for Healthy Rivers and Fisheries
https://www.nature.org/en-us/what-we-do/our-priorities/tackle-climate-change/climate-change-stories/removing-barriers-river-health/

From: Lobsang Dhondup
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Ensuring the best possible future for Mississippi River
Date: Wednesday, December 14, 2022 11:15:17 AM

Dear U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District Engineer St. Paul District,

The study for the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Lock and Dam #1 should be comprehensive so we have the best available information to advance the best possible outcome for the Mississippi River and Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.

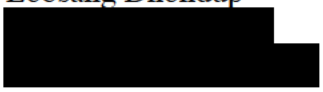
We understand that the Army Corps will consider many alternatives in the study, including dam removal. Much has changed since the locks were built. Please analyze and consider the following areas of concern:

1. Behind the structures are years of built-up sand and silt. Please analyze what is in that sediment and where it would go if one or both locks and dams are removed.

2. The Mississippi River was home to more than 90 fish species before the structures were built. Today we have fewer than 30 species and only in small numbers. Please analyze how removal could improve the restoration of native species in the river and whether there would be any impacts on the spread of invasive species.

3. Lock and dam removal will change how the river flows through this section and more shorelines and islands could emerge. Please analyze how removal could change recreational activities on the river, including current and potential new uses.

Thank you for ensuring this critical study helps advance the best possible future for the river.

Regards,
Lobsang Dhondup


Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Britta Dornfeld [redacted] >
Sent: Sunday, December 18, 2022 10:27 PM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comments for the Army Corps disposition study for Twin Cities locks and dams

Dear Army Corps of Engineers Disposition Study,

Hello,

My name is Britta Dornfeld and I'm from St. Paul, MN. I am writing to you with questions and comments for the disposition study of the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam No. 1. My questions that I would like to see explored by this disposition study for this massive undertaking are as follows:
1) How much sediment is built up between Lower St. Anthony Falls and Lock & Dam No. 1 and is it polluted? What would happen to this sediment if the dams were removed? Especially, how would it affect Lake Pepin, which is already dealing with excessive sediment? How much would it cost to address the sedimentation?
2) Will any bridges or other structures be jeopardized if one or both of these dams is removed?
3) If the dam removal goes through, what would happen to the power currently generated by them? Would it be possible to replace that amount of hydropower with other forms of renewable energy?
4) Would dam removal increase the spread of invasive carp upriver?
5) How would a potential removal affect the resiliency of populations of native flora and fauna in the river, especially native species of mussels? What would the impact of keeping the dam in be on native species resiliency?
6) What would the impact of both keeping the dam in or removing the dam affect the climate resiliency of the river and the region?
7) What would the impact of both keeping the dam in or removing the dam affect the water quality of the river both in the short and long-term?

Thank you for undertaking this important study that will be vital in determining how our region advances.

Sincerely,
Britta Dornfeld
[redacted]

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Sophie Downey [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, December 1, 2022 9:18 AM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comments for the Army Corps disposition study for Twin Cities locks and dams

Dear Army Corps of Engineers Disposition Study,

Hello, my name is Sophie Downey, and I live in Minneapolis. I am writing to you with questions and comments for the disposition study of the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam No. 1.

My questions / comments are:

- What would be the positive effects of removing Lock and Dam No. 1 on the river ecosystem? What would be any negative effects?
- How would the change in the water level affect existing structures on the shorelines? (For example, the stormwater runoff outflows.) What measures would be taken to account for the change in water level?
- How much sediment is built up between Lower St. Anthony Falls and Lock & Dam No. 1 and is it polluted? What would happen to this sediment if the dams were removed? How much would it cost to address that?
- What measures are in place to ensure that the functions of St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam that the city of Minneapolis relies on - like flood management and providing drinking water - are stable for generations to come?
- Has the Army Corp consulted with local Indigenous tribes or Native Nations about the outcome that would be most favorable to them? Is returning the land to a tribal organization an option that has been seriously considered?

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Sophie Downey
[redacted]

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Rebecca Driker-Ohren [redacted]
Sent: Monday, October 17, 2022 8:24 PM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Public Comment on Lower St. Anthony & Lock and Dam 1

To whom it may concern:

I am concerned about the engagement of the public in the ongoing disposition studies of Lower St. Anthony falls lock and dam, and lock and dam 1. Despite numerous public comments about upper St. Anthony falls sharing concerns regarding the health of the ecosystem, public health & water access concerns, fears about the Army Corps' potential disposal of responsibility of the lock, and the lack of outreach to the public throughout the study, the decision was made to walk away from the lock. Although I am pleased to see land conveyance to the city of Minneapolis, I am distressed about the state of the lock following disposal of responsibility, and worried about a lock failure. Who is responsible for the infrastructure? Who is responsible for the health of the river, should something go wrong?

I am hopeful for the Lock and Dam 1, and the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam disposition studies -- I am hopeful that the Army Corps will listen to the public, will learn from the public, and will prioritize the public by expanding the scope of the study as much as is asked for in the public comments. The purpose of the public comment period, which is enacted by Water Resources Development Act and the National Environmental Policy Act, is to expand the critical lenses which are used to design the disposition study. This means that there is no room for shortcuts or the "easy way out" -- the Army Corps is held accountable to the public, to the health of the river ecosystem, and to the future of the Twin Cities. A proper disposition study must consider the benefits and consequences of all alternatives, and prioritize whatever is articulated in the public comments.

I hope that whatever the outcome of the study, the focus remains on human and ecological health, rather than the bureaucracy of maintaining the locks. That, however, is up to you, the Army Corps of Engineers.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Driker-Ohren
St. Paul Resident

Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam 1 Disposition Study
Public Comment Sheet – October 2022

Persons submitting comments are advised that all comments received will be available to the public, to include the possibility of posting on a publicly accessible website. Commenters are requested not to include personal privacy information, such as home addresses, in their comments unless they do not object to such information being made available to the public. These comments will be used to prepare a preliminary draft Disposition study report and environmental scoping document, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

Name: George Dunn affiliation (optional): _____

Please provide your Zip Code: [redacted]

Please check the category/ies below that best represent the nature of your comment/s [Check all that apply]:

- ☐ Communication/Coordination
- ☒ Cultural and Historic Resources
- ☒ Dam Removal
- ☐ Economics
- ☒ Environmental
- ☒ Future Use
- ☐ Flooding
- ☐ Hydropower
- ☐ Invasive Species
- ☐ Navigation
- ☒ Ownership
- ☒ Public Access
- ☒ Public Safety
- ☒ Recreation
- ☐ Sediment/Water Quality/Water supply
- ☐ Social concerns
- ☒ Study scope
- ☐ Other [please specify]

How Does MN state statutes affect on limit How a Dam can be "Disposed" of?

How many acres of Park land would be created with Dam Removal

How could a "natural" river be recreated if The Dams were Removed.
After having Thousands of Tons of rock would that Thousand of Tons of Rock have to be moved back in to The river to help to start The process of recreating a river.

How would want to buy either of These Dams? Why would They want to assume such liability

Could The ACE just decide to walk away from The Dams and let GSA sell them (over)

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Eli Effinger-Weintraub [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 2:57 PM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comments for the Army Corps disposition study for Twin Cities locks and dams

Dear Army Corps of Engineers Disposition Study,

My name is Eli Effinger-Weintraub, and I live in Minneapolis.

I am writing to you with comments for the disposition study of the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam No. 1. My comments is: it's far past time for us to return the entire area where the locks and dams are located to the Dakota people. The Dakota are the ancestral stewards of this land, and they did far better with for scores of generations before Europeans' arrival than we've done with it in the past 150ish years. Cede control of this structure and the lands and waters it sits on to its rightful caretakers, and we may yet live to see the Mississippi River flourish in ways it hasn't for over a century.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Eli Effinger-Weintraub
[redacted]

Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam 1 Disposition Study
Public Comment Sheet – October 2022

Persons submitting comments are advised that all comments received will be available to the public, to include the possibility of posting on a publicly accessible website. Commenters are requested not to include personal privacy information, such as home addresses, in their comments unless they do not object to such information being made available to the public. These comments will be used to prepare a preliminary draft Disposition study report and environmental scoping document, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

Name: Christine Dekker affiliation (optional):_____

Please provide your Zip Code: [redacted]

Please check the category/ies below that best represent the nature of your comment/s (Check all that apply):

- ☐ Communication/Coordination
- ☐ Cultural and Historic Resources
- ☐ Dam Removal
- ☐ Economics
- ☐ Environmental
- ☐ Future Use
- ☐ Flooding
- ☐ Hydropower
- ☐ Invasive Species
- ☐ Navigation
- ☐ Ownership
- ☐ Public Access
- ☐ Public Safety
- ☐ Recreation
- ☐ Sediment/Water Quality/Water supply
- ☐ Social concerns
- ☐ Study scope
- ☐ Other (please specify)

_____

Please open observation more often. It would be great to visit regularly

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Emily Erhart <[redacted]>
Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2023 8:29 PM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [URL Verdict: Unknown][Non-DoD Source] ommunication/Coordination, Dam Removal, Economic, Environmental, Future use, Flooding, public access, public safety, Recreation, social concerns, Study Scope

My name: Emily Erhart
Address: [redacted]

I would like to see the river open to more public access, and recreation with a possible whitewater park. This section of river has a one of a kind location, and geology to have one of the worlds best whitewater parks based on natural flow.
No matter the options considered for the dams/locks, whitewater recreation should play a large part in all of them.

See mnwwp.com (minnesotawhitewaterproject.com) for studies on similar whitewater parks, and the benefits they bring to the community.
Thanks

From: Michael Erickson
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Ensuring the best possible future for Mississippi River
Date: Wednesday, December 14, 2022 10:17:27 AM

Dear U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District Engineer St. Paul District,

The study for the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Lock and Dam #1 should be comprehensive so we have the best available information to advance the best possible outcome for the Mississippi River and Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.

We understand that the Army Corps will consider many alternatives in the study, including dam removal. Much has changed since the locks were built. Please analyze and consider the following areas of concern:

1. Behind the structures are years of built-up sand and silt. Please analyze what is in that sediment and where it would go if one or both locks and dams are removed.

2. The Mississippi River was home to more than 90 fish species before the structures were built. Today we have fewer than 30 species and only in small numbers. Please analyze how removal could improve the restoration of native species in the river and whether there would be any impacts on the spread of invasive species.

3. Lock and dam removal will change how the river flows through this section and more shorelines and islands could emerge. Please analyze how removal could change recreational activities on the river, including current and potential new uses.

Thank you for ensuring this critical study helps advance the best possible future for the river.

Regards,
Michael Erickson
[redacted]

From: Susan Espinoza
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Ensuring the best possible future for Mississippi River
Date: Wednesday, December 14, 2022 12:26:43 PM

Dear U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District Engineer St. Paul District,

The study for the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Lock and Dam #1 should be comprehensive so we have the best available information to advance the best possible outcome for the Mississippi River and Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.

We understand that the Army Corps will consider many alternatives in the study, including dam removal. Much has changed since the locks were built. Please analyze and consider the following areas of concern:

1. Behind the structures are years of built-up sand and silt. Please analyze what is in that sediment and where it would go if one or both locks and dams are removed.

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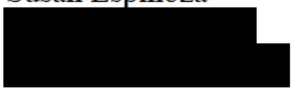
3. Lock and dam removal will change how the river flows through this section and more shorelines and islands could emerge. Please analyze how removal could change recreational activities on the river, including current and potential new uses.

Thank you for ensuring this critical study helps advance the best possible future for the river.

Regards,
Susan Espinoza


Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Dan Esselman <[redacted]>
Sent: Wednesday, December 14, 2022 11:49 AM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comments for the Army Corps disposition study for Twin Cities locks and dams

Dear Army Corps of Engineers Disposition Study,

My name is Dan Esselman and I'm from Andover MN.

