



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**

St. Louis District

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# Press Release

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## **Corps of Engineers reaches agreement on the next phase of hydropower development at Melvin Price Locks and Dam**

St. Louis, Mo. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has concluded a legal agreement with Price Dam Partnership, Ltd., to move ahead on designing a possible hydroelectric power generating plant at the Melvin Price Dam near Alton, Ill. The agreement follows a previous Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) permit and license obtained by the Price Dam Partnership, Ltd., to pursue the project.

While this does not guarantee final construction of this project, it allows the Price Dam Partnership to proceed on detailed investigation and design of a hydroelectric power plant at the Melvin Price facility and if feasible, construction.

The purpose of the agreement is to set forth in detail, responsibilities of the applicant and the Corps. It clearly states that any plans that may be developed must not interfere with the original congressionally authorized purpose of the Melvin Price Locks and Dam, which is support to navigation on the Mississippi River.

The Price Dam Partnership lists offices in Gatlinburg, Tenn., and Aiken, S.C., and is involved in other hydroelectric power initiatives nationwide.

The Corps of Engineers has long supported renewable, sustainable electrical power generation efforts in the United States. The Corps embarked on building hydropower generating capability before World War II and today generates about one-fourth of the nation's renewable hydropower, or three percent of the nation's electricity needs. That extrapolates to about 100 billion kilowatt hours annually, or enough electricity to supply 10 million American homes.

Since the 1970s, the Corps' emphasis has shifted from developing hydropower to cooperating with non-federal power generating utilities such as municipalities, electric utilities and independent power producers to produce power at Corps facilities.

One stipulation of the agreement between the Corps and Price is for the firm to provide free electrical power for the Melvin Price Locks and Dam facility.

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## 2-2-2/HYDROPOWER

The St. Louis District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers operates one Corps-owned electrical generation plant, the Clarence Cannon Power Plant at Mark Twain Lake (Monroe City, Mo.), which is integrated into the Southwest Power Association grid that serves south central states. The District also has a small generator called a station service generator at the Wappapello lake Dam (Wappapello, Mo.), which provides some of the power needs of the Corps lake project there.

**Note to editors:** After hours, contact Alan Dooley at 618-719-9039 or at 618-939-5985. For more information about the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and hydroelectric power generation, see: <http://www.vtn.iwr.usace.army.mil/pdfs/Hydropower.pdf>

The Price Dam Partnership, Ltd point of contact is: James Price at 865-436-0402 or [jimpricehydro@bellsouth.net](mailto:jimpricehydro@bellsouth.net)