Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of Community Planning and Economic Development

Date: January 28, 2015

To: Council Member Elizabeth Glidden, Chair, Intergovernmental Relations Committee

Referral to: None

Subject: Response to FERC Request for Comments on Draft License Application and Draft Preliminary Draft Environmental Assessment on the A-Mill Artist Lofts Hydroelectric Project

Recommendation:

1. Request the Committee Receive and File the draft letter in response to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) request for comments on the Draft License Application and draft Preliminary Draft Environmental Assessment on the A-Mill Artist Lofts Hydroelectric Project.

2. Authorize the Community Planning and Economic Development Department's Executive Director or the Director's designee to submit comments on behalf of the City on the Draft License Application and Draft Preliminary Draft Environmental Assessment on the Pillsbury A Mill Artist Lofts Hydroelectric Project that are generally consistent with the draft comments filed with the City Council.

Previous Directives: None related to the hydroelectric proposal. In 2012 and 2013, the City Council approved a number of actions to accept grants for and execute a professional services contract for the completion of a condition study of the historic A Mill tunnel system. In 2011 and 2012, the City Council also approved a number of actions related to the above-ground A-Mill Artist Lofts development project.

Department Information

Prepared by: Haila Maze, Principal Planner

Approved by: D. Craig Taylor, CPED Executive Director

Kjersti Monson, Long Range Planning Director

Presenters in Committee: Haila Maze

Financial Impact: No financial impact

Supporting Information

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) currently is soliciting public comments on a Draft License Application (DLA) and draft Preliminary Draft Environmental Assessment (PDEA) for the A-Mill Artist Lofts Hydroelectric Project. Specifically, FERC is soliciting (1) preliminary terms, conditions, and recommendations on the draft PDEA, and (2) comments on the DLA.

This is intended to be just a summary of the project scope and issues. More information, including the full text of all the documents released, is available on the project website: http://www.amillartistloftshydroproject.com/. (For brevity, draft documents are not included as part of this packet.)

Background

Minneapolis Leased Housing Associates IV, Limited Partnership (MLHA) is pursuing a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license to construct and operate the A-Mill Artist Lofts Hydroelectric Project, located in Minneapolis, Minnesota on the east bank of the Mississippi River at Upper St. Anthony Falls. An application is being prepared for a license to rehabilitate existing facilities and generate hydropower solely for the needs of A-Mill Artist Lofts. The proposed hydropower project intends to use approximately 200 cubic feet per second (cfs) of river water flow to generate approximately 600 kW of power. The existing intake structure is located at the river edge near 219 SE Main Street SE. An existing historic headrace tunnel from this location conveys water to a drop shaft in the A-Mill Artist Lofts at 301 Main Street SE. There is an existing historic tailrace in the back water of the Mississippi River below A-Mill Lofts.

On January 9th, 2015, Minneapolis Leased Housing Associates IV, Limited Partnership submitted a Draft License Application and a Preliminary Draft Environmental Assessment to FERC. FERC issued notice of this submittal on January 21, 2015. The deadline for comments is February 20, 2015, thirty days from the start of the comment period. As such, the intent is to bring this RCA through on the February 13, 2015 Council cycle.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, or FERC, is an independent agency that regulates the interstate transmission of electricity, natural gas, and oil. FERC also reviews proposals to build liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals and interstate natural gas pipelines as well as licensing hydropower projects. Other FERC licensed facilities in the vicinity include Upper St. Anthony Falls, P-2056 (Xcel Energy) and Lower St. Anthony Falls P-12451 (Brookfield Renewable Energy Partners). A license also has been approved for Crown Hydro P-11175, but it is unclear if that project is moving forward at this time.

The applicant is also pursuing all applicable state-level reviews impacting the project. This includes:

- A Water Appropriation Permit application was submitted to Minnesota Department of Natural Resources on September 15, 2014;
- An Interagency Water Resource Application Form was submitted on May 19, 2014;
- A Public Waters Work Application was submitted to Minnesota Department of Natural Resources on May 19, 2014;
- A draft Environmental Assessment Worksheet was submitted to Minnesota Department of Natural Resources on December 3, 2014.

