



The SuHydro study team has not conducted comprehensive fishery studies of the Susitna River below Talkeetna. Therefore, the level of understanding of that reach of the Susitna is relatively low. The ADF&G is on record as recommending sufficient study of the Susitna River downstream from Talkeetna to assess potential impacts from changes in water quality and quantity.

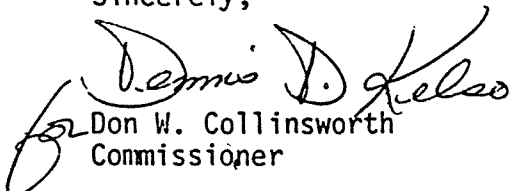
5. "Does the Department feel that changes in water quality parameters (as distinguished from physical impacts associated with changes in flow regimes) can be discounted as a possible source of significant impacts?"

Changes in water quality during project operation may adversely affect fishery resources of the Susitna River system. ~~To date~~ the affects of changes in temperature and turbidity have not been fully assessed. We understand that the APA is planning to conduct a temperature monitoring study that will help in the assessment of potential impacts of the operational temperature regime on fisheries.

6. "With the APA undertaking active reconsideration of the scope and scale of the project (e.g. lowering the Watana Dam height, building Devil Canyon first, only building one dam, etc.) can the Department adequately evaluate the fishery impacts to be expected from the project?"

The ADF&G has not been provided plans and specifications for alternatives to the Susitna Hydroelectric Project other than those contained in the Draft Exhibit E. Therefore we are unable to assess the related impacts to fisheries ~~attributable to those alternatives.~~

Sincerely,

  
for Don W. Collinsworth  
Commissioner

cc: R. Logan  
C. Yanagawa  
R. Redick  
D. Daisy  
A. Kingsbury