

Below are supplemental NVE TWG comments, mostly on section 3.7.1 - Engineering Feasibility and Cost Assessment Study Background, more organized and clarified by "PME measures". We, including other TWG organizations' representatives, were not aware that the new engineering feasibility study plan will not be discussed/planned till July. So, we developed but did not get a chance to state these comments fully in the Aquatics TWG Aquatics meetings. These comments are drafted and submitted while fresh in mind, and hoping they are useful for the study planning process. We appreciate your acknowledgement of many of the points in these comments. We hope you accept these comments, and there is not a need to respond at this time.

- "Provide a flow regime into the Eklutna river to accomplish habitat restoration and increase anadromous fish assemblage of the river."

This looks good. The lake outlet should be designed for sustained continuous flow releases at levels TBD, including intermittent higher releases, maybe up to 1,000 cfs for flushing, off channel habitat creation, and substrate loosening.

- "Create the opportunity for sockeye salmon to travel into/out of Eklutna Lake."

This is good, but include other salmon, particularly coho and Chinook. NVE is finding plentiful spawning habitat in the Eklutna Lake river tributaries.

Please add:

- Restore sockeye salmon spawning habitat in Eklutna Lake.

Maintain lake levels that cover most of the potential sockeye spawning habitat (groundwater seeps) in the current varial zone. Some compromise on this PME should be examined.

Short of removing the lake outlet control structures; suggested new engineering to accomplish these PMEs should include better control of water retention and releases. The channel out of the lake could be deepened for continuous releases. Larger gates, like radial gates would allow periodic higher flushing flows. Fish ladders should be installed. It is appreciated that McMillen Jacobs Associates recognizes some of these engineering needs.

Related to the last, suggested PME above; We would like to know pre-dams and pre-power project lake levels, relative to the potential sockeye spawning areas recently described in the current lake varial zone.

In addition to periodic upgrades of existing turbines, consider looking at smaller turbines fed by smaller diameter pipes that could produce more energy with the same discharges.