Since this is National Historic Landmark, the applicant is also consulting with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and applicable Native American Tribes on historic and cultural resources, including a Section 106 review.

Past City Involvement

The City has been involved in the development of the A-Mill Artist Lofts project for several years. This is the latest phase of the redevelopment of the Pillsbury A-Mill Complex, a National Historic Landmark. The A-Mill Artist Lofts project, a 251-unit multifamily rehabilitation project, was approved at City Planning Commission on April 23, 2012, and upheld on appeal at City Council on May 25, 2012. It is currently under construction. This hydroelectric project will be accessed through dedicated space in the basement of the A-Mill. The power provided by the hydroelectric project will be used to meet a significant percentage of the electricity needs for the building on an ongoing basis.

The City was also involved in the development of the Pillsbury A-Mill Tunnel Historic and Engineering Condition Study completed in May 2014, which is included as an appendix to the PDEA. The study compiled information on the various components of the tunnel system and how they functioned together. This included information about the physical condition of the system, its dimensions and materials and its potential for future use. The study found that the system is in relatively good condition for its age (130+ years) and is largely intact from a historic point of view. While the system will need maintenance to prepare it for use and then will need ongoing maintenance, nothing was found that would preclude its use. Possible future uses include using the water running through the tunnel system for hydrothermal heating and cooling of the entire A-Mill Artist Lofts development, as well as the hydroelectric power generation now being reviewed to meet a portion of the project's needs.

There also is interest in creating public access to some or all of the tunnel system to allow historic interpretation. The 2013 East Bank Interpretive Vision, completed by the St. Anthony Falls Heritage Board, highlighted the dramatic potential and high priority of helping the public understand the key role that this tunnel system played in making Minneapolis the flour milling capital of the world from 1880 to 1930. In order to explore the practical feasibility of creating safe public access into the tunnel system, the St. Anthony Falls Heritage Board funded a feasibility study, completed in late 2014. The feasibility study concluded that it was possible, but more work is needed to develop the concept.

Project Description

Minneapolis Leased Housing Associates IV, Limited Partnership, is pursuing a FERC license for a Minor Water Power Project. The following excerpt from the application describes the project (see also attached map):

> If licensed by FERC, the constructed Project will consist of the following facilities: (1) an existing concrete and stone masonry intake structure that would be modified and rehabilitated to include: removing the existing concrete roof deck and center pier; installing a new full-width concrete roof deck; modifying interior side of the existing wing walls to include stop log slots and greater flow convergence; installing a new fish friendly (low inlet velocity) trashrack with 1.25 inch clear spacing between bars, a 6-footwide by 6-foot-tall steel sluice gate; (2) an existing concrete bulkhead that was installed to seal off the headrace tunnel would be removed and replaced with a new more robust concrete bulkhead with a rectangular to round transition segment and a cast in fitting to connect with a steel penstock; (3) a new 616-foot-long, 5-foot-diameter steel penstock would be installed on concrete saddles attached to the limestone floor of the existing head race tunnel; a 50-foot-long penstock segment would be installed vertically in the existing A-Mill Wheel 2 drop shaft; (4) a new vertical axis, 600-kilowatt Kaplan turbine/generator unit would be installed at the bottom of the drop shaft; a related programmable logic controller (PLC)-based turbine control system would be installed in a dedicated control room in the A-Mill Building; (5) a steel elbow type draft tube segment would be embedded in concrete at the bottom of the former drop shaft and transition to a new 6-foot-wide by 4-foot-tall concrete outlet conduit (box culvert) that would be installed on the floor of the

existing concrete tailrace tunnel between existing canal walls to discharge onto an existing concrete apron; beyond the apron, outflow would continue down the existing A-Mill tailrace channel to merge with the river; and (6) appurtenant facilities.

