

December 20, 2017

Attn: Kinnickinnic River Corridor Planning Committee

Re: FERC License Surrender (FERC No.10489)

Dear Kinni Corridor Planning Committee:

American Whitewater is writing in support of the proposal to pursue license surrender with FERC while leaving the dam facilities in place. We recommend complete dam removal once the dams are under state jurisdiction with the Wisconsin DNR. We will continue working closely with the other stakeholder organizations to develop a widely supported stakeholder agreement prior to surrender. We strongly support this restoration project that will provide economic, ecological, and recreational benefits to the general public and the Kinnickinnic River, a one of a kind natural resource in western Wisconsin.

American Whitewater is a national non-profit 501(c)(3) river conservation organization founded in 1954. We have over 6,500 members and 100 local-based affiliate clubs, representing approximately 80,000 whitewater paddlers across the nation. American Whitewater's mission is to conserve and restore America's whitewater resources and to enhance opportunities to enjoy them safely. As a conservation-oriented paddling organization, American Whitewater has an interest in the Kinnickinnic River. Due to the significant elevation change that will result from dam removal, we believe there is an opportunity for whitewater features along this section of restored river. The interest in whitewater paddling has been growing in the Midwest with help from groups like Rapids Riders and the Hooper Outing Club. Paddlers in the Twin Cities and surrounding area have the potential to drive ample economic impact for River Falls and western Wisconsin when the dams are removed.

What makes this project so unique is the close proximity of the future falls to a vibrant Main Street community's downtown. This would only further increase prospects for increased economic development in the downtown area. Increased visitors and tourism won't have a negative environmental impact either. The local whitewater community in the Twin Cities holds annual river cleanups on the rivers we utilize. The whitewater community will eagerly partner with existing local groups to maintain and improve the ecology of the Kinnickinnic River post-dam removal.

American Whitewater looks forward to working with the other stakeholder groups including Friends of the Kinni, the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust, Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter of Trout Unlimited, the St. Croix River Association, the River Alliance of Wisconsin, and American Rivers in order to move this project toward the complete restoration of the Kinnickinnic River through dam removal. Please include our organization on the stakeholder list for any future hearings or opportunities for input on this project.

Sincerely,



Jerod Nowicki
Regional Coordinator

Cc: Corridor Planning Committee members, City Hall, River Falls, WI
Ms. Kimberly Bose, Secretary, FERC, Washington D.C.
Michael Page, Friends of the Kinni, River Falls, WI
Dave Fodroczi, Kinnickinnic River Land Trust, River Falls, WI
Randy Thoreson, NPS, Twin Cities, MN
Angie Tornes, NPS, Milwaukee, WI
Nick Utrup, FWS, Bloomington, MN
Cheryl Laatch, Wisconsin DNR, Horicon, WI
Jim Fossum, JDFossum Environmental Consulting, Winona, MN