I am writing to you with questions and comments for the disposition study of the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam No. 1. My questions / comments are: I think the Army Corps should study the possibility of installing some type of erosion control on the banks of the river and the possibility of using the sediment between Lower St. Anthony Falls and Lock & Dam No. 1 to backfill the erosion control system to lesson the grade down to the river. I think a study to learn the effects of drainage from all the calverts and pipes that drain into the river would be helpful. And what effects would this drainage have on water quality, erosion etc. I also think a study to explore the possibility of using any part of the existing dam structures and convert them into walk ways over the river. I also think that a study on access and parking capacity in the area might look like, assuming that there would be more people recreating on and adjacent to the river, if it was decided to remove the dams. Thank you for taking the time to consider my questions and concerns. Dan

Sincerely,
Dan Esselman
[redacted]

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Chris Evans [redacted]
Sent: Monday, October 17, 2022 4:08 PM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] MPLS Locks Disposition

Hello,

I am writing regarding the disposition of the Twin Cities locks and dams on the Mississippi River. I would like to see the dams removed and replaced with whitewater parks. The whitewater parks in Wausau, WI and in several Iowa cities attract many paddlers from around the Midwest throughout the summer, including me. Using the gradient from the dams to create whitewater features would restore some of the natural feel of the river while expanding recreational opportunities in the Twin Cities, which already has a substantial whitewater paddling community.

Thank you for your consideration,

Chris Evans
Maple Grove, MN

Public Comment on Upper St. Anthony Falls
Name: Red Fair Affiliation: Macalester College [redacted]
Categories: Dam removal, environmental, future use, invasive species, public access, sediment/water quality/water supply, study scope

I would like to pose some questions about the ecological effects of removing the lock and dam. I am an Environmental Studies student with a focus on biology, specifically on animal behaviour and how it is impacted by human activities and climate change. I am not from Minnesota and do not intend to stay here for very long so I am admittedly not very interested in the social effects of removing the lock and dam. There are however many possible ecological impacts and I believe that special attention should be given to these impacts during the scoping process.

Fish and Fishing

My focus is not in aquatic habitats, however the effects on fish populations will be one of the largest in the event of dam removal. Fish assemblage and biodiversity are greatly affected by artificial habitat modifications [1], which includes structures such as locks and dams (although the cited study focused on wing dikes). Fish biodiversity also increases in lotic environments as they tend to favor specialist species rather than generalist species, which tend to take over in lentic environments [2]. This is because the presence of dams leads to changes in sediment distribution, temperature regimes, and species communities. The lock and dam at Upper St. Anthony Falls has already resulted in these changes, so scoping should involve an understanding of which fish species are dominant in the lentic environment (and how that distribution changes depending on proximity to the lock and dam) and how the reestablishment of a lotic would affect not only those species but the previously dominant specialist species from before the construction of the lock and dam. Is it possible for those specialist species to reclaim their niches? Are they even still present in this area? Have they gone extinct? Are there similar species from nearby lotic habitats which could be introduced into the potentially lotic Mississippi? How would those species interact with the currently dominant generalist species, and how would the latter's populations change in a lotic environment?

While on the topic of fish, an increase in fish populations and biodiversity in a lotic environment could mean an increase in small-scale fishing (assuming water quality also increases). In the event that locals start fishing more, how will that affect fish populations? Will some sort of regulations need to be put in place? Will people need licenses or other qualifications in order to fish on the river? And much like how hunters play a large role in surveying deer populations, will fishers need to declare their catches and help provide information on the types of fish and their numbers that they saw while fishing? How could such data be logged and analyzed, if at all?

Phytoplankton and Plants

There is a really interesting paper [3] on how phytoplankton communities are affected by locks and dams in the Mississippi with special attention to the differences in impacts on communities above and below the lock and dam. It would be important to study how different the populations of microalgae above and below the dam are and how the removal of the dam would affect those populations, as well as everything that feeds on them. What would be the consequences of mixing those populations in the event of dam removal?

Likewise, how would dam removal affect the distribution of macrophytes? If phytoplankton tend to be in lower abundance where there are more macrophytes [3], then how would those populations change? And branching off that, how would fish population distribution change since different species prey on phytoplankton and macrophytes? And then one must take into account the difference between a lotic and lentic environment and how that may destabilize current macrophyte/phytoplankton populations.

Birds

I actually really care about birds so I will try to keep this brief so that I don't bore the reader. When my class took a trip to the Upper St. Anthony Falls lock and dam, there were a number of birds perched above and below the dam as they foraged for fish. How would dam removal affect their foraging behaviour? There seemed to be one species above the dam and another below it, both possibly feeding on different species of fish. Are those species endemic to the river in the first place? Were there other bird species who were forced out of the area when the locks and dams made the environment more lentic? Can those species be brought back? Would the current bird species adapt and find other hunting methods? And how would fish behaviour in response to bird predation change? For migratory birds who rely on the river as it currently is for prey during migratory cycles, how would a lotic environment change their migration patterns (if at all)? And what about water birds who nest in the floodplain? How will their behaviours change in response to the changing river?

Conclusion

This comment is getting a bit long so I think it's time to sum it up. My concerns mainly lie with how fish, phytoplankton, macrophyte, and bird populations will change in the event of dam removal. To be clear, I support dam removal because it will open up some room for endemic species to return to their niches. I just worry about what will come of the currently dominant species and how those species will interact with returning populations.

Citations

[1] Fish Assemblages of Natural and Artificial Habitats within the Channel Border of the Upper Mississippi River: https://www.jstor.org/stable/2426687

[2] Implications of Dam Obstruction for Global Freshwater Fish Diversity: https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1525/bio.2012.62.6.5

[3] Possible Effect of Lock and Dam 19 on Phytoplankton Communities of the Upper Mississippi River: https://www.jstor.org/stable/25177121

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Dan Faust - Glory Days <[redacted]>
Sent: Wednesday, September 28, 2022 1:50 PM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [URL Verdict: Neutral][Non-DoD Source] MPLS Locks Disposition

To Whom it may concern,

My name is Daniel Faust. I am writing to you to voice my opinion on the Minneapolis Locks Disposition issue.

I have paddled the Mississippi River from Lake Itasca to the Gulf of Mexico twice. I did these two trips in 2021 and 2022.

My trips down the Mississippi River are documented at the following websites.
https://newglorydays.wordpress.com
https://newglorydays2.wordpress.com
https://mississippi2022.wordpress.com
https://mississippitwo.wordpress.com

The current situation with the Locks in Minneapolis has a significant impact on people like me who wish to travel on the Mississippi River through that area.

This past summer Lock #1 was a huge challenge to the progress of our group because there is no established portage route around Lock & Dam #1. Luckily, we were ultimately successful in portaging Lock #1, but the lack of an established and reasonable portage posed a very real and significant hardship to our group.

There were four paddlers in our group at that time. The youngest paddler was 42 years old. Two of us are in our mid 60's and our oldest member is 87 years old this year. Obviously we are not the average group of paddlers, but getting around Lock #1 was more than just difficult. It was dangerous for us.

We completed our journey down the entire Mississippi River on September 8, 2022. A journey of more than 2,300 miles.

We were successful because of teamwork, communication, hard work, and perseverance, but also because we didn't take unnecessary risks. I feel that Lock #1 and the lack of a safe establish portage route poses an unnecessary risk to paddlers traveling the Mississippi River.

It is my opinion that a solution can be worked out if there is a desire to do so. Please consider the safety of citizens like me and other people who simply want to paddle the Mississippi River.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Daniel Faust
[redacted]
[redacted]
--

Dan Faust

That's my story and I'm sticking to it.

From: Erin Ferguson
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Ensuring the best possible future for Mississippi River
Date: Monday, December 19, 2022 12:13:19 AM

Dear U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District Engineer St. Paul District,

The study for the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Lock and Dam #1 should be comprehensive so we have the best available information to advance the best possible outcome for the Mississippi River and Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.

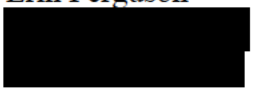
We understand that the Army Corps will consider many alternatives in the study, including dam removal. Much has changed since the locks were built. Please analyze and consider the following areas of concern:

1. Behind the structures are years of built-up sand and silt. Please analyze what is in that sediment and where it would go if one or both locks and dams are removed.

2. The Mississippi River was home to more than 90 fish species before the structures were built. Today we have fewer than 30 species and only in small numbers. Please analyze how removal could improve the restoration of native species in the river and whether there would be any impacts on the spread of invasive species.

3. Lock and dam removal will change how the river flows through this section and more shorelines and islands could emerge. Please analyze how removal could change recreational activities on the river, including current and potential new uses.

Thank you for ensuring this critical study helps advance the best possible future for the river.

Regards,
Erin Ferguson


From:	Richard Fish
To:	DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] Ensuring the best possible future for Mississippi River
Date:	Wednesday, December 14, 2022 10:26:13 AM

Dear U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District Engineer St. Paul District,

The study for the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Lock and Dam #1 should be comprehensive so we have the best available information to advance the best possible outcome for the Mississippi River and Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.

We understand that the Army Corps will consider many alternatives in the study, including dam removal. Much has changed since the locks were built. Please analyze and consider the following areas of concern:

1. Behind the structures are years of built-up sand and silt. Please analyze what is in that sediment and where it would go if one or both locks and dams are removed.

2. The Mississippi River was home to more than 90 fish species before the structures were built. Today we have fewer than 30 species and only in small numbers. Please analyze how removal could improve the restoration of native species in the river and whether there would be any impacts on the spread of invasive species.

3. Lock and dam removal will change how the river flows through this section and more shorelines and islands could emerge. Please analyze how removal could change recreational activities on the river, including current and potential new uses.

Thank you for ensuring this critical study helps advance the best possible future for the river.

Regards,
Richard Fish
[redacted]

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Michael Finn <[redacted]>
Sent: Tuesday, October 4, 2022 1:02 PM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comments for the Army Corps disposition study for Twin Cities locks and dams

Dear Army Corps of Engineers Disposition Study,

My name is Mike Finn and I'm from St. Paul, MN.

I am writing to you with questions and comments for the disposition study of the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam No. 1. My questions / comments are:

As an avid rower and ardent supporter of the sport as a lifelong fitness opportunity for people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds, I would be incredibly disappointed for local clubs and universities to lose the pool of water between the dams as a resource.

Sincerely,
Michael Finn
[redacted]

From: Mandie Flint
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Ensuring the best possible future for Mississippi River
Date: Wednesday, December 14, 2022 11:22:56 AM

Dear U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District Engineer St. Paul District,

The study for the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Lock and Dam #1 should be comprehensive so we have the best available information to advance the best possible outcome for the Mississippi River and Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.

We understand that the Army Corps will consider many alternatives in the study, including dam removal. Much has changed since the locks were built. Please analyze and consider the following areas of concern:

1. Behind the structures are years of built-up sand and silt. Please analyze what is in that sediment and where it would go if one or both locks and dams are removed.

2. The Mississippi River was home to more than 90 fish species before the structures were built. Today we have fewer than 30 species and only in small numbers. Please analyze how removal could improve the restoration of native species in the river and whether there would be any impacts on the spread of invasive species.

3. Lock and dam removal will change how the river flows through this section and more shorelines and islands could emerge. Please analyze how removal could change recreational activities on the river, including current and potential new uses.

Thank you for ensuring this critical study helps advance the best possible future for the river.

Regards,
Mandie Flint


Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Alison Forney [redacted]
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 3:33 AM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comments for the Army Corps disposition study for Twin Cities locks and dams

Dear Army Corps of Engineers Disposition Study,

PLEASE EDIT: INCLUDE NAME AND CITY (e.g. My name is _____ and I'm from St. Paul.)

