



# Eklutna Hydroelectric Project Fish & Wildlife Agreement

Anchorage Assembly  
Enterprise and Utility Oversight Committee  
March 18, 2021



# Agenda

- Provide Update on Activities since October 2020
  - Study Planning with the Technical Work Group (TWG)
  - Other Stakeholder Coordination
  - Permitting and Authorizations
  - Preparing for Summer Field Work
- Q&A

# Study Planning

- The 1991 Fish and Wildlife Agreement has specific consultation requirements regarding the study plans...
  - Study plans shall be developed in consultation with the USFWS, NMFS, ADNR, ADFG, and ADEC
  - Parties shall review the study plans and concur with their scope of work
  - Study plans shall include a schedule, which shall be adopted by the Parties in consultation with the Governor
- Remember...
  - Parties (for Eklutna) = Project Owners, USFWS, NMFS, and State
  - TWG = Project Owners, USFWS, NMFS, ADFG, NVE, TU, and APU

# Draft Study Plans

- TWG Review
  - Distributed Draft Study Plans to TWG on October 26, 2020
  - TWG comment deadline was November 25, 2020
  - Received comments from NVE, ADFG, NMFS, USFWS, TU, and APU
  - Meetings with the TWG were held on November 30, 2020 and December 21, 2020 to review and discuss the TWG's comments
- Other Agency Review
  - Also reached out to State Parks, AWWU, ADOT, and ARRC in November and December, specifically for the infrastructure related studies
  - Both State Parks and AWWU provided comments

# Revised Draft Study Plans

- Revised the study plans based on all comments received
- Distributed the Revised Draft Study Plans to the TWG on January 18, 2021
- Meeting with the TWG was held on January 25, 2021 to review the major revisions to the study plans and to answer any clarifying questions from the TWG
- TWG comment deadline was January 29, 2021
- Received comments from NMFS, ADFG, TU, and APU

# January 2021 TWG Meeting

A screenshot of a Zoom meeting interface showing a grid of 18 participants. The participants are arranged in four rows: the first three rows have five participants each, and the fourth row has three participants. Each tile shows a video feed of a person with their name at the bottom. The names are: Ali Harvey, Kasey Casort - Information In..., Samantha Owen (McMillen Jac..., Dudley Reiser, Sean Ellenson, Cory Warnock, Kevin Foley, Sean Eagan, Chuck S, Jason Geck, mkeefe, Austin Williams, Steve Padula, rcbenkert, Carrie Brophil, and an unnamed participant in the bottom row. The Zoom control bar at the bottom includes icons for Mute, Stop Video, Security, Participants (18), Chat, Share Screen, Record, Reactions, and a red Leave button. In the top right corner of the meeting window, there are buttons for Speaker View and Exit Full Screen.

# Proposed Final Study Plans

- Revised the study plans again based on comments received
- The Proposed Final Study Plans were distributed to the Parties on February 24, 2021 for review and concurrence
- Meeting with State agencies on February 25, 2021 to determine how the State would concur on the scope of work
- State agencies determined that the Commissioners from each agency (ADNR, ADFG, ADEC, and ADOT) should concur...
- Then the Project Owners will send the concurrence letters to AEA (as the Governor's representative) with the study plans for review

# Other Stakeholder Coordination

- First Quarterly Newsletter issued in December 2020
- Meeting with the Watershed and Natural Resources Advisory Commission on January 27, 2021 to provide an update on efforts to date
- Quarterly Update Call on January 28, 2021 to provide an update to the broader stakeholder group
- Continued coordination with the Native Village of Eklutna



# January 2021 Quarterly Update Call

Tracey Schutt				
Willie O'Malley	Mark Schimscheimer	Kim Sager	anna henderson	Jeanette Holt
				BMcGregor
	marnolds			
				

# Permitting and Authorizations

- Currently coordinating with the appropriate agencies and entities to obtain all necessary permits and authorizations, including:
  - ADFG
    - Fish habitat permits for stream gages, scour monitors, etc. in anadromous reaches
    - Fish resources permits for fish sampling
    - General permit for macroinvertebrate sampling
  - ADNR
    - Land-use authorization for work within the state park
    - Temporary water use authorization for study flow releases
    - Dam safety review for study flow releases

# Permitting and Authorizations

- Continued...
  - USACE – Nationwide permit for rock/debris removal near spillway
  - BLM – Land-use authorization for work on BLM land
  - Eklutna, Inc. – Access permit for crossing Eklutna, Inc.'s property
  - AWWU – Permission to use their access road for work in the upper river
  - Parties – Consent that study flow releases do not violate Section 7 of the 1991 Agreement
  - Downstream Landowners – Liability waivers for any impacts to downstream property and/or infrastructure

# Preparing for Summer Field Work

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Instream Flow Study</b>												
Site recon with TWG to determine transect locations						■						
Establish transects						■	■					
Controlled flow releases and field data collection								■	■			
<b>Geomorphology/Sediment Transport Study</b>												
Site recon with TWG to determine transect locations						■						
Establish new transects and field data collection						■	■					
Controlled flow releases (visual observation)								■	■			
Re-survey transects										■		
<b>Eklutna River Fish Species Composition and Utilization Study</b>												
Fish sampling					■		■	■	■			
Adult salmon surveys (weekly)							■	■	■	■		
<b>Macroinvertebrate Study</b>												
Macroinvertebrate sampling							■					
<b>Water Quality Study</b>												
Install thermistor strings river thermographs				■	■							
Download water temperature data							■		■	■		
Collect DO/pH profile data in lake				■	■		■		■	■		
Deploy DO/pH logger at station 1-2 in river							■					
Secchi depths and nutrient samples in lake							■					
Collect turbidity/TSS data at stations 1-4 in river							■		■	■		
Deploy turbidity/TSS sondes at stations 1-4 in river									■	■		
<b>Stream Gaging Study</b>												
Install stream gages				■	■							
Calibration, maintenance, data downloads (bimonthly)					■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Visual inspection, discharge estimate (monthly)											■	■
Accretion discharge measurements							■		■	■		
<b>Lake Aquatic Habitat and Fish Utilization Study</b>												
Reconnaissance survey					■							
Fish sampling in lake							■	■		■		
Fish sampling in pond and tributaries							■	■				
Visual spawning surveys in pond and tributaries									■	■		
<b>Lakeside Trail Erosion Study</b>												
Field inventory							■					
<b>Hydropower Operations Modeling Study</b>												
Develop model (no field work)	■	■	■	■	■							
<b>Existing Infrastructure Assessment Study</b>												
Site recon					■	■						
Condition assessment of the drainage outlet gate					■	■						
Topographic land and bathymetric surveys of the pond					■	■						
Survey of the lake outlet					■	■						

# Next Steps

- Receive concurrence letters from the Parties
- Submit Proposed Final Study Plans, with State agency concurrence letters, to AEA and obtain feedback
- Discuss AEA's feedback with the Parties and TWG as appropriate and finalize study plans
- Obtain all necessary permits and authorizations for study implementation, and continue preparing for summer field work
- Implement Final Study Plans for year 1 studies
- Year 1 study reporting and year 2 study planning

# Questions?

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