The proposed low hazard project would not include a dam, a spillway, an access road, a substation, a transmission line, a powerhouse building, new tunnels, new canals, or new foundations. The majority of new construction would occur within, upon, or under existing hydropower infrastructure associated with historical milling operations. Work beyond the existing infrastructure would be limited to removal of brush, debris and accumulated sediment from previously active conduits and waterways. There would be no utility relocations or earth disturbing activity.

MLHA is using the Alternative Licensing Process (ALP) and, as a result, has attached an applicant-prepared Environmental Assessment. [This is an expedited process which allows for concurrent review of these elements.] In order to reap the benefits of this hydroelectric development, expedition of the licensing process is necessary. The Applicant has performed a number of studies and worked its project into the framework of the flow regime existing in the area. As shown in its Application, MLHA's Project is unique, has historic significance and will provide an important source of renewable energy with minimal environmental effects.

The timing of this project is critical. The ALP described above was chosen to allow for the project to be completed with the same financing as for the project as a whole. This requires construction to be completed by the end of 2015, an ambitious goal. The expedited FERC ALP process, which was supported by City staff, allows for concurrent review of several required elements, including the DLA and PDEA.

Summary of Minneapolis Comments

The current draft reflects staff-level input from the City of Minneapolis and others, responding to a request for comments on the Scoping Document submitted to FERC in late 2014. The timing of that review over the holidays did not allow for Council action at that time. The comments were focused on a range of issues and topics that needed to be addressed as part of the full license application. Generally speaking, the current application was responsive to these requests.

For this current review, attached is a letter to be submitted to the FERC in response to the current comment period. Highlights of the current position:

- In general, the City is very supportive of this project. It combines historic preservation, green energy, and accommodating growth and density in an appropriate place in the city. It is an unusual opportunity and builds on past City projects to restore and enhance the central riverfront.

- There are ongoing management issues that will need to be addressed in terms of water resources, historic resources, and property maintenance. The comments propose an approach for doing so, and provide detailed feedback on specific issues.

- There is significant potential for this project to go beyond being a power generating facility and to be incorporated into the larger interpretive and recreational vision for the area. This includes the proposed development of an interpretive center in the basement of the A Mill, which could potentially allow for subterranean tours of portions of the facility and the tunnels. Ongoing partnership with other interested parties is desired.

As the current comment period ends February 20, 2015, it is staff's recommendation that this comment letter be submitted on behalf of the City prior to that time. Once the licensing process is complete and the project commences, there will be additional actions regarding

review and monitoring of the construction and subsequent operation and maintenance. Discussion of these will follow at a later date.

Attachments

- Draft Minneapolis comment letter
- FERC Request for Comments
- Map of project area

Minneapolis
City of Lakes

**Community Planning &
Economic Development**

Division of Long Range Planning
105 5th Avenue South, Suite 200
Minneapolis, MN 55401

February 13, 2015

Janet Hutzel
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

RE: Response to Notice of Draft License Application and Draft Preliminary Draft Environmental Assessment and Request for Preliminary Terms and Conditions for Minneapolis Leased Housing Associates IV, Limited Partnership, Project No. 14628-000

Dear Ms. Hutzel,

The purpose of this letter is to provide comments from the City of Minneapolis on the Draft License Application and Draft Preliminary Draft Environmental Assessment and Request for Preliminary Terms and Conditions for Minneapolis Leased Housing Associates IV, Limited Partnership, Project No. 14628-000 in response to the notice released January 21, 2015.

Generally speaking, the City of Minneapolis is in favor of this project. It is an exemplary case of integrating forward-looking green technology with the opportunity to interpret the city's important past in a way that invites the public to understand and learn about both. It reflects the City's commitment to the preservation and rehabilitation of the Pillsbury "A" Mill Complex.