I am writing to you with questions and comments for the disposition study of the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam No. 1. My questions / comments are:
I am concerned about losing MRC and UMN rowing programs, as well as the social impact of losing community associated with rowing.

Sincerely,
Alison Forney
[redacted]

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Joseph M. Flanders [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2022 10:20 AM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [URL Verdict: Unknown][Non-DoD Source] Mississippi Lock and Dam study

Please let the river flow wild and free.

Thank you.

Joseph M. Flanders

Flanders Law Firm, LLC
[redacted]
Website: www.flanderslawfirm.com

From: Kyle Franta
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comments for the Army Corps disposition study for Twin Cities locks and dams
Date: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 9:20:40 AM

Dear Army Corps of Engineers Disposition Study,

Hello, My name is Kyle Franta and I am writing to you with questions and comments for the disposition study of the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam No. 1. I am a recent graduate from the University of Minnesota's Master of landscape architecture Program where I spent time studying the implications of the ford and lower saint Anthony falls dams removal on the community and ecological systems in the twin cities region. I was able to study the history of the dams and their positive and negative impacts on the region and their projected futures.

Through my research, I believe that the removal of the two dams would bring enormous value to the community and would be of critical importance to the ecological systems that depend on the river. The dams certainly have served their purpose and helped to make the twin cities and greater Minnesota the successful region it is. However, the same purposes are no longer being served, and it is time for Minnesotans to lead the nation when it comes to prioritizing our environment and ecological systems that we find much pride in.

Thank you for providing this forum for the public to respond and be heard. My questions and comments are:

1. What is the scope of dam removal? Would the project include the likely decades of restoration and maintenance required to restore that river?

2. Is the potential return on investment being studied (increased tourism, recreation, etc.)?

3. Is the sediment behind the dams being tested and studied? Is the sediment flow being simulated to better understand the river's change over time?

4. What would the projected water levels be both up and downstream of the river? Would the river have more seasonal fluctuation compared to its current seasonal water level changes?

5. If there is an increased shoreline, who would own that new land, and what would be done with it? Would it be developed for recreation or tourism? Would it be used to restore necessary floodplains and additional river channels?

6. How are indigenous communities being consulted and included in this conversation?

7. What are the changes expected for downriver communities both in Minnesota and beyond?

I believe with careful study and thoughtful planning, we can be a leader and a precedent setter for other communities to follow our example. Let's acknowledge that the dams are no longer serving their once important and necessary functions. Let's allow our beloved Mississippi River to be the community and ecological asset that it has been for thousands of years and across generations. Thank you again for providing this forum and for considering the removal of the two dams. I am excited to move forward and show the world what Minnesotans value

through action. I look forward to future opportunities to be heard and collaboratively participate in this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Sincerely,

Kyle Franta

Sincerely,
Kyle Franta
[redacted]

Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam 1 Disposition Study
Public Comment Sheet – October 2022

Persons submitting comments are advised that all comments received will be available to the public, to include the possibility of posting on a publicly accessible website. Commenters are requested not to include personal privacy information, such as home addresses, in their comments unless they do not object to such information being made available to the public. These comments will be used to prepare a preliminary draft Disposition study report and environmental scoping document, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

Name: Chris Fruehwirth affiliation (optional):_____

Please provide your Zip Code: [redacted]

Please check the category/ies below that best represent the nature of your comment/s (Check all that apply):

- ☐ Communication/Coordination
- ☐ Cultural and Historic Resources
- ☒ Dam Removal
- ☐ Economics
- ☐ Environmental
- ☒ Future Use
- ☐ Flooding
- ☐ Hydropower
- ☐ Invasive Species
- ☐ Navigation
- ☐ Ownership
- ☐ Public Access
- ☐ Public Safety
- ☐ Recreation
- ☒ Sediment/Water Quality/Water supply
- ☐ Social concerns
- ☐ Study scope
- ☐ Other (please specify)

_____

Interesting discussion with one of your engineers regarding strategic water reserve, esp. in light of climate change. Seems maintaining dams would be best policy to maintain reservoir in case of extreme drought, as 2021 showed us.

Thanks so much for the open house, & expertise. Fascinating!

From: Rebecca Freund
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Ensuring the best possible future for Mississippi River
Date: Wednesday, December 14, 2022 9:58:21 AM

Dear U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District Engineer St. Paul District,

The study for the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Lock and Dam #1 should be comprehensive so we have the best available information to advance the best possible outcome for the Mississippi River and Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.

We understand that the Army Corps will consider many alternatives in the study, including dam removal. Much has changed since the locks were built. Please analyze and consider the following areas of concern:

1. Behind the structures are years of built-up sand and silt. Please analyze what is in that sediment and where it would go if one or both locks and dams are removed.

2. The Mississippi River was home to more than 90 fish species before the structures were built. Today we have fewer than 30 species and only in small numbers. Please analyze how removal could improve the restoration of native species in the river and whether there would be any impacts on the spread of invasive species.

3. Lock and dam removal will change how the river flows through this section and more shorelines and islands could emerge. Please analyze how removal could change recreational activities on the river, including current and potential new uses.

Thank you for ensuring this critical study helps advance the best possible future for the river.

Regards,
Rebecca Freund
[redacted]

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Annah Gardner [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 11:40 PM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comments for the Army Corps disposition study for Twin Cities locks and dams

Dear Army Corps of Engineers Disposition Study,

PLEASE EDIT: INCLUDE NAME AND CITY (e.g. My name is _____ and I'm from St. Paul.)

I am writing to you with questions and comments for the disposition study of the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam No. 1. My questions / comments are:

Sincerely,
Annah Gardner
[redacted]

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Annah Gardner [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, December 1, 2022 11:38 PM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comments for the Army Corps disposition study for Twin Cities locks and dams

Dear Army Corps of Engineers Disposition Study,

I have lived near the Mississippi River in both St. Paul and Minneapolis for most of my life. I often take walks by the river and live near the river. It is important to me and my family that the river is taken care of.
I am writing regarding the disposition study of the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam No. 1.
I think the Army Corps should study dam removal's potential impacts on ecosystem health.
How much sediment is built up between Lower St. Anthony Falls and Lock & Dam No. 1 and is it polluted? What would happen to this sediment if the dams were removed? How would that affect water quality and wildlife populations?
What impacts would different outcomes have on our river environment, including the water quality of the river and effects on floral and fauna?

Sincerely,
Annah Gardner
[redacted]

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Nancy Gardner [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, October 2, 2022 6:08 AM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comments for the Army Corps disposition study for Twin Cities locks and dams

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[redacted]

From: [redacted]
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Restore the Mississippi River Gorge
Date: Thursday, July 18, 2019 2:48:18 PM

I am writing to express support for removing Lower Saint Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam 1 on the Mississippi River to restore aquatic habitat.

I believe we have the unique opportunity to set an example of environmental stewardship for the rest of the country to follow. The restoration of the Mississippi River Gorge can have a huge impact on the area. As someone who has paddled the Mississippi and who currently works as a canoe guide, I am showing my support for the removal of the dams.

On the Upper Mississippi River, habitat is degrading faster than it can be rehabilitated through existing conservation programs, and the river's dams are a primary cause of declining aquatic habitat. Saint Anthony Falls and its downstream cataract were one of four big river rapids on the Upper Mississippi. Today there exists only a remnant of the Saint Louis Chain of Rocks rapids. Consequently, the aquatic species that needed these big river rapids to complete parts of their lifecycles are under threat, including sturgeon, paddlefish and freshwater mussels— the most endangered group of animals in North America.

The dams in the Mississippi River Gorge were developed to support industrial and shipping activity that no longer exists. While the Gorge's bluffs have been mostly restored to parkland, the river infrastructure remains, limiting public access while the Pool 1 reservoir fills with sediment. Additionally, continuing to operate and maintain this infrastructure costs federal taxpayers millions annually.

Due to the severe impact that these dams are having on the river and the potential to make a major difference for future river sustainability, American Rivers has named the Mississippi River Gorge one of this year's America's Most Endangered Rivers®.

The time is ripe to take a bold step forward towards a new vision of the Gorge that removes the environmentally damaging features of a 150-year-old industrial plan, restores the natural flow and character of the river, rehabilitates habitat for fish and wildlife, and promotes compatible recreation and business opportunities. Please restore the Mississippi River by recommending to Congress that they authorize the removal of the Lower Saint Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam 1, and call for habitat rehabilitation on the Mississippi River.

Sincerely,

Nell Gehrke
[redacted]

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Mikayla Giehler [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2022 11:54 PM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Public Comment on Lock and Dam 1

As a student and resident of Minnesota, I am in support of the removal of Lock and Dam 1. The energy produced by the dam is not enough to justify the ecological harm that has been done and the limited access for surrounding neighborhoods to the river in this area. Additionally, with almost no water traffic going through the locks, keeping the facilities running is a large waste of resources.

The upper Mississippi River is rarely used for transportation of goods. The lock and dam facilities cost hundreds of thousands of dollars a year[1] to maintain, which could be far better spent not maintaining seldomly used technology. Removing the dam would allow the occasional smaller, recreational boats that are the only ones even using the lock to navigate freely through the area at no cost. If a dam is providing enough energy to the surrounding area, maintaining a lock system to keep the dam makes sense, but this dam produces 97,100 mwh per year[2], which is enough to power only around 90 households. This small amount of energy could be easily replaced by other renewable energy sources.

Once thought to be a saving grace of renewable energy, it is now being found that dams' negative impacts on the ecosystems surrounding them sometimes outweigh their benefits. Dams block aquatic wildlife from swimming upstream disrupting migration patterns and dividing natural habitats. Additionally, dams slow the flow of water, causing sediment particles to drop out of suspension, creating a build up of sediment before the dam, and a lack of sediment downstream from it. Resources are required to dredge the reservoir to keep allowing water to come in and there is a lack of nutrients for the rest of the river once the sediment is lost; it's a lose-lose situation. Across the country, countless dams are being removed, restoring river systems to their natural state and what better place than the state capitol to jump on the movement of environmental progress and correcting errors of the past.

The redevelopment of the Ford Site in Highland Park is a great opportunity to change the way that the community interacts with the Mississippi River in this area. Currently, the dam doesn't allow for access to that area of the river because of the strong currents that occur near the system and because the water level is raised by the formation of the reservoir. Removing the lock and dam, allowing the water level to shallow out and flow faster like it did before, would eliminate the danger of being near the river in that area and allow new residents better access to the river for recreational activities[3], perhaps more similar to Hidden Falls Regional Park, a well visited river access point just down the road.

1. *Corps to Undertake New Study of Minnesota Locks* WorkBoat. August 29, 2017
2. *Ford Motor Company Twin Cities powerplant license renewal*. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. November 18, 2004.
3. *The case for and against lock and dam removal.* Friends of the Mississippi River. September 21, 2022

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Kathrin Gillhoff [redacted]
Sent: Friday, December 16, 2022 4:45 PM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] MPLS Locks Disposition

To whom it may concern,

Name: Kathrin Gillhoff
ZIP Code: [redacted]
Category's: Communication/Coordination, Dam Removal, Economic, Environmental, Future use, Flooding, public access, public safety, Recreation, social concerns, Study Scope
Comments: I am a newcomer to this state and the Whitewater Community in the Twin Cities and Minnesota was very welcoming and offered a great community and support. Getting more access to whitewater could provide community for many people and the sport itself is great for stress relief.
I would like to see the river open to more public access, and recreation with a possible whitewater park. This section of river has a one of a kind location, and geology to have one of the worlds best whitewater parks based on natural flow. No matter the options considered for the dams/locks, whitewater recreation should play a large part in all of them.

