



RE: Pending Disposition Study by the U. S. Corps of Engineers to evaluate possible closure and/or removal of one or more Locks and Dams within the Twin Cities.

These potential actions will directly impact downstream sections of the Upper Mississippi River (Pool 2, Pool 3, and Lake Pepin). Friends of Pool 2 is a nonprofit organization advocating for all recreational river users of the Mississippi River. Our hundreds of supporters enjoy the river on a daily or weekly basis, and have expressed a variety of concerns, including the following:

1. Environmental impact on downstream waters

- Possible removal of L & D #1 (under consideration) would introduce large quantities of sediment into Pool 2 that is currently trapped behind the dam structure.
- This sediment has built up over decades, and has been demonstrated to contain PCBs, benzopyrene, and heavy metals, which would move quickly into Pool 2 and beyond, poisoning wildlife habitat and discouraging recreational users.

2. Loss of existing renewable energy sources

- Two existing hydroelectric power generation plants are currently online in this area.
- Closing plants would move away from renewable energy options toward fossil fuels.

3. Preserving full accessibility to a regional and national treasure

- We support and encourage accessibility for all recreational users, regardless of age or physical ability. Not all of us are blessed with the mobility, balance, or other attributes required to experience the river from a canoe, kayak, or paddleboard. Additional accessible means of river access are available, including excursion boats and other vessels, but only if a navigable channel can be maintained.
- Public access leads to public understanding of the role of the Mississippi River in our urban ecosystem. Maintaining a fully navigable river can be a key to increasing public access to, and advocacy for, this great River.

4. Reduced tourism will mean economic losses to the greater Twin Cities region

- The Mississippi River is economically important to the Twin Cities Metro area. Recreational users and tourists spend money year-round at hotels, restaurants, marinas, bait shops, gas stations, and other retailers throughout the region.

Friends of Pool 2 would like to stress the importance of a thorough, detailed study before irreversible decisions are made, such as the removal of existing locks and dams within the Metro region. Our list of concerns echoes those of other environmental groups, commercial shipping interests, river-related businesses, riverfront property owners, sporting and wildlife enthusiasts. Please feel free to contact us with any questions.