The Pillsbury "A" Mill Complex is a nearly eight acre site set at the foot of St. Anthony Falls on the east bank of the Mississippi River. The complex consists of eight buildings, two rail spur corridors that contained several rail lines, several vacant parcels that once house former buildings and features of the complex and the "A" Mill water power infrastructure (head race and tail race tunnels that provided hydro power to the complex.) Together these features create the cultural landscape of the complex

The Pillsbury "A" Mill is one of 23 National Historic Landmarks in Minnesota and one of less than 2,500 nationwide. As stated on its National Register nomination form, "Only one of the giant flour mills that made Minneapolis the milling capital of the nation from 1880 until 1930 still stands. The Pillsbury "A" Mill was the largest, most advanced mill in the world at its completion in 1881. From a 4,000 barrel-a-day capacity in 1882, it eventually grew to 17,500. The "A" Mill was a masterpiece of industrial design, a standard from which all other mills of its time were measured."

The local and national historic significance of the site has been clearly demonstrated. The site is also significant for its rehabilitation potential. The rehabilitation and sensitive development of site now underway will enhance density and be catalytic in efforts to bolster the St. Anthony Falls Historic District. The site has the real capability of reusing the historic waterpower infrastructure to provide electrical energy, heating and cooling to the complex.

This may be the only project of this scale in the nation to reuse existing milling waterpower infrastructure that once powered the mill for district energy.

The City recognizes that the result of a FERC license being issued for the project may be that there will not be local review of the impacts of the proposed hydroelectric project on the tunnel system historic resource. The City takes comfort in knowing that the SHPO and National Park Service will be overseeing the preservation aspects of the project and that a Section 106 review is being completed. The City will seek to be a consulting party in that Section 106 process so that we may stay apprised and provide project input.

Managing this important historic resource also will require a sustained and coordinated effort into the future. Going forward, we suggest three elements that will need to be addressed:

1. A Historic Resource Management Plan that details how the tunnel system will be operated for generating energy to the complex and for (eventually) operating an interpretive center within the complex. The management plan is intended to cover operation of the whole – both private and public functions.

2. A Historic Property Maintenance Plan that that describes anticipated maintenance and repair needs for the tunnel system for a period of no less than ten (10) years. Historic resource maintenance plan shall include a list of all critical property features, components, and systems and shall include description of anticipated maintenance, alterations, and minor alterations, prioritization of anticipated work, the probable sequence for anticipated work, estimated dates of related work, anticipated longevity of maintenance, repairs and replacements, and a description of how anticipated maintenance, alterations, and minor alterations will be undertaken in compliance with local regulations.

3. A Water Resources Plan that details when, where, and how much water is taken from the river, where it goes, and how it returns to the river. The water resources plan is intended to be a regular, annual update to the terms and conditions of which the FERC license is granted. This is related to Xcel Energy's Aesthetic Flow Adequacy Plan, and the pending FERC decision on this plan.

As a condition of the license being granted, it is proposed that the City of Minneapolis will be a recipient of updates and annual reports to the Historic Property Maintenance Plan and the Water Resources Plan and as needed updates to the Historic Resource Management Plan.

Attached below are some specific comments, organized by page number, on the draft documents distributed for review. The City recognizes that other entities (including the National Park Service and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources) have the necessary skill sets to review the information relative to aquatic, terrestrial and similar resources, so we have not commented on those topics.

We appreciate the opportunity to participate in this comment period.

Regards,

D. Craig Taylor
Executive Director
Community Planning and Economic Development
City of Minneapolis

Specific Comments on A Mill FERC License Application and Environmental Assessment

Page numbers refer to PDF page numbers, since document doesn't have consistent numbering throughout

- General – Given the early time at which the tunnel system was built, the ownership and maintenance responsibility of the system is not as clearly documented (e.g., via easements, etc.) as would be true if it were built today. The license should specify that the Applicant is responsible for physical maintenance of the tunnel system or for obtaining agreements or establishing legal responsibility for maintenance of all necessary parts of the system.