Thank you and happy holidays,
Kathrin Gillhoff

From: Jennifer Goepfert
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Ensuring the best possible future for Mississippi River
Date: Wednesday, December 14, 2022 9:47:14 AM

Dear U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District Engineer St. Paul District,

The study for the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Lock and Dam #1 should be comprehensive so we have the best available information to advance the best possible outcome for the Mississippi River and Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.

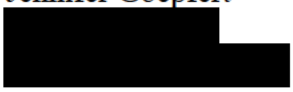
We understand that the Army Corps will consider many alternatives in the study, including dam removal. Much has changed since the locks were built. Please analyze and consider the following areas of concern:

1. Behind the structures are years of built-up sand and silt. Please analyze what is in that sediment and where it would go if one or both locks and dams are removed.

2. The Mississippi River was home to more than 90 fish species before the structures were built. Today we have fewer than 30 species and only in small numbers. Please analyze how removal could improve the restoration of native species in the river and whether there would be any impacts on the spread of invasive species.

3. Lock and dam removal will change how the river flows through this section and more shorelines and islands could emerge. Please analyze how removal could change recreational activities on the river, including current and potential new uses.

Thank you for ensuring this critical study helps advance the best possible future for the river.

Regards,
Jennifer Goepfert


Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Dingis Dongis [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2022 10:42 AM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Mpls dam removal is a good thing for all

Hi

I just wanted to chime in that I think any amount of restoration of the Mississippi river to pre industrial condition is a good thing. I get that you can't remove all for flood control and municipal water systems. Letting the river run more free will help build back ecosystems. The reason this area of the midwest has some of the best soil in the world is because of the wild river and the floods that it brought. By controlling those floods and drowning flood plains we have stopped the rivers ability to replenish the land.

Thanks ,

Evan Goldenrod

Tallman, Clayton E CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Lindsey Gould [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, October 19, 2022 7:48 PM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [URL Verdict: Neutral][Non-DoD Source] Mississippi River Lock and Dam Study

To whom it may concern;

My name is Lindsey Gould and I'm a student in Saint Paul, originally from Massachusetts. I am writing to you with questions and comments for the disposition study of the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam No. 1. My questions/comments are:

General Comments

As a student at Macalester College and a resident of Minnesota, I support the Army Corps' consideration of removing Lock and Dam #1 and Lower Saint Anthony Falls Lock and Dam. I also strongly support the Army Corps' cooperation with local indigenous tribes; the river is a sacred part of indigenous life and history and should be treated with the utmost respect [1]. The future of this section of the Mississippi River will be intricately connected to my own future as a young person living and working in the Twin Cities, and I urge the Army Corps to consider the following ecological and environmental concerns in their study.

1: Economic concerns

Potential benefits

While upfront costs would be large, it is more cost-effective in the long term to remove these dams. Maintaining and operating the dams costs taxpayers over $2 million each year [2]. Due to the cessation of commercial activity on the river, the dams now offer little to no economic benefit. Additionally, removing the dams would likely create urban whitewater river conditions. These would create unique opportunities for tourism, recreation, and economic gain [3].

Potential costs

Most of the bridges between the two dams would likely need reinforcement to accommodate new river flow in the event of dam removal. Retaining walls, especially in front of the Minnesota Veterans Home above current Lock and Dam #1, may be impacted as well. Maintaining the structural integrity of bridges and retaining walls could potentially be costly, especially given the unpredictability of future river conditions.

2: Environmental concerns

Ecological restoration

Previous dam removals have shown that the single greatest factor in restoring river ecosystems is dam removal [4]. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has found that after removing dams, an average of 73% of formerly lost species have returned to rivers [4]. Dams can block breeding grounds, fragment habitats, and lower water quality, harming native species and reducing biodiversity [4].

Toxins in Sediment

Over the years since the dams' construction, toxins and pollutants have been discharged into the river and settled in the sediment behind each dam. If the dams are removed, these toxins must first be examined and steps must be taken to ensure that water quality and ecosystems downstream are not impacted.

Endangered Mussels

The dams currently provide crucial habitat for many species of endangered freshwater mussel. These mussels play an important ecological role and provide more water filtration each day than the Saint Paul Metro Wastewater Treatment Plant [5]. Thorough research should be conducted to compare what existing habitat may be lost and what new habitat may be gained from dam removal.

Closing

As they stand today, the dams do not provide sufficient economic benefit to balance the costs of maintaining and operating them. Removing the dams would be costly, but in the long term would save taxpayers money and create new opportunities for tourism and economic gain. The presence of toxins in built-up sediment and the preservation of mussel habitats must be considered in the decision. It is impossible to put a monetary value on ecological restoration, but dam removal would undoubtedly improve the ecological health of this section of the river, maintaining its biodiversity and beauty for future generations of Minnesotans. The river cannot be restored without honoring and incorporating the wishes of indigenous people who stewarded the land for centuries before the dams were placed [1].

Citations

[1] Friends of the Mississippi River. "These are Dakota Homelands." https://fmr.org/these-are-dakota-homelands

[2] Berg, Steve and Way, Ron. "How about a wilder river? Imagine this Mississippi." Star Tribune, 13 June 2015, https://www.startribune.com/how-about-a-wilder-river-imagine-this-mississippi/307262171/

[3] Star Tribune Editorial Board. "Weigh in on Mississippi's Future." Star Tribune, 17 Oct. 2022, https://www.startribune.com/weigh-in-on-mississippis-future/600216585/?refresh=true

[4] Stanley, Greg. "Minnesota's river giants steadily returning after dams removed." Star Tribune, 27 Nov. 2021, https://www.startribune.com/minnesotas-river-giants-steadily-returning-after-dams-removed/600121408/?refresh=true

[5] US Geological Survey. "Ecosystem Services Provided by Native Freshwater Mussels." https://www.usgs.gov/centers/upper-midwest-environmental-sciences-center/science/ecosystem-services-provided-native

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Connor Graves [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, October 27, 2022 4:23 PM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comments for the Army Corps disposition study for Twin Cities locks and dams

Dear Army Corps of Engineers Disposition Study,

My name is Connor Graves and I am writing to you from Minneapolis

I am writing to you with questions and comments for the disposition study of the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam No. 1. My questions / comments are:

I would like to advise against the removal of the dam as it is a incredibly wasteful thing to do. It creates a renewable power source which is an important thing to move towards in the future. Removing it would cost a lot of money and, with rising power needs in the future, we may need do have a dam again. This would waste even more time, money, and resources. The increased noise of the river could also be a source of disturbance for homeowners living along the river. It can also be a safety concern as it could be dangerous for children to swim in the increased currents. Finally, the issue which is most important to me. Removal of the dam would have a major impact on the rowing teams who practice on the Mississippi river. The University of Minnesota Men's and women's crew, as well as MRC would have to relocate which would be a major expense and would risk losing those teams. There are already facilities for those teams and they would be completely useless if this change is made wasting even more money. I was personally a member of the University of Minnesota Men's Crew, and I know with how our funding works and the challenges we can have with recruitment. The forced relocation of the team would have a incredibly high chance of killing the program. I don't think the team has the funding, or the ability to convince people to travel off campus to row without any facilities. The rowing program at the University of Minnesota has had an incredible impact on so many young men and women, it would be a shame to lose that. I feel like the advantage of having some rapids in the city and the ecosystem improvements aren't worth the wasteful nature of this change. If you have any questions for me I'd be happy to talk to learn more and expand on my opinions.

Sincerely,
Connor Graves
[redacted]

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: greg greene [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2022 9:42 AM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comments for the Army Corps disposition study for Twin Cities locks and dams

Dear Army Corps of Engineers Disposition Study,

My name is Greg Greene_____ and I'm from Inver Grove Heights.

I am writing to you with questions and comments for the disposition study of the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam No. 1. My questions / comments are:

1. How would removal of Lock and Dam #1 affect the river level in Pool #2? I live on a houseboat on the Mississippi in Inver Grove Heights and i am concerned about how the removal would affect my houseboat.

2. It appears that removal would affect the numerous rowing clubs on the Mississippi in pool #2. That would be hard for these clubs to recover from. The University of Minnesota has a boathouse on the river and it would seem like the river would be unusable for them to use it if the Lock and Dam would be removed.

Sincerely,
greg greene
[redacted]

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Paul Gregoire [redacted]
Sent: Monday, October 17, 2022 9:07 PM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] L& D removal

Hi USACE,

Regarding current and future use of the Pool between lower St. Anthony and Ford dam, please continue to consider how many recreational users would be denied, eliminated and disturbed by dam removal. Current recreational users include competitive and casual rowers, fishers, swimmers, kayakers and river boat patrons. Someone from American Rivers made the statement that perhaps tubers would a major user if the dams were removed. That statement seems laughable and it's unimaginable that recreational use would increase from its current level. While not the only consideration, please consider the current levels of recreational use.

Best regards,

Paul Gregoire
[redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

From: Paul Gregory
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Ensuring the best possible future for Mississippi River
Date: Wednesday, December 14, 2022 9:36:17 AM

Dear U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District Engineer St. Paul District,

The study for the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Lock and Dam #1 should be comprehensive so we have the best available information to advance the best possible outcome for the Mississippi River and Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.

We understand that the Army Corps will consider many alternatives in the study, including dam removal. Much has changed since the locks were built. Please analyze and consider the following areas of concern:

1. Behind the structures are years of built-up sand and silt. Please analyze what is in that sediment and where it would go if one or both locks and dams are removed.

2. The Mississippi River was home to more than 90 fish species before the structures were built. Today we have fewer than 30 species and only in small numbers. Please analyze how removal could improve the restoration of native species in the river and whether there would be any impacts on the spread of invasive species.

3. Lock and dam removal will change how the river flows through this section and more shorelines and islands could emerge. Please analyze how removal could change recreational activities on the river, including current and potential new uses.

Thank you for ensuring this critical study helps advance the best possible future for the river.

Regards,
Paul Gregory
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Restore the Mississippi River Gorge
Date: Thursday, August 15, 2019 12:05:14 PM

I am writing to express support for removing Lower Saint Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam 1 on the Mississippi River to restore aquatic habitat.

On the Upper Mississippi River, habitat is degrading faster than it can be rehabilitated through existing conservation programs, and the river's dams are a primary cause of declining aquatic habitat. Saint Anthony Falls and its downstream cataract were one of four big river rapids on the Upper Mississippi. Today there exists only a remnant of the Saint Louis Chain of Rocks rapids. Consequently, the aquatic species that needed these big river rapids to complete parts of their lifecycles are under threat, including sturgeon, paddlefish and freshwater mussels— the most endangered group of animals in North America.

The dams in the Mississippi River Gorge were developed to support industrial and shipping activity that no longer exists. While the Gorge's bluffs have been mostly restored to parkland, the river infrastructure remains, limiting public access while the Pool 1 reservoir fills with sediment. Additionally, continuing to operate and maintain this infrastructure costs federal taxpayers millions annually.

Due to the severe impact that these dams are having on the river and the potential to make a major difference for future river sustainability, American Rivers has named the Mississippi River Gorge one of this year's America's Most Endangered Rivers®.

The time is ripe to take a bold step forward towards a new vision of the Gorge that removes the environmentally damaging features of a 150-year-old industrial plan, restores the natural flow and character of the river, rehabilitates habitat for fish and wildlife, and promotes compatible recreation and business opportunities. Please restore the Mississippi River by recommending to Congress that they authorize the removal of the Lower Saint Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam 1, and call for habitat rehabilitation on the Mississippi River.

Sincerely,

Daniel Grutter
[redacted]

From: Lori Haaland
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Ensuring the best possible future for Mississippi River
Date: Wednesday, December 14, 2022 1:00:29 PM

Dear U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District Engineer St. Paul District,

The study for the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Lock and Dam #1 should be comprehensive so we have the best available information to advance the best possible outcome for the Mississippi River and Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.

