

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Before The
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION**

Alaska Energy Authority)
) Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project
) Project No. 14241

***Notice of Intent to File Application for Original License
And Request for Designation as Non-Federal Representative
And for Authorization to Initiate Consultation under
Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act***

I. Notification of Intent

The Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) hereby notifies the Commission of its intent to file an application for an original license for the unconstructed Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project (Project), to be located on the Susitna River in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough in Alaska.

The follow information is provided pursuant to 18 C.F.R. § 5.5(b).

(1) License Applicant Alaska Energy Authority
 813 West Northern Lights Boulevard
 Anchorage, AK 99503

Applicant Contacts Wayne Dyok
 Susitna-Watana Project Manager
 Alaska Energy Authority
 Telephone: (907)-719-7022
 Facsimile: (614) 337-6220
 wdyok@aidea.org

Michael A. Swiger
Van Ness Feldman, PC
Telephone: (202) 298-1800
Facsimile: (202) 338-2416
mas@vnf.com

(2) FERC Project Number Project No. 14241

(3) Statement of Intent to File

AEA hereby unequivocally states its intent to file an application for an original license for the Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project No. 14241.

(4) Project Location and Description

The proposed Project is to be located on the Susitna River at river mile 184 above the river mouth, approximately halfway between Anchorage and Fairbanks, Alaska. The Susitna River has its headwaters in the mountains of the Alaska Range about 90 miles south of Fairbanks. It flows generally southwards for about 318 miles before discharging into Cook Inlet just west of Anchorage. The small, unincorporated Native village of Cantwell, in the Denali Borough, is located about 45 air miles from the proposed Project dam, while Anchorage is approximately 180 air miles generally south of the Project area.

The licensed Project would have a concrete gravity or rock-filled dam for which different configurations are under consideration with heights above the riverbed of approximately 700 to 800 feet. The crest length would be approximately 2,700 feet based on a 700 foot high dam, but somewhat longer if a project with a larger dam is proposed to be licensed. The Project would also have a 39-mile-long reservoir with a normal surface elevation of 2,000 feet mean sea level, a surface area of 20,000 acres, and a usable storage capacity of approximately 2,400,000 acre-feet based on a 700 foot dam, and commensurately greater dimensions if a project with a larger dam is proposed to be licensed.

Optimization studies are ongoing and the capacity of the Project eventually proposed for licensing is expected to be between 600 and 800 megawatts (MW) depending on results of future updates to the Railbelt Integrated Resource Plan. With a 600 MW installed capacity the powerhouse is initially sized for three 200 MW turbine-generator sets, but this may be modified to smaller unit sizes depending upon future electrical system studies. The Project would be constructed with an additional bay which may be used to accommodate a potential future capacity increase. The exact number and size of the generating units to be installed will be determined during the feasibility studies that are planned to be conducted prior to submittal of the license application. As currently envisioned up to three 230-kV primary transmission lines travelling westward to a point of interconnection with the Railbelt Intertie near Chulitna or northward to a point of interconnection with the Railbelt Intertie near Cantwell will be constructed to deliver Project output to the existing power grid.

(5) Cities, Towns, Political Subdivisions or Federal Facilities used by the Project

- (i) *Counties in which any part of the Project, and in which any federal facility that is to be used by the Project, would be located:*

Matanuska-Susitna Borough
350 East Dahlia Drive
Palmer, AK 99645

The Project will not use any federal facilities.

(ii) *Cities, Towns, and Similar Political Subdivisions:*

(1) *In which any part of the Project or federal facility that would be used by the Project would be located:*

None.

2) *With a population of 5,000 or more and is located within 15 miles of the Project facilities:*

None. The proposed Project is to be located on the Susitna River at river mile 184 above the mouth, approximately half-way between Anchorage and Fairbanks. The small, unincorporated Native village of Cantwell, in the Denali Borough, is located about 45 air miles from the proposed Project dam and powerhouse site.

(iii) *Irrigation districts, drainage districts, or similar special purpose political subdivisions:*

(1) *In which any part of the Project, and any federal facilities that would be used by the Project, would be located:*

None.

(2) *That owns, operates, maintains, or uses any project facilities or any federal facilities that would be used by the Project:*

None.