- General – The City is aware of (and strongly supports) MLHA's plans to also use water from the Mississippi River flowing through the tunnel system to generate hydrothermal heating and cooling for the A-Mill Artist Lofts housing development. While that use of the water does not require a FERC license, the City is interested in how the two systems will inter-relate. For example, will some of the water flowing through the penstock be diverted for the hydrothermal use and then returned to the penstock, or will the water supply for hydrothermal be separate from hydroelectric system?

- General – There are various references to once again using the tunnel system for hydropower. That implies that it once was used for generating hydroelectric power. Is there documentation that it ever was used for generating hydroelectric power? Wasn't the original use direct-drive hydropower generation or "hydro-mechanical power" as distinct from the proposed hydroelectric power generation?

- General - The *Mead and Hunt Pillsbury A Mill Tunnel Historic and Engineering Condition Study* states the following: "Based on the current hydrothermal and hydroelectric concept plans, the existing tunnel segment will be suitable for the proposed hydrothermal and hydroelectric systems, provided the recommended maintenance repairs are performed and the condition of the tunnel is routinely inspected and maintained." Is the Applicant committed to following the recommended rehabilitation and maintenance work of the tunnels as outlined in The *Mead and Hunt Pillsbury A Mill Tunnel Historic and Engineering Condition Study* that was attached to the environmental assessment? The study was included as an appendix, but it was not referenced in the environmental assessment. Detail how the Applicant will be following the recommended rehabilitation and maintenance work from the study and where and whether the Applicant will be deviating from it. This should include addressing the following:

    - Will the installation of the penstock and saddles for the hydroelectric be done in a way to accommodate the possibility of hydrothermal in a way that has the least disturbance to the tunnels and possible interpretive center?

    - Will the Applicant replace the damaged brickwork on the inland side forebay wall in kind as recommended by The Mead and Hunt Pillsbury A Mill Tunnel Historic and Engineering Condition Study report?

    - Proposed work to the catch basins is not mentioned in the environmental assessment. The Mead and Hunt Pillsbury A Mill Tunnel Historic and Engineering Condition Study stated the following about the catch basins: "One potential consideration is the existence of catch basins located on Main Street Southeast, which discharge into the tunnel. The discharge of storm water into the tunnel could lead to corrosion concerns with the hydrothermal and hydroelectric piping and support system. In addition, these locations could allow other undesirable materials into the tunnel including fuel spills, debris, and other chemicals."

- Will the Applicant do the work to the sluice gate support, sluice gates and shaft as recommended by the Mead and Hunt Pillsbury A Mill Tunnel Historic and Engineering Condition Study? The study says: "Based on the current hydrothermal and hydroelectric concept plans, the existing drop shaft and channel structure will require modifications for the proposed hydrothermal and hydroelectric systems. The timber sluice gate support should be removed in conjunction with the sluice gates. The top and bottom extents of the steel shaft liner will likely require trimming to facilitate installation of piping and the turbine. Consideration should also be given to applying a protective coating to the shaft to extend its useful design life and functionality."

- Page 11, last paragraph – It's appreciated that the Applicant agrees to follow Xcel Energy's Aesthetic Flow Adequacy Plan, as requested by the City and other stakeholders. We request information to assess whether there is enough cash flow in financial projections that the project would remain financially feasible even if the minimum flow level were increased (e.g., to the 2,000 cfs requested by the Park Board) and thus the amount of water available for the A Mill project were proportionately reduced.

- Page 29, top paragraph – The State of Minnesota now has 23 National Historic Landmarks.

- Page 38, 2.2.4.4 – The condition study funded by the Legacy grant includes an archaeological fieldwork plan, and the City recommends that MLHA be required to follow that plan in addition to the cited State law.