We understand that the Army Corps will consider many alternatives in the study, including dam removal. Much has changed since the locks were built. Please analyze and consider the following areas of concern:

1. Behind the structures are years of built-up sand and silt. Please analyze what is in that sediment and where it would go if one or both locks and dams are removed.

2. The Mississippi River was home to more than 90 fish species before the structures were built. Today we have fewer than 30 species and only in small numbers. Please analyze how removal could improve the restoration of native species in the river and whether there would be any impacts on the spread of invasive species.

3. Lock and dam removal will change how the river flows through this section and more shorelines and islands could emerge. Please analyze how removal could change recreational activities on the river, including current and potential new uses.

Thank you for ensuring this critical study helps advance the best possible future for the river.

Regards,
Lori Haaland


From: Maurice Hagen
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Ensuring the best possible future for Mississippi River
Date: Thursday, December 15, 2022 11:06:03 AM

Dear U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District Engineer St. Paul District,

The study for the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Lock and Dam #1 should be comprehensive so we have the best available information to advance the best possible outcome for the Mississippi River and Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.

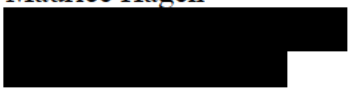
We understand that the Army Corps will consider many alternatives in the study, including dam removal. Much has changed since the locks were built. Please analyze and consider the following areas of concern:

1. Behind the structures are years of built-up sand and silt. Please analyze what is in that sediment and where it would go if one or both locks and dams are removed.

2. The Mississippi River was home to more than 90 fish species before the structures were built. Today we have fewer than 30 species and only in small numbers. Please analyze how removal could improve the restoration of native species in the river and whether there would be any impacts on the spread of invasive species.

3. Lock and dam removal will change how the river flows through this section and more shorelines and islands could emerge. Please analyze how removal could change recreational activities on the river, including current and potential new uses.

Thank you for ensuring this critical study helps advance the best possible future for the river.

Regards,
Maurice Hagen


From: Kevin Halling
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Ensuring the best possible future for Mississippi River
Date: Wednesday, December 14, 2022 11:10:50 AM

Dear U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District Engineer St. Paul District,

The study for the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Lock and Dam #1 should be comprehensive so we have the best available information to advance the best possible outcome for the Mississippi River and Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.

We understand that the Army Corps will consider many alternatives in the study, including dam removal. Much has changed since the locks were built. Please analyze and consider the following areas of concern:

1. Behind the structures are years of built-up sand and silt. Please analyze what is in that sediment and where it would go if one or both locks and dams are removed.

2. The Mississippi River was home to more than 90 fish species before the structures were built. Today we have fewer than 30 species and only in small numbers. Please analyze how removal could improve the restoration of native species in the river and whether there would be any impacts on the spread of invasive species.

3. Lock and dam removal will change how the river flows through this section and more shorelines and islands could emerge. Please analyze how removal could change recreational activities on the river, including current and potential new uses.

Thank you for ensuring this critical study helps advance the best possible future for the river.

Regards,
Kevin Halling
[redacted]

From: Lisa Hanes
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Ensuring the best possible future for Mississippi River
Date: Wednesday, December 14, 2022 6:33:38 PM

Dear U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District Engineer St. Paul District,

The study for the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Lock and Dam #1 should be comprehensive so we have the best available information to advance the best possible outcome for the Mississippi River and Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.

We understand that the Army Corps will consider many alternatives in the study, including dam removal. Much has changed since the locks were built. Please analyze and consider the following areas of concern:

1. Behind the structures are years of built-up sand and silt. Please analyze what is in that sediment and where it would go if one or both locks and dams are removed.

2. The Mississippi River was home to more than 90 fish species before the structures were built. Today we have fewer than 30 species and only in small numbers. Please analyze how removal could improve the restoration of native species in the river and whether there would be any impacts on the spread of invasive species.

3. Lock and dam removal will change how the river flows through this section and more shorelines and islands could emerge. Please analyze how removal could change recreational activities on the river, including current and potential new uses.

Thank you for ensuring this critical study helps advance the best possible future for the river.

Regards,
Lisa Hanes


Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Brighid Hansen [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2022 2:51 PM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Public Comment on Mississippi River

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a resident of Hennepin County and would like to add my voice for the restoration of the Mississippi River, removing the locks and dams. While the river is a vital natural resource to the nation, keeping it in its natural state will aid in its preservation. At Saint Anthony Falls, some would like to add aa hydro-electric plant but history has proven that boring into the sandstone and limestone below caused a major collapse (see Eastman). Better for use would be a recreational approach, which would have the added impact of educating residents about the importance of the Mississippi River and inspire its conservation. Furthermore, for these reasons, I think it would be appropriate to transfer management of the river from the Army Corps to the National Park Service, working together for its preservation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into this important issue.

Brighid Hansen
[redacted]
[redacted]

From: John Harford
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Ensuring the best possible future for Mississippi River
Date: Wednesday, December 28, 2022 9:46:29 PM

Dear U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District Engineer St. Paul District,

The study for the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Lock and Dam #1 should be comprehensive so we have the best available information to advance the best possible outcome for the Mississippi River and Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.

We understand that the Army Corps will consider many alternatives in the study, including dam removal. Much has changed since the locks were built. Please analyze and consider the following areas of concern:

1. Behind the structures are years of built-up sand and silt. Please analyze what is in that sediment and where it would go if one or both locks and dams are removed.

2. The Mississippi River was home to more than 90 fish species before the structures were built. Today we have fewer than 30 species and only in small numbers. Please analyze how removal could improve the restoration of native species in the river and whether there would be any impacts on the spread of invasive species.

3. Lock and dam removal will change how the river flows through this section and more shorelines and islands could emerge. Please analyze how removal could change recreational activities on the river, including current and potential new uses.

Thank you for ensuring this critical study helps advance the best possible future for the river.

Regards,
John Harford
[redacted]

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Isaac Harker [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2022 10:18 PM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Public comment for lock and dam joint disposition study

Public comment for the joint disposition study for Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam, and Lock and Dam 1

Lock and dam removal is the best course of action for the Army Corps of Engineers:
Regarding the joint disposition study for Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam, and Lock and Dam 1, I am firmly in favor of removing the locks and dams. As a lifelong resident of Saint Paul, the currently dammed stretch of the Mississippi has been a part of my life since my first memories. After looking at available research, it has become clear that the construction of the locks and dams has severely disrupted the ecosystem health and biodiversity of the Mississippi River valley; dam removal is generally good for ecosystem health and water quality. Furthermore, St. Anthony Falls and Spirit Island are sacred sites that have been desecrated by the construction of the Lower St. Anthony Falls lock and dam, and removal would be a positive step in correcting this historical wrong. Finally, the removal of the locks and dams and the subsequent stretch of free-flowing water will present improved opportunities for recreational use of the river.

Removing the locks and dams will restore biodiversity in the Mississippi River gorge:
Evidence from studies conducted by the Minnesota DNR on previous dam removal projects has shown that after the construction of dams, about 50 percent of species above the dam die off, and the damming of rivers disrupts the ability of key species such as paddlefish and sturgeon to spawn. This damage is clear in the Mississippi River gorge, where only about 20 fish species remain, where there used to be 125 species. In other rivers in Minnesota, dam removal has meant the return of about 73 percent of species to their original habitat. Furthermore, the more robust this ecosystem is, the more resilient it will be to invasive species.

Lock and dam removal is a step in righting historical wrongs committed against the Dakota people:
The Army Corps of Engineers should consider the historical legacy of St. Anthony Falls, or Owámniyomni as it is called by the Dakota people. Before violent westward expansion displaced the Dakota people from their homeland, Owámniyomni was a sacred site, visited for ceremonial purposes. The island that used to exist at the base of the falls, Wita Wanagi (or Spirit Island), was also a sacred place. Both these sites were desecrated with the construction of first a retaining apron and then the locks. We are presented with an opportunity to be on the right side of history with the removal of the Lower St. Anthony Falls lock.

Lock and dam removal presents recreational opportunities on and around the Mississippi:
A free flowing river will mean a healthier river; this, coupled with increased shore access (due to lower water levels and faster flow) will mean more opportunities for anglers. The changed flow of the river will present an opportunity for whitewater kayakers, as well as paddling in less turbulent waters, and there may be the possibility for tubing at certain times of year. Key to all of these changes is the way the shore will change to allow for more access by the public, in contrast to the present steep walls and deep water of the gorge.

To conclude, I urge the Army Corps of Engineers to move forward with the process of lock and dam removal, for the health of the river, the restoration of Dakota sacred sites, and for the people of Minneapolis and Saint Paul whose lives will be enriched by the recreational opportunities presented by a freer river.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Isaac Harker,

[redacted]

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Jessica Harvey [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2022 5:37 PM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comments for the Army Corps disposition study for Twin Cities locks and dams

Dear Army Corps of Engineers Disposition Study,

PLEASE EDIT: INCLUDE NAME AND CITY (e.g. My name is _____ and I'm from St. Paul.)

I am writing to you with questions and comments for the disposition study of the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam No. 1. My questions / comments are:

Sincerely,
Jessica Harvey
[redacted]

From: Cathleen Hauenstein
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Ensuring the best possible future for Mississippi River
Date: Wednesday, December 14, 2022 2:28:28 PM

Dear U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District Engineer St. Paul District,

The study for the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Lock and Dam #1 should be comprehensive so we have the best available information to advance the best possible outcome for the Mississippi River and Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.

We understand that the Army Corps will consider many alternatives in the study, including dam removal. Much has changed since the locks were built. Please analyze and consider the following areas of concern:

1. Behind the structures are years of built-up sand and silt. Please analyze what is in that sediment and where it would go if one or both locks and dams are removed.

2. The Mississippi River was home to more than 90 fish species before the structures were built. Today we have fewer than 30 species and only in small numbers. Please analyze how removal could improve the restoration of native species in the river and whether there would be any impacts on the spread of invasive species.

3. Lock and dam removal will change how the river flows through this section and more shorelines and islands could emerge. Please analyze how removal could change recreational activities on the river, including current and potential new uses.

Thank you for ensuring this critical study helps advance the best possible future for the river.

Regards,
Cathleen Hauenstein


Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Sarah Henderson [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2022 11:47 PM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Public Comment Regarding Lock and Dam Removal

I am a Macalester College student, Environmental Studies major, and while I feel these locks and dams have largely outlived their purpose, I also believe it is unwise to remove the lock and dams within the Minneapolis and Saint Paul city limits at this time. At this point, there is far too much uncertainty regarding the immediate and long-term environmental consequences of dam removal and the economic concerns are too great.

Environmental Concerns

- Sediments

  Sediments have been building up for 60+ years behind these dams (90 years in the case of the Ford Dam!). These sediments may be nutrient rich, but may also carry significant contaminants from decades past. Should the dams be removed, the sediments would be released and the toxins within them may prove detrimental to species residing downstream.
- Invasive Carp

  Invasive carp have steadily been making their way up the Mississippi River. There is a major concern that the removal of the lock and dams will allow the invasive carp to be able continue their journey northward and into the Mississippi headwaters.The carp, specifically the bighead and silver species of Asian carp, have been ravaging ecosystems. Due to their status as filter feeders, once they invade a new area, they decimate the region's zooplankton levels. All fish feed on plankton during their early stages of life, so a lack of zooplankton will have drastic consequences on all local fish populations. Certain species of fish native to the Mississippi River, such as bigmouth buffalo, gizzard shad, and paddlefish, the latter of which is a species of special concern according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, are also filter feeders as adults. These species are especially susceptible to the effects of the invasive carp as they will continue to compete for resources throughout their lives.
- Hydroelectric Power

  The three lock and dam systems combined produce approximately 44 megawatts of energy annually, depending on water flow conditions. This translates to a renewable energy output large enough to power over 30,000 homes for an entire year. While this is somewhat small potatoes in the grand scheme of things, it should not be disregarded when the likely energy alternative would be fossil fuels.

