

January 2, 2018

Kinnickinnic River Corridor Planning Committee
City Hall
222 Lewis Street
River Falls, Wisconsin 54022

RE: FERC License Surrender and Dam Removal

Dear Kinnickinnic River Corridor Planning Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present our comments regarding the relicensing of the two Kinnickinnic River dams located in the City of River Falls. The Kinnickinnic River is an important tributary to the nationally designated "Wild and Scenic" St. Croix River, a lovely river with incredibly scenic views, and sections support a healthy fishery.

The St. Croix River Association's mission is to protect, restore, and celebrate the St. Croix River and its watershed. Protecting water quality, habitat restoration, and responsible recreation are all part of our core work. We strive to ensure the unique resources and exceptional ecosystems within the watershed are enhanced and protected now and into the future.

The Kinnickinnic River is an important economic, recreational, cultural, and ecological resource for the community of River Falls, the nearby twin cities metro area, and the region. The two dams within the City of River Falls inhibit the natural hydrologic and ecosystem services that the Kinnickinnic River would offer under natural flow. Dams can increase stream temperatures, create erosion issues, and lead to degraded natural habitats. The St. Croix River Association supports the recommendation that: 1) FERC licenses for both dams along the Kinnickinnic River be surrendered, and 2) the city proceed in developing and implementing a dam removal plan to return the natural hydrologic and ecologic systems of the Kinnickinnic River.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments; we look forward to the outcome of this planning.

Sincerely,



Deb Ryun
Executive Director