- Page 76 re: Recreation Under 16 U.S.C. Section 803(a), the FERC must take into consideration the "recreational purposes" of the river. In *Scenic Hudson Preservation Conference v. Federal Power Commission*, 354 F.2d 608, 614 (2nd Cir. 1965) it was said: "Recreational purposes' are expressly included among the beneficial public uses to which the statute refers. The phrase undoubtedly encompasses the conservation of natural resources, the maintenance of natural beauty, and the preservation of historic sites." Two possible ways that MLHA could serve recreational purposes and preserve a historic site would be to cooperate with: a) the implementation of a tunnel interpretive center in the basement of the A Mill and the headrace tunnel, and b) the re-creation of the East Falls if water flowing through the tunnel would assist that. The former might imply shifting the location of the penstock within the headrace to the side to allow room for visitors to walk down the tunnel and also perhaps changing the shape of the penstock at the forebay arch to provide a bit more headroom. It may be is premature for MLHA to make any firm commitments, but we recommend that the Final Application include some reference to those possibilities (especially the interpretive center) and express a willingness to further explore them.

- Page 77 – The study notes that boating is not "actively encouraged." Actually, a significant percentage of the traffic through the lock and dam system in this area has been recreational boating. This is changing, particularly with the permanent closure of the Upper St. Anthony Falls lock in 2015. But as noted, there is still a canoe route, with a portage near this project site to allow boaters to bypass the falls.

- Page 78 – The Mississippi Central Riverfront Regional Park is being renamed the St. Anthony Falls Regional Park, as part of the regional park master plan currently underway by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. Improvements to the area in and around the intake and outlet of this project have the potential to benefit the appearance of the parkland in this area.

- Page 80, first bullet – Not all of the Heritage Trail is asphalt, and the more important part of the trail (which merits noting in the EA) is the series of interpretive markers and signs along the route that allow it to be self-guided. There are guided tours of parts of the trail (e.g., MHS and Segway tours). These may not cover the entire trail, so maybe the text should say "Guided tours of some or all of the trail are available…"

- Page 80, third bullet – The recreational parkway extends upriver from Portland, too, although the formal name does switch from West River Parkway to James I. Rice Parkway at Portland.

- Page 80, fourth bullet – Once the Upper St. Anthony Falls lock closes, the visitor center won't be open (unless another partner takes that on).

- Page 81 – The regional park plan update noted above may include improvements to the area immediately surrounding this project area, in terms of landscaping, amenities, and other features.

- Page 86, third line – It seems more correct to say that the flow was used for "direct-drive lumber and flour milling" than "power and wheat milling."

- Page 86, third line – It is not correct to call that corner the "northwest" corner of the A Mill. "Southwest" or "western-most" are more correct.

- Page 87, last full paragraph, sixth line – The St. Anthony Falls Historic District boundary is at Sixth Avenue SE, not Fifth.

- Page 89, Tunnel and Drop Shaft -- One thing that doesn't seem to be noted anywhere is whether the new intake will still allow any moving water into the main headrace tunnel. It's a given that there will be some water that gets into the tunnel, from seepage if nothing else, and it would be better to have moving water that won't freeze than to have still water that might freeze in the winter and thus expose the tunnel to freeze/thaw cycles. This should be addressed in the Final Application and EA.

- Page 92, paragraph above "Aesthetic Flows" – The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board should be included in the list of entities that have played major roles in riverfront redevelopment.

- Page 93, table 3-7 – If there isn't any minimum flow requirement from November 15 to March 15, perhaps that should be made clear.

- Page 94 – It is appreciated that the plan includes references to other plans and documents highlighted in earlier City comments.

- Page 96, 4.0 – As noted previously, we recommend that the Final Application include information as to whether the project would remain feasible if the minimum flow for aesthetic purposes was increased as a result of the Xcel Energy Aesthetic Flow Study.

- Page 109 – The City appreciates the inclusion of and reference to the Pillsbury A Mill Tunnel Historic and Engineering Condition Study in this document.