Economic Concerns

- Dam Removal

  Dam removal costs, combined with the costs associated with restoring the river bottom, would be significant. Admittedly, the lock and dams also cost quite a bit annually to maintain, approximately $1.5 million (~$1.8 million today) for the three lock and dam systems combined as of 2017. However, a comparable project of removing/altering three dams in Penobscot, Maine in 2013 cost roughly $62 million (~$79 million today). If the costs for the Saint Paul and Minneapolis lock and dam removal project are the same as the Penobscot project, it would take over 43 years for the cost of upkeep to reach that of removal. This allows for plenty of time to re-evaluate potential alternatives to dam removal that are more environmentally friendly and economically viable.
- Infrastructure

Besides direct costs for dam removal, related infrastructure costs need to be considered. Current bridges, storm drain systems, retaining walls, etc. were built to accommodate the river as it flows with the current dams. A change in river path and velocity resulting from dam removal could compromise this infrastructure or require that it be replaced or changed in ways that would further raise costs associated with dam removal.

- Recreation

  Certain river-related recreation activities, notably rowing, require flatwater to exist. Dam removal would change the river from flatwater to a faster, narrower river impossible to row on. Not only would this negatively impact the lives of rowers in the area, it would further increase costs due to the need to relocate full boathouses and rowing programs to a new location where rowing would still be possible.

While there are environmental benefits to dam removal, the potential negative environmental and economic ramifications are large, complex, and cannot be ignored. As such, I advise the Army Corps of Engineers to determine that the lock and dam systems stay intact under their ownership and management, at least until the costs, both financial and environmental, are more clearly illuminated and justified.

Sincerely,
Sarah Henderson

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Timothy Hennum [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2022 9:15 AM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [URL Verdict: Neutral][Non-DoD Source] Public Comment on MPLS Locks and Dams Removal

Dear Army Corps or Engineers:

There is only one true gorge on the Mississippi River, the eight-and-a-half-mile stretch between St. Anthony Falls and the confluence with the Minnesota River. Here the river drops 63 feet. This may not sound like much, but it is enough. Enough — if we remove the lower dam below St. Anthony Falls and Lock and Dam No. 1 near Minnehaha Falls — to reveal white-water rapids. Enough to reveal boulders left on the river bottom 10,000 years ago. Enough to unleash river currents and countercurrents. Enough to form eddy pools. Enough to transform what is now two separate urban reservoirs into one free-flowing urban river.
According to American Rivers, along the entire 2,300-mile stretch of the Mississippi River, only four such sections of white-water rapids once existed: Rock Island, Ill.; Keokuk, Iowa; St. Louis; and the Minneapolis/St. Paul river gorge. Should we choose to remove our dams, miles of flat-water both upstream of St. Anthony Falls and downstream of the Minnesota River confluence would remain. U of M rowers who rely on the flat-water can relocate either upstream or down. And maybe after their morning workout, some of these rowers will hop into a canoe or a kayak or a raft and spend their afternoon floating the gorge? To me, this sounds like a perfect day!
We have an amazing opportunity to make Minneapolis a world-class white-water town. Let's do it. Let's remove the locks and dams and let the river flow!

Sincerely,

Tim Hennum

[redacted]

Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam 1 Disposition Study
Public Comment Sheet – October 2022

Persons submitting comments are advised that all comments received will be available to the public, to include the possibility of posting on a publicly accessible website. Commenters are requested not to include personal privacy information, such as home addresses, in their comments unless they do not object to such information being made available to the public. These comments will be used to prepare a preliminary draft Disposition study report and environmental scoping document, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

Name: Emily Hernandez affiliation (optional): College Student Environmental major

Please provide your Zip Code: [redacted]

Please check the category/ies below that best represent the nature of your comment/s (Check all that apply):

- ☐ Communication/Coordination
- ☒ Cultural and Historic Resources
- ☒ Dam Removal
- ☐ Economics
- ☒ Environmental
- ☒ Future Use
- ☐ Flooding
- ☐ Hydropower
- ☒ Invasive Species
- ☐ Navigation
- ☐ Ownership
- ☐ Public Access
- ☒ Public Safety
- ☐ Recreation
- ☒ Sediment/Water Quality/Water supply
- ☒ Social concerns
- ☐ Study scope
- ☐ Other (please specify)

_____

The Lock & dam should be removed. It is unnecessary, and traps sediment that contaminates our drinking water. fish are unable to migrate, and it is best for the environment to be returned to its natural state. The river should be higher than it is right now, and the dam is just slowing it down. Even though the dam is a good source for hydropower, but there are other ~~enviro~~ environmentally friendly ways to do so.
Also we need to be concerned for our future generations water supply and really step up and do better.

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Mark Herwig [redacted]
Sent: Monday, December 26, 2022 8:32 PM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comment for 2024 public comment round

In general, all things being equal, if the polluted sediment is removed, and a carp barrier is maintained, I'm for removing dams on the upper Mississippi River. Good for the critters and humans alike.

Thank you.

Mark Herwig
[redacted]

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: William Hill [redacted]
Sent: Friday, October 21, 2022 11:46 AM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Mississippi locks and dams in Minneapolis

I am a man in his 81st year .I hope to live and recreate on the river for another 10 years with luck.
As a canoeist and advocate for people powered nonmotorized travel and recreation I hope to live to see the dams removed and the river restored to a more natural free flowing condition.
I believe the problem of invasive carp can be addressed by other means than damming the river.

Sincerely
Tom Hill
[redacted]

P.S.
I prefer to be contacted via printed mail If anyone there wants to respond rather than electronically.

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Elizabeth Hinz [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2022 9:03 PM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comments for the Army Corps disposition study for Twin Cities locks and dams

Dear Army Corps of Engineers Disposition Study,

PLEASE EDIT: INCLUDE NAME AND CITY (e.g. My name is _____ and I'm from St. Paul.)

Elizabeth Hinz, Minneapolis resident

My concern about this idea is that removing the locks and dams will uncover untold amounts and conditions of pollutants into the river and the atmosphere. How can that possibility and cost be accurately estimated, and even so, how would the cost be covered? I believe that the pollutants that are released could do untold damage.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Hinz
[redacted]

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Elizabeth Hinz [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, October 15, 2022 4:02 PM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comments for the Army Corps disposition study for Twin Cities locks and dams

Dear Army Corps of Engineers Disposition Study,

PLEASE EDIT: INCLUDE NAME AND CITY (e.g. My name is _____ and I'm from St. Paul.)

My name is Elizabeth Hinz, resident of Minneapolis.

My question is, what happened to the invasive carp? I thought that was so dangerous to our environment, in so many ways, and much time, energy and money has been spent to contain/kill them, down river and even in the Illinois and Chicago rivers. I think it is a dangerous idea to open more area of the Mississippi to these fish. Our environment is vulnerable.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Hinz
[redacted]

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Elizabeth Hinz [redacted]
Sent: Monday, October 17, 2022 4:14 PM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comments for the Army Corps disposition study for Twin Cities locks and dams

Dear Army Corps of Engineers Disposition Study,

PLEASE EDIT: INCLUDE NAME AND CITY (e.g. My name is _____ and I'm from St. Paul.)

Elizabeth Hinz
Minneapolis, MN

Why would this community, or the federal government, or any level of government, want to undo a source of hydroelectricity? The Ford dam and its hydroelectric plant produces renewable energy, and I understood this country is working to expand renewable energy resources. This particular hydroelecdtric plant may not be as efficient as it could be for the 21st century, but it could be made to be - more efficient, more effective in producing and distributing electric energy.

Undoing this dam and hydroelectric plant makes no sense to me from the basis of needing more renewable energy resources.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Hinz
[redacted]

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Elizabeth Hinz [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2022 12:19 PM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comments for the Army Corps disposition study for Twin Cities locks and dams

Dear Army Corps of Engineers Disposition Study,

PLEASE EDIT: INCLUDE NAME AND CITY (e.g. My name is _____ and I'm from St. Paul.)

My name is Elizabeth Hinz, resident of Minneapolis.

The locks should be open to the public! Last weekend's opening was enthusiastically attended, with people noting how much they missed having the area open much more often as it has been pre-Covid times. I've also heard from friends and neighbors that they regret not being able to be there during those limited time slots, and would like to visit the area as we used to.

Having the locks available for visitors helps people better appreciate this important infrastructure and the work involved to operate it. It also allows visitors to better appreciate the natural environment - the geography, the geology, the many birds, wildlife, fish, and the river itself.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Hinz
[redacted]

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Elizabeth Hinz [redacted]
Sent: Monday, October 24, 2022 10:49 AM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comments for the Army Corps disposition study for Twin Cities locks and dams

Dear Army Corps of Engineers Disposition Study,

PLEASE EDIT: INCLUDE NAME AND CITY (e.g. My name is _____ and I'm from St. Paul.)

Elizabeth Hinz
Minneapolis, MN

The loss of the Ford lock and dam would significantly damage the Minneapolis Rowing Club (MRC) community. This community of 350+ rowers, from ages 13-85, would likely be disbanded. The community is much larger than the current registered members in any given year, also supports silent sports throughout the metro area and state.

The Mississippi River gorge is the home base for MRC and has been for many decades.

The MRC community responsibly stewards the riverbanks of the gorge by environmentally friendly use of its land access as well as creating and maintaining runoff water overflow gardens with native plants. MRC proudly shares this unique environment with the many kayakers, canoers, paddleboarders, people of all ages fishing, motorboaters, scenic riverboat travelers, as well as the hikers and walkers along the riverbanks, and the Longfellow/Seward neighborhood.

The expanse of the river gorge is unique for training rowers, both competitive and recreational, with MRC and the UMN. All other bodies of water in this metropolitan area are too small and/or too shallow to function as a home base and training location for rowing more than a single shell.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Hinz
[redacted]

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Elizabeth Hinz [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 1:27 PM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comments for the Army Corps disposition study for Twin Cities locks and dams

Dear Army Corps of Engineers Disposition Study,

My name is Elizabeth Hinz, I am a resident of Minneapolis.

I am writing to you with questions and comments for the disposition study of the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam No. 1.

My concern is the cost of removing these locks and dams. This is an extremely large number, whatever it is. If the overall concern in removing these structures is to improve the environment, a more immediately effective action would be to complete the cleanup of the Upper Lock and Dam area of the river, as well as safeguard all of the Upper Mississippi and its direct watershed, all of which is in extreme stress with threats through the mining industry leading to more devastation throughout the entire length of the Mississippi River.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Hinz
[redacted]

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Michael Hogan [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2022 10:24 AM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam, and Lock and Dam 1

Hello there,

I live a few blocks away from the Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and cross over the Mississippi by foot nearly every day. I've lived along the river most of my lfie. I think while the concept of "re-wilding" the river may sound fun and aesthetically pleasing, the practical use of the river should be prioritized.

First, the lock and dam system is a check against the natural cycles of flooding and drought. This benefits not only people along the river in Minnesota but those downstream.

Second, the potential for hydropower generation, however slight, should weigh heavily in favor of maintaining the river and infrastructure in a "managed" way. Even if a single trainload of coal or heating oil is offset by hydropower, that should make maintenance of the power generation facilities on the river worth it.

Finally, there are the *known unknowns*: pollutants built up in sediment that could be released, flood or drought management without water levels being managed (including household and waste water treatment when the river becomes especially dry), and the enormous undertaking in removing the dam and locks.

