

# STATE OF ALASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

### OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

ESTES ✓  
JAY S. HAMMOND, GOVERNOR

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JUNEAU, ALASKA 99802  
PHONE: 465-4100

April 28, 1982

Mr. Jeff Weltzin, Energy Coordinator  
Northern Alaska Environmental Center  
218 Driveway  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Mr. Weltzin:

Thank you for your interest in the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's involvement in the Susitna Hydroelectric project. In response to your letter dated April 14, 1982, I will attempt to clarify for you my Department's position with regard to the division of labor between the various divisions.

First, as I understand the events of the teleconference you refer to, Director Logan's remarks resulted from a question by Representative Fanning to the effect that, if no additional funding is forthcoming for the Habitat Division, how would the Division do the necessary Su Hydro work? In my Department, when a project is proposed, whether it be a mining, road or port harbor project, the Habitat Division solicits comments and evaluations of the projects probable impacts on fish and wildlife resources from the management divisions before issuing a permit or commenting to the proponent. In this light, the Susitna Project is no different than other projects. I will admit that this project has elicited a large volume of reports, all of which will need to be reviewed.

To answer your specific questions, I have initiated a specific intradepartmental team chaired by Deputy Commissioner Collinsworth to review the feasibility report and provide me guidance on mitigation options. The Team will be made of members of the Fisheries Divisions (FRED, Sport Fish and Commercial Fish) and the Game Division. The Habitat Division, with direction from this Team, will then be able to respond to the requirements of Title 16.

As with most Departments of this type, adequate funding is usually not available to respond to all projects and it is essential, therefore, that we continue to carefully rank our workload. I expect that in so doing, we will give the Susitna Project appropriate emphasis. The adequacy of our staffing and funding will be determined to a significant degree by the FY 83 general fund budget.

Jeff Weltzin

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April 28, 1982

I hope that this has adequately addressed your concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ronald O. Skoog", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ronald O. Skoog  
Commissioner

cc: Don Collinsworth  
Richard Logan