(iv) *Other political subdivisions in the general area of the Project that are likely to be interested in, or affected by, this notice of intent:*

Municipality of Anchorage
632 West 6th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Fairbanks Northstar Borough
P.O. Box 71267-1267
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Denali Borough
P.O. Box 480
Healy, AK 99743

(v) *Affected Indian tribes:*

The following Federally-recognized Tribes and other Alaska Native entities are likely to be interested in, or be affected by, the proposed Project:

Regional Corporations		
Ahtna, Inc. P.O. Box 649 Glennallen, AK 99588	Cook Inlet Region, Inc. 2525 C St., Suite 500 Anchorage, AK 99503	Doyon, Ltd. 1 Doyon Place, Suite 300 Fairbanks, AK 99701
Group Corporations		
Alexander Creek, Inc. 8126 Wisteria St Anchorage, AK 99502-4573	Caswell Native Association HC 89, Box 83 Willow, AK 99688	Gold Creek-Susitna NCI P.O. Box 847 Talkeetna, AK 99676
Montana Creek Native Association P.O. Box 100379 Anchorage, AK 99510	Point Possession, Inc. 1321 Oxford Dr Anchorage, AK 99503-6941	
Urban Corporations		
Kenai Natives Association, Inc. 15 Fidalgo Ave #102 Kenai, AK 99611-7795		
Village Corporations		
Chickaloon-Moose Creek Native Association P.O. Box 875046 Wasilla, AK 99674	Chitina Native Corporation P.O. Box 3 Chitina, AK 99566	Dot Lake Native Corporation P.O. Box 2271 Dot Lake, AK 99737
Eklutna, Inc. 16515 Centerfield Drive, Suite 201 Eagle River, AK 99577	Knikatnu, Inc. P.O. Box 872130 Wasilla, AK 99687	Mendas Cha-ag Native Corporation 457 Cindy Drive Fairbanks, AK 99701
Ninilchik Native Association, Inc. 701 West 41st, Suite 201 Anchorage, AK 99515	Northway Natives P.O. Box 401 Northway, AK 99764	Salamatof Native Association, Inc. P.O. Box 2682 Kenai, AK 99611

Seldovia Native Association, Inc. P.O. Drawer L Seldovia, AK 99663	Tanacross, Inc. 22808 Green Garden Road Chugiak, AK 99576	Tetlin Native Corporation P.O. Box 657 Tok, AK 99780
Toghotthele Corporation P.O. Box 249 Nenana, AK 99760	Tyonek Native Corporation 1689 C Street, Ste. 219 Anchorage, AK 99501	
Federally Recognized Tribes		
Cheesh-Na Tribal Council P.O. Box 241 Chistochina, AK 99586	Chickaloon Native Village P.O. Box 1105 Chickaloon, AK 99674	Chitina Traditional Village Indian Council P.O. Box 31 Chitina, AK 99566
Eklutna Native Village 26339 Eklutna Village Rd. Chugiak, AK 99567	Gulkana Village P.O. Box 254 Gakona, AK 99586	Healy Lake Village P.O. Box 74090 Fairbanks, AK 99706
Kenaitze Indian Tribe P.O. Box 988 Kenai, AK 99611	Knik Tribal Council P.O. Box 871565 Wasilla, AK 99567	Mentasta Traditional Council P.O. Box 6019 Mentasta, AK 99780
Native Village of Cantwell P.O. Box 94 Cantwell, AK 99729	Native Village of Gakona P.O. Box 102 Gakona, AK 99585	Native Village of Kluti-Kaah P.O. Box 68 Copper Center, AK 99573
Native Village of Tazlina P.O. Box 87 Glennallen, AK 99588	Native Village of Tetlin P.O. Box TTL Tok, AK 99779	Native Village of Tyonek P.O. Box 82009 Tyonek, AK 99682
Nenana Native Association P.O. Box 369 Nenana, AK 99760	Ninilchik Traditional Council P.O. Box 39070 Ninilchik, AK 99639	Northway Village P.O. Box 516 Northway, AK 99764
Seldovia Village Tribe Drawer L Seldovia, AK 99663	Tanacross Village Council P.O. Box 76009 Tanacross, AK 99776	Village of Dot Lake P.O. Box 2279 Dot Lake, AK 99737
Village of Salamatof P.O. Box 2682 Kenai, AK 99611		

(6) As required by 18 C.F.R. § 5.5(c) and other applicable law, AEA is providing a copy of this NOI to all federal, state, and interstate resource agencies, Alaska Native Corporations established under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, Indian tribes, local governments, and members of the public likely to be affected by or interested in the proceeding, as set forth on the distribution list attached to the Pre-Application Document (PAD).

II. Designation as Non-Federal Representative and Authorization to Initiate Consultation

Pursuant to 18 C.F.R. § 5.6(c), AEA hereby requests to be designated the Commission's non-federal representative for purposes of consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and the joint agency regulations thereunder at 50 CFR part 402, and Section 305(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and the implementing regulations at 50 CFR 600.9920. AEA also requests authorization to initiate consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the implementing regulations at 36 CFR 800.2(c)(4).

III. Public Notice

As required by 18 CFR 5.3(d)(2), AEA published notice of the filing of its Notification of Intent (NOI) and of the PAD contemporaneously with the filing date of the NOI in the following daily or weekly newspapers of general circulation in the project region: Anchorage Daily News, Alaska Journal of Commerce, Fairbanks Daily News Miner, Mat-Su Valley Frontiersman, and Homer News.