I think there are pragmatic reasons to maintain the locks and dams that should be paramount to any decision. Minneapolis and St. Paul are already spoiled for choice when it comes to options for hiking, nature, and spending time outdoors, so I don't see the ability to have one more spot solely for that purpose as good reasons to do away with this type of infrastructure.

-Mike Hogan

[redacted]

Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam 1 Disposition Study
Public Comment Sheet – October 2022

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Name: Minda Holst affiliation (optional):_____

Please provide your Zip Code: [redacted]

Please check the category/ies below that best represent the nature of your comment/s (Check all that apply):

- ☐ Communication/Coordination
- ☐ Cultural and Historic Resources
- ☒ Dam Removal
- ☐ Economics
- ☒ Environmental
- ☒ Future Use
- ☐ Flooding
- ☐ Hydropower
- ☐ Invasive Species
- ☒ Navigation
- ☐ Ownership
- ☐ Public Access
- ☐ Public Safety
- ☐ Recreation
- ☐ Sediment/Water Quality/Water supply
- ☐ Social concerns
- ☐ Study scope
- ☐ Other (please specify)

_____

I'd like the locks + dam to be removed and return the River to a more natural state. This could improve some quality aspects of the river + enhance the natural beauty. A return to rapids with native fish would benefit the water health of the region

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Kelly Hulander [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, December 17, 2022 4:54 PM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comments for the Army Corps disposition study for Twin Cities locks and dams

Dear Army Corps of Engineers Disposition Study,

PLEASE EDIT: INCLUDE NAME AND CITY (e.g. My name is _____ and I'm from St. Paul.)

My name is Kelly Hulander, and I am from Saint Paul.

I am writing to you with questions and comments for the disposition study of the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam No. 1. Here are my comments and questions:

Right now, the section of the Mississippi River between St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam No. 1 is perfect for rowing. The University of Minnesota Rowing Team, along with teams from St. Thomas and both teams and individuals from the Minneapolis Rowing Club, use this section of the river nearly every day from April through late October.

What will be the impact of removing or altering these dams on the usability of the Mississippi in this section of the river for rowing?

Please note that while the Minnesota Boat Club does row further down the river near downtown Saint Paul, they must contend with barges and other commercial river traffic, plus higher water levels because the Minnesota River has joined the Mississippi by that point. In other words, the rowing conditions in that section of the river are neither as safe nor as good as they are between St. Anthony Falls and Lock and Dam No. 1.

In addition, the aforementioned section of the river is relatively calm and smooth. People fish from its banks and let their dogs play in its shallows. Paddleboats cruise on it.

Why would the Army Corps of Engineers risk changing the usability of this section of river for the hundreds of people who enjoy it recreationally each Spring, Summer, and Fall?

Also, how would dam removal affect Pike Island and other sections of Fort Snelling State Park, which are downstream of Lock and Dam No. 1? Many people hike in the summer and cross-country ski during the winter on Pike Island and throughout the State Park. Will changes to or removal of the dams affect the shape or accessibility of Pike Island? Will such changes require alterations or loss of usable land within the park itself?

Finally, there is a new Mississippi River Center being planned for construction in Crosby Farm Park in Saint Paul. How would removing or altering the dams impact the location and/or usability of that new center? How might such actions change Crosby Farm Park itself?

Thank you for considering my input.

Sincerely,
Kelly Hulander

[redacted]

From: Susan Imker
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Ensuring the best possible future for Mississippi River
Date: Monday, December 19, 2022 6:06:33 PM

Dear U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District Engineer St. Paul District,

The study for the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Lock and Dam #1 should be comprehensive so we have the best available information to advance the best possible outcome for the Mississippi River and Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.

We understand that the Army Corps will consider many alternatives in the study, including dam removal. Much has changed since the locks were built. Please analyze and consider the following areas of concern:

1. Behind the structures are years of built-up sand and silt. Please analyze what is in that sediment and where it would go if one or both locks and dams are removed.

2. The Mississippi River was home to more than 90 fish species before the structures were built. Today we have fewer than 30 species and only in small numbers. Please analyze how removal could improve the restoration of native species in the river and whether there would be any impacts on the spread of invasive species.

3. Lock and dam removal will change how the river flows through this section and more shorelines and islands could emerge. Please analyze how removal could change recreational activities on the river, including current and potential new uses.

Thank you for ensuring this critical study helps advance the best possible future for the river.

Regards,
Susan Imker


Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Elizabeth Jarrett Andrew [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, October 15, 2022 9:49 AM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comments for the Army Corps disposition study for Twin Cities locks and dams

Dear Army Corps of Engineers Disposition Study,

My name is Elizabeth Jarrett Andrew and I'm from Minneapolis.

I am writing to you with questions and comments for the disposition study of the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam No. 1. My questions / comments are:

Have you asked the local tribes to weigh in on your decisions?

Have you done a complete environmental impact study of the consequences of your various choices?

Have you fully considered the question of access and river use? With each of your possible choices, what is the maximum number of people who would benefit?

Have you considered long-term consequences? Should the lock and dams stay, who would be responsible for them and how would they remain accountable to the public good?

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Jarrett Andrew
[redacted]
[redacted]

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Elizabeth Jarrett Andrew <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, December 2, 2022 12:59 PM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comments for the Army Corps disposition study for Twin Cities locks and dams

Dear Army Corps of Engineers Disposition Study,

My name is Elizabeth Jarrett Andrew, writing to you from South Minneapolis.

I am writing to you with questions and comments for the disposition study of the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam No. 1.

I'm wondering what role Indigenous people have played in assessing the lock and dam situation. Have you sought out their input? Have you included their participation in implementing whatever plan is chosen?

Access to the river is a big concern of mine. Right now, the river can be accessed by very few people. With the removal of the lock and dam, the changes in the river will mean much easier access and far more use. Have you considered the benefits to residents of both cities then able to more easily access and participate in the life of the river?

My top priority, however, is the vitality of the river ecosystem. Have to make a clear comparison between the ecological ramifications of all your choices?

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Jarrett Andrew
[redacted]

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Susu Jeffrey [redacted]
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2022 9:10 PM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comments for the Army Corps disposition study for Twin Cities locks and dams

Dear Army Corps of Engineers Disposition Study,

PLEASE EDIT: INCLUDE NAME AND CITY (e.g. My name is _____ and I'm from St. Paul.)

I am writing to you with questions and comments for the disposition study of the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam No. 1. My questions / comments are:
I urge removal of Twin Cites locks and dams.
Susu Jeffrey, Minneapolis

Sincerely,
Susu Jeffrey
[redacted]

From: Rosemarie Jenkins
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Ensuring the best possible future for Mississippi River
Date: Wednesday, December 14, 2022 10:13:21 AM

Dear U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District Engineer St. Paul District,

The study for the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Lock and Dam #1 should be comprehensive so we have the best available information to advance the best possible outcome for the Mississippi River and Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.

We understand that the Army Corps will consider many alternatives in the study, including dam removal. Much has changed since the locks were built. Please analyze and consider the following areas of concern:

1. Behind the structures are years of built-up sand and silt. Please analyze what is in that sediment and where it would go if one or both locks and dams are removed.

2. The Mississippi River was home to more than 90 fish species before the structures were built. Today we have fewer than 30 species and only in small numbers. Please analyze how removal could improve the restoration of native species in the river and whether there would be any impacts on the spread of invasive species.

3. Lock and dam removal will change how the river flows through this section and more shorelines and islands could emerge. Please analyze how removal could change recreational activities on the river, including current and potential new uses.

Thank you for ensuring this critical study helps advance the best possible future for the river.

Regards,
Rosemarie Jenkins
[redacted]

Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam 1 Disposition Study
Public Comment Sheet – October 2022

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Name: Jerry Johnson affiliation (optional):_____

Please provide your Zip Code: [redacted]

Please check the category/ies below that best represent the nature of your comment/s (Check all that apply):

- ☐ Communication/Coordination
- ☐ Cultural and Historic Resources
- ☐ Dam Removal
- ☐ Economics
- ☒ Environmental
- ☒ Future Use
- ☒ Flooding
- ☒ Hydropower
- ☒ Invasive Species
- ☐ Navigation
- ☐ Ownership
- ☐ Public Access
- ☐ Public Safety
- ☒ Recreation
- ☐ Sediment/Water Quality/Water supply
- ☐ Social concerns
- ☐ Study scope
- ☐ Other (please specify)

_____

Would like to see continued operation of locks for recreation.

From: Karen Johnson
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Ensuring the best possible future for Mississippi River
Date: Wednesday, December 14, 2022 9:37:36 AM

Dear U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District Engineer St. Paul District,

The study for the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Lock and Dam #1 should be comprehensive so we have the best available information to advance the best possible outcome for the Mississippi River and Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.

We understand that the Army Corps will consider many alternatives in the study, including dam removal. Much has changed since the locks were built. Please analyze and consider the following areas of concern:

1. Behind the structures are years of built-up sand and silt. Please analyze what is in that sediment and where it would go if one or both locks and dams are removed.

2. The Mississippi River was home to more than 90 fish species before the structures were built. Today we have fewer than 30 species and only in small numbers. Please analyze how removal could improve the restoration of native species in the river and whether there would be any impacts on the spread of invasive species.

3. Lock and dam removal will change how the river flows through this section and more shorelines and islands could emerge. Please analyze how removal could change recreational activities on the river, including current and potential new uses.

Thank you for ensuring this critical study helps advance the best possible future for the river.

Regards,
Karen Johnson
[redacted]

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Chris Johnston[redacted]
Sent: Friday, December 16, 2022 4:35 PM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [URL Verdict: Neutral][Non-DoD Source] MPLS Locks Disposition - Chris Johnston

Hello,

My name is Chris Johnston and I'm affiliated with mnwwp.com.

Zip Code: [redacted]
Category's: Communication/Coordination, Dam Removal, Economic, Environmental, Future use, Flooding, public access, public safety, Recreation, social concerns, Study Scope
Comments:

Would like to see the river open to more public access, and recreation with a possible whitewater park. This section of river has a one of a kind location, and geology to have one of the worlds best whitewater parks based on natural flow. No matter the options considered for the dams/locks, whitewater recreation should play a large part in all of them.

See mnwwp.com (minnesotawhitewaterproject.com) for studies on similar whitewater parks, and the benefits they bring to the community.

Thank you,
Chris

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Scott Johnston [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, December 1, 2022 9:17 AM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comments for the Army Corps disposition study for Twin Cities locks and dams

Dear Army Corps of Engineers Disposition Study,

PLEASE EDIT: INCLUDE NAME AND CITY (e.g. My name is _Scott Johnston_____ and I'm from St. Paul.)

I am writing to you with questions and comments for the disposition study of the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam No. 1. My questions / comments are:
Tear down the dams! Return the water to nature

Sincerely,
Scott Johnston
[redacted]

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Mera Kachgal [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, December 6, 2022 12:32 AM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [EEMSG-SPAM: Suspect] [Non-DoD Source] Comments for the Army Corps disposition study for Twin Cities locks and dams

Dear Army Corps of Engineers Disposition Study,

My name is Mera Kachgal, and I am from Saint Paul.

I am writing to you with questions and comments for the disposition study of the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam No. 1. My questions / comments are:

What impacts would the various outcomes (including dam removal) have on water quality, wildlife restoration, the climate, and recreational use of the river?
What impacts would the various outcomes have on automobile and pedestrian traffic near the river?
Will any bridges or other structures be jeopardized if one or both the dams is removed?
Assuming the dam is removed, how will hydro-power be phased out?
I think the Army Corps should study the various outcomes in relation to their impact on improving the health of the ecosystem.

