Eklutna Hydroelectric Project
Fish & Wildlife Agreement

Anchorage Assembly
Enterprise and Utility Oversight Committee
March 16, 2023
Agenda

• Provide update on activities since November 2022
  • Drafted Year 2 Study Reports
  • Ongoing Stakeholder Engagement
  • Presented at AWRA Conference
  • Conducted Winter Field Work

• Next steps
  • Review and Comment Period for Year 2 Study Reports
  • Conduct Alternatives Analysis
  • Develop Fish and Wildlife Program

• Q&A
## Drafted Year 2 Study Reports

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Studies Continued from Year 1</th>
<th>New Studies Initiated in Year 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Geomorphology and Sediment Transport Study</td>
<td>Engineering Feasibility and Cost Assessment</td>
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<td>Instream Flow Study</td>
<td>Hydro Valuation Study</td>
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<td>Eklutna River Fish Species Composition and Distribution Study</td>
<td>Wetlands and Wildlife Habitat Study</td>
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<td>Lake Aquatic Habitat and Fish Utilization Study</td>
<td>Terrestrial Wildlife Studies</td>
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<td>Water Quality Study</td>
<td>Recreation Study</td>
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<td>Stream Gaging</td>
<td>Cultural Resources Study</td>
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*Also collected new LiDAR data in May 2022*
Ongoing Stakeholder Engagement

- **February 13** – Meeting with the Aquatics Technical Work Group to review the 2D instream flow modeling results

- **March 1** – Meeting with USFWS, NVE, and ADFG to discuss potential funding opportunities (f/u meeting to be scheduled)

- **March 17** – Meeting with USFWS and NVE to iron out details for additional infrastructure options

- **Spring 2023** – Chugach and MEA Boards meeting with NVE
Conducted Winter Field Work
Next Steps – Year 2 Study Reporting

• **March 24, 2023** – Distribute to TWGs for review and comment
  • Draft Year 2 Study Reports
  • Phase 1 Engineering Deliverables

• **Week of March 27** – TWG meetings

• **April 21, 2023** – Comments due

• **May 26, 2023** – Upload final versions to Project website
Alternatives Analysis

• Series of 5 in-person meetings
• April – August 2023
• Inviting all TWG members and Parties
• Purpose:
  • Solicit input on comprehensive alternatives that should be compared
  • Compare costs and benefits of various comprehensive alternatives
  • Evaluate impacts of each alternative on other resources
  • Identify appropriate monitoring program and adaptive management
  • Outline components of Fish and Wildlife Program
## Technical Work Groups and Parties

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<th>Aquatics</th>
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*Although NVE is not a party to the 1991 Agreement, the Project Owners have committed to a review and participation framework specifically for NVE.*
Develop Fish and Wildlife Program

- **October 2023** – Distribute Draft Fish and Wildlife Program
  - 30 days for TWGs to review and comment
  - Attempt to resolve differences

- **January 2024** – Public Meetings (Anchorage and Mat-Su Valley)

- **April 2024** – Submit Proposed Final Fish and Wildlife Program
  - 60 days for parties to review and comment
  - 30 days for project owners to respond

- **October 2024** – Governor issues Final Fish and Wildlife Program
Questions?

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