- Page 154 – As stated in the tunnel study, based on the current hydrothermal and hydroelectric concept plans, the existing tunnel segment will be suitable for the proposed hydrothermal and hydroelectric systems, provided the recommended maintenance repairs are performed and the condition of the

tunnel is routinely inspected and maintained. Presumably, this will be part of the scope of this project and its ongoing operation and maintenance.

- Page 168 – The downriver tailrace condition is rated as poor, with several structural deficiencies noted. Several other elements had similar noted deficiencies. Presumably, this will be addressed within the scope of the construction project.

- Page 373 – The hydraulic modeling report notes that the flow of water will flush out accumulated sediment in this area since the facility was deactivated in the 1950's. This will require some monitoring over time, as the area transitions to its new state. Presumably this will occur, in cooperation with other partners and regulatory agencies. The industrial history of this area may mean that some of this sediment is contaminated, as noted in the EAW later.

- Page 426 Historic Preservation Certification Application -- There are two photos labeled "Intake Structure" that actually are the headrace tunnel instead.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Minneapolis Leased Housing Associates IV, Limited Partnership — Project No. 14628-000

NOTICE OF DRAFT LICENSE APPLICATION (DLA) AND DRAFT PRELIMINARY DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (PDEA) AND REQUEST FOR PRELIMINARY TERMS AND CONDITIONS

(January 21, 2015)

Take notice that the following Draft License Application (DLA) and draft Preliminary Draft Environmental Assessment (PDEA) have been filed with the Commission and are available for public inspection.

a. Type of Application: Original Minor

b. Project No.: 14628-000

c. Date Filed: January 8, 2015

d. Applicant: Minnesota Leased Housing Associates IV, Limited Partnership (Minnesota Housing Associates)

e. Name of Project: A-Mill Artists Loft Hydroelectric Project

f. Location: On the Mississippi River, in the city of Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Minnesota. No federal lands are occupied by the project works or located within the project boundary.

g. Filed Pursuant to: Federal Power Act 16 USC §§ 791(a) - 825(r)

h. Applicant Contact: Owen Metz, 2905 Northwest Blvd, Suite 150, Plymouth, MN 55441; (763) 354-5618; e-mail ometz@dominiuminc.com.

i. FERC Contact: Janet Hutzel at (202) 502-8675; or e-mail at janet.hutzel@ferc.gov.

j. Status of Project: With this notice the Commission is soliciting (1) preliminary terms, conditions, and recommendations on the draft PDEA, and (2) comments on the DLA.

k. Deadline for filing: 30 days from the issuance of this notice.

All comments on the draft PDEA and DLA should be sent to the addresses noted above in Item (h), and filed with FERC.

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file comments using the Commission's eFiling system at http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp. Commenters can submit brief comments up to 6,000 characters, without prior registration, using the eComment system at http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/ecomment.asp. You must include your name and contact information at the end of your comments. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov, (866) 208-3676 (toll free), or (202) 502-8659 (TTY). In lieu of electronic filing, please send a paper copy to: Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426. The first page of any filing should include docket number P-1462-000.

All comments must bear the heading Preliminary Comments, Preliminary Recommendations, Preliminary Terms and Conditions, or Preliminary Prescriptions.

l. **A** copy of the application is available for review at the Commission in the Public Reference Room or may be viewed on the Commission's website at http://www.ferc.gov using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

You may also register online at http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

Minnesota Housing Associates has mailed a copy of the Preliminary DEA and Draft License Application to interested entities and parties. Copies of these documents are available for review at http://amillartistloftshydroproject.com and the Minneapolis Central Library, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN.

m. With this notice, we are initiating consultation with the MINNESOTA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER (SHPO), as required by section 106, National Historic Preservation Act, and the regulations of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, 36 CFR § 800.4.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