Sincerely,
Mera Kachgal
[redacted]
[redacted]

From: Barbara Kane
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Ensuring the best possible future for Mississippi River
Date: Wednesday, December 14, 2022 12:01:18 PM

Dear U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District Engineer St. Paul District,

The study for the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Lock and Dam #1 should be comprehensive so we have the best available information to advance the best possible outcome for the Mississippi River and Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.

We understand that the Army Corps will consider many alternatives in the study, including dam removal. Much has changed since the locks were built. Please analyze and consider the following areas of concern:

1. Behind the structures are years of built-up sand and silt. Please analyze what is in that sediment and where it would go if one or both locks and dams are removed.

2. The Mississippi River was home to more than 90 fish species before the structures were built. Today we have fewer than 30 species and only in small numbers. Please analyze how removal could improve the restoration of native species in the river and whether there would be any impacts on the spread of invasive species.

3. Lock and dam removal will change how the river flows through this section and more shorelines and islands could emerge. Please analyze how removal could change recreational activities on the river, including current and potential new uses.

Thank you for ensuring this critical study helps advance the best possible future for the river.

Regards,
Barbara Kane
[redacted]

Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam 1 Disposition Study
Public Comment Sheet – October 2022

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Name: Zoe Kapp affiliation (optional):

Please provide your Zip Code: [redacted]

Please check the category/ies below that best represent the nature of your comment/s (Check all that apply):

- ☐ Communication/Coordination
- ☒ Cultural and Historic Resources
- ☐ Dam Removal
- ☐ Economics
- ☐ Environmental
- ☐ Future Use
- ☐ Flooding
- ☐ Hydropower
- ☐ Invasive Species
- ☐ Navigation
- ☐ Ownership
- ☐ Public Access
- ☐ Public Safety
- ☐ Recreation
- ☐ Sediment/Water Quality/Water supply
- ☐ Social concerns
- ☐ Study scope
- ☐ Other (please specify)

There was no indigenous history on any of the posters. All "cultural significance" literature was related to the flour mills, etc.

That's not the whole story

My name is Nick Karlik, and I am a resident of Minnesota, a student at Macalester College, and a concerned environmental advocate. I believe that the Army Corps of Engineers' disposition study must begin with the understanding that Lock and Dam 1 is not (and was never intended to be) permanent infrastructure. Viewing the issue of dam removal from a long-term perspective, it cannot be avoided, and the challenges associated with removal only increase over time. Thus, the disposition study should be dedicated to understanding how deconstruction can be conducted in the best interests of the communities that will be most directly affected by this process.

A Question of When, Not If

Completed in 1932, The Ford Dam has far outlived its project lifespan of 50 years. This was extended by 50 years after the completion of a major rehabilitation in 1983, meaning that the Dam, if preserved, may need another significant renovation within the next decade. (*Upper Mississippi River Locks and Dams* 7) As this infrastructure ages, the cost of its maintenance will need to increase to safeguard against the growing risk of dam failure; roughly 1000 U.S. dams have failed in the past 40 years (Lieb et al), producing significant economic, ecological, and social costs that are borne primarily by frontline communities (Ellingwood et al. 64). The failure of Ford Dam would be similarly disastrous for the residents of the twin cities and its economy, for the millions of people downstream that rely on the Mississippi River for clean water, and for the ecosystem of the Gorge. The cost of repairing structural deterioration and the enormous costs associated with dam failure make removal the best course of action in the majority of cases (Stanley and Doyle 20).

An Opportunity to Reimagine the Mississippi

When it was first built, Lock and Dam 1 helped to fulfill the vision of a bustling metropolis shared by many residents of the twin cities, but as the economic importance of this infrastructure has waned, the value of the river has changed. As of 2015, there is no longer barge traffic on this stretch of the river (Nelson). No longer just a water highway, the Mississippi has become a key feature of the twin cities' outstanding parks system, recently ranked as the best in the country by the Trust for Public Land (Borrelli); every year millions of visitors enjoy the recreational amenities and natural scenery offered by parks adjacent to the river ("Parks Features: Research on the Twin Cities Regional Parks and Trails"), and their presence generates millions of dollars for the regional economy (Carlson et al. 39). By returning the Upper Mississippi to its free-flowing state, the removal of Ford Dam would alter the nature of recreation on and around the river, and the study should attend to these changes and their expected social and economic impacts.

Water is Our Most Essential Resource

The safe and responsible management of accumulated sediment behind Lock and Dam 1 should be the primary area of concern in the study. In addition to the deposition of suspended sediment from the river itself, this accumulation may also contain hazardous waste in the form of PFAS chemicals and construction debris from the historical operations of the Ford Plant ("A brief history of the Ford Area C dumpsite"). It is essential that the Corps conduct extensive tests to determine the concentration of toxics in this sediment load and in river organisms such as fish and mollusks so that the public can fully

understand and manage the risk of water contamination. Public surveys have consistently shown that the most important issues affecting the management of the Upper Mississippi River System (UMRS) are environmental: water quality, pollution, and wildlife protection (Carlson et al. 42). Intentional removal of the Ford Dam would minimize the risk of an uncontrolled sediment release caused by dam deterioration and failure, validating public concerns about the UMRS.

The challenges of dam removal are significant, but they will not be made easier by delaying the process of deconstruction. The Army Corps of Engineers should begin this process now in the disposition study on behalf of the general welfare of the public and the environment.

Sincerely,
Nick Karlik

Works Cited

Borrelli, Lena. "The Best City Parks In the U.S." *MYMOVE*, 11 March 2022, https://www.mymove.com/city-guides/cities-with-best-parks/. Accessed 18 October 2022.

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Upper Mississippi River Locks and Dams 2018. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: Mississippi Valley Division, 2018.

From: Janice Karpel
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Ensuring the best possible future for Mississippi River
Date: Wednesday, December 14, 2022 8:14:36 PM

Dear U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District Engineer St. Paul District,

The study for the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Lock and Dam #1 should be comprehensive so we have the best available information to advance the best possible outcome for the Mississippi River and Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.

We understand that the Army Corps will consider many alternatives in the study, including dam removal. Much has changed since the locks were built. Please analyze and consider the following areas of concern:

1. Behind the structures are years of built-up sand and silt. Please analyze what is in that sediment and where it would go if one or both locks and dams are removed.

2. The Mississippi River was home to more than 90 fish species before the structures were built. Today we have fewer than 30 species and only in small numbers. Please analyze how removal could improve the restoration of native species in the river and whether there would be any impacts on the spread of invasive species.

3. Lock and dam removal will change how the river flows through this section and more shorelines and islands could emerge. Please analyze how removal could change recreational activities on the river, including current and potential new uses.

Thank you for ensuring this critical study helps advance the best possible future for the river.

Regards,
Janice Karpel
[redacted]

Yumi Kashihara
December 18, 2022

There have been sufficient studies and reports on ecological restoration, cost assessment, and sediment release surrounding dam removals in the United States and other countries. However, anticipated changes in the interaction between humans and nature have not been much discussed even though it's crucial for both of them to maintain a healthy, vibrant, and sustainable relationship.

In the disposition study, I would like to see the discussion of the potential change in the interaction between people, particularly historically marginalized people including Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC), and the Mississippi River and the surrounding environment once Lock and Dam 1 were removed. Considering the benefits that nature offers, such as lowering blood pressure, lessening stress, and providing aesthetics, it is also important to discuss the change in accessibility to the river as a result of either maintaining or removing the lock and dam. Furthermore, BIPOC people are often left out of the discussion of important issues or decision-making processes that could shift their lives completely. Especially, there are many sacred sites for Indigenous people such as Fort Snelling and Bdoté, in close proximity to Lock and Dam 1. Making sure to be inclusive with all the historically underrepresented people is crucial for the healthy river community along the Mississippi River.

To learn what happened in the relationship between the river and humans after other dam removals in the U.S., I read two studies on dam removals that focused on the social aspects of this matter. Leisher et al. (2022) addressed the removal of two dams, on the Penobscot River in Maine and how the locals' recreational use and perceptions of the same river changed after 5 years of the dam removal. As a result, they found modest yet positive changes among people in the way they appreciate recreation along the river after the dam removals.

In another study conducted on six dam removals in New England, Magilligan et al. (2017) found out that proponents of dam removal often have an idea of a dam as a cultural heritage and symbol to the community. This indicates that some specific demographics would have less interaction with the river if the facility is demolished, as well as some people spend more time along the river as the study by Leisher et al. (2022) indicated.

There are numerous small-scale dam removals or large-scale dam removals in rural areas in the U.S. While these dam removals can be a big issue for people and nature, an urban dam removal could involve a larger population and directly affect social structures such as roads, bridges, and parks and recreation. It is critical to profoundly consider the geographical and social factors unique to the Lock and Dam 1 in the Twin Cities.

Although the disposition study is not still widely acknowledged by the public, studying the impacts on the BIPOC community will be a significant step to deciding the future of the river for the sustainable relationship between people and the environment surrounding it.

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: michael keller [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2022 1:17 PM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comments from a Minneapolis Rowing Club Member

Hello, my name is Michael Keller. I am a member of the Minneapolis Rowing Club (MRC) located on the West Bank of The Miss, just north of Lake St.

I attended the 10/15 open house at Dam1. I would like to share a few points of feedback with you regarding plans for the dam.

The dam is very important to the Minneapolis Rowing Club (and to the University of Minnesota's Rowing Club, and others as well). We row in the pool between St Anthony Lower and Dam1. If the dam were not in place and the pool's water dropped to natural levels, we would be unable to exist as a club at our present location.

We have 350-400 club members and over 200 boats which combined represent thousands and thousands of boat trips taken every year from our boathouse alone. Add in the University of Minnesota's rowing teams/club, and those numbers grow significantly.

To that point, while canoes and kayaks are pictured on your materials, it is possible that the rowing/boat activity generated from our two clubs is greater than all other paddling occurring in this pool. A rowing shell should arguably the "symbol" of the type of non-motorized small craft that defines the pool between the Lower Anthony and Dam 1.

Importantly, to this point, something that team members of the St Paul USACE who attended the 10/15 event did not know was that rowing shells cannot be portaged. Rowers row in their bare feet or socked feet without their shoes in the boat (they place their feet in foot stretchers attached to the boats), which would make walking with a boat very difficult. In addition, rowing shells are very long, fragile and expensive ($1500-$50,000), so they are very rarely walked long distances…it is just too difficult and too risky.

The last thing I'd like to share is that in addition to the recreational rowing that Minneapolis Rowing Club members do, hundreds from MRC and the U are also training constantly for races that occur from May to October around the city, state, region and country. One of the largest races is the Head of the Mississippi, which occurs in October right in the pool that would be at risk if the dam was removed.

I appreciate the opportunity to share how valuable the dam is to MRC and even to me personally. In fact, it was rowing that started my relationship with this portion of the Mississippi. I hope the planning team fully explores all of the insights, nuances, and opinions of rowers from MRC and the U, let alone smaller clubs and programs that enjoy the same opportunities on this portion of the river. It is very important to us, that somehow, someway, the dam remains in place.

Thank you.

Michael

Sent from my iPhone

Keenan, Sierra L CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

From: Gary Kelzenberg [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, October 19, 2022 10:31 AM
To: DLL-CEMVP MPLS LOCKS Disposition
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comments for the Army Corps disposition study for Twin Cities locks and dams

Dear Army Corps of Engineers Disposition Study,

PLEASE EDIT: INCLUDE NAME AND CITY (e.g. My name is _____ and I'm from St. Paul.)

I am writing to you with questions and comments for the disposition study of the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam No. 1. My questions / comments are:I have been down to the Mississippi in July and August above Lock and Dam 1, when the water smells and looks very dirty. Remove the dam so the River can run free the way it is supposed to be

Sincerely,
Gary Kelzenberg
[redacted]