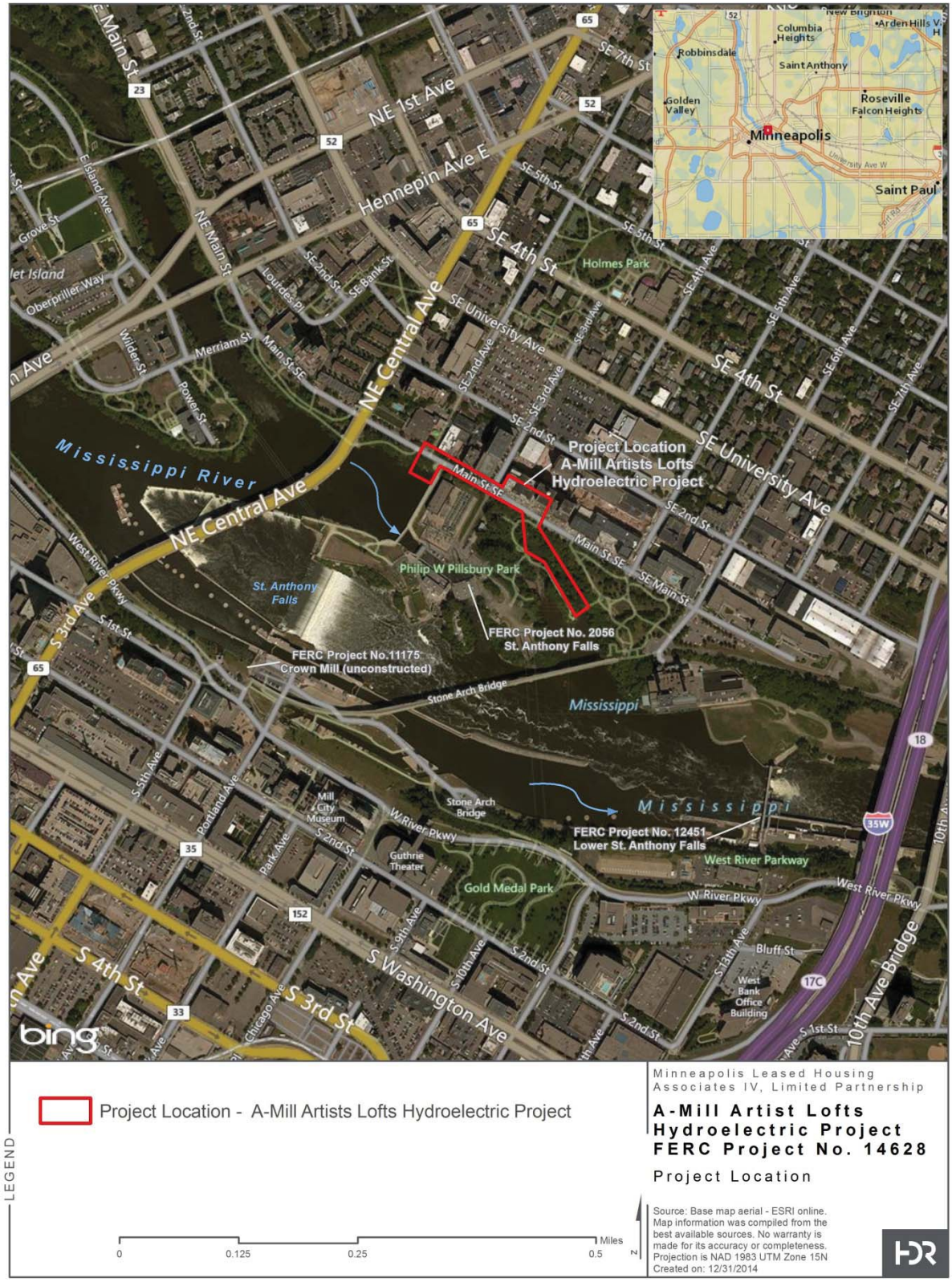

Figure 2-1. Location of the A-Mill Hydroelectric Project.