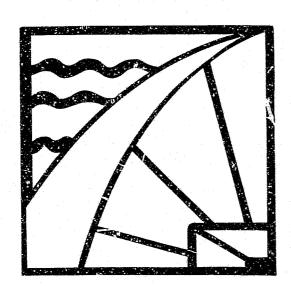
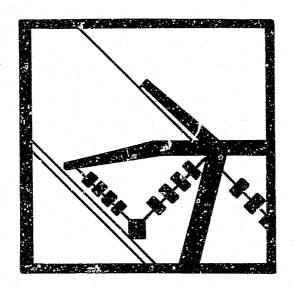


ALASKA POWER AUTHORITY



SUSITIVA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT



DESIGN TRANSMITTAL

TASK 2: ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVE
TRANSPORTATION MODES FOR CAMP RESUPPLY

FEBRUARY 1980



ALASKA POWER AUTHORITY SUSITNA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

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TASK 2: ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION MODES FOR CAMP RESUPPLY

FEBRUARY 1980

PREPARED BY: C. A. DEBELIUS

APPROVED BY: J. D. LAWRENCE

SUSITNA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

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1 - INTRODUCTION

This transmittal presents the results of an analysis to compare alternative transportation modes for resupply of camp facilities for the Susitna Hydroelectric Project at Watana Dam Site during the period March, 1980 through June, 1982.

The Plan of Study (POS) submitted to Alaska Power Authority (APA) on September-11, 1979, envisioned the construction early in Phase I of an airfield at the proposed field camp site so that fixed-wing aircraft could be used to resupply the camp with perishables, spare parts, and light consumables as well as to transport personnel back and forth to the camp site throughout the Project. Heavy resupply, particularly for fuel, would be accomplished in winter when overland transportation would be possible. The first concept had involved military forces for construction of the airfield as a tactical exercise. Subsequent to submission of the POS, it was agreed that ACRES would proceed on the assumption that military support would not be available.

On November 1, 1979, ACRES provided APA with a new estimate for Phase I camp resupply transportation. Several specific line items were pertinent at that time and have since been included in cost estimates submitted in support of the APA-ACRES contract documents. These items follow:

- (a) Under Subtask 2.02:
 - Transportation (the cost of air transportation to and from camp during the contract period) \$ 510,000
- (b) Under Subtask 2.03:
 - Design and construction management (including work by R & M and ACRES)
 Construction
 \$ 33,000
 \$ 1,123,800
- (c) Total camp resupply by air \$1,666,800

Certain assumptions were made in good faith in support of these costs:

- (i) BLM would permit use of Rolligons during the summer months to permit removal of airfield construction equipment as soon as the airfield was completed, or Hercules Aircraft would be used to remove construction equipment.
- (ii) 132,000 cubic yards of fill and 150,000 cubic yards of crushed rock will be required. (No actual site survey was then available to produce more precise quantity estimates.)
- (iii) Food and lodging for construction personnel would be provided as a portion of the total camp operation cost.

2 - SUMMARY

Three alternatives for camp resupply have been considered:

- Use of large aircraft
- Use of light aircraft
- Use of helicopters

Cost comparisons indicate that the most cost-effective alternative is that of using helicopters, for at least the first year of camp operation, with a consequent savings in Phase I costs of approximately \$100,000. However, some of this amount may be consumed by the additional requirements of warehousing and passenger scheduling services. Nevertheless, it is recommended that the camp be supplied using helicopters for the initial year of operation.

3 - PROBLEM

A field reconnaissance undertaken by CIRI/H & N suggests that significantly more cubic yards of material than had earlier been estimated would be required at the site of the proposed airstrip. In addition, BLM has now indicated that Rolligon transportation in the summer months is not likely to be permitted. The net result is that staggering increases in airfield construction cost estimates have now occurred. Indeed, the original FMA estimate (ATTACHMENT 1) supporting a cost of \$1.1 to \$1.4 million must now be compared to estimates by CIRI/H & N of \$5.0 to \$6.1 million (ATTACHMENT 2). Equipment rental alone, since no summer removal is possible by Rolligon and since Hercules removal would require a runway even longer than that proposed, would run on the order of \$2.0 million.

In order to provide independent review and confirmation of the CIRI/H & N estimate, ACRES has asked FMA to prepare an evaluation (ATTACHMENT 3). A preliminary response from FMA suggests a potential reduction to \$3.7 million (ATTACHMENT 3). For purposes of further analysis, we assume a cost of \$4 million for constructing and instrumenting an airfield for large aircraft. Simply stated, the problem is as follows:

AIR RESUPPLY OPERATIONS FOR THE CAMP SHOULD BE CONDUCTED IN SUCH A WAY THAT TOTAL COSTS OF THIS ACTIVITY ARE MINIMIZED AND, TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, KEPT WITHIN THE NOVEMBER 1, 1979 ESTIMATE.

4 - ALTERNATIVES FOR RESUPPLY

Three alternatives were considered for resupply. Each is described in succeeding paragraphs.

4.1 - Use of large Aircraft

This approach would involve continuation of the original concept, but at a significantly higher cost.

Cost includes:

(a) Phase I

 Design and construction management Airfield construction Air transportation 90 Hercules trips @ \$4,000 (Note that a loaded Herc can land on a 5,300 foot runway and take off empty. A loaded Herc requires 6,300 feet to take off.) 	\$ 33,000 \$4,000,000 \$ 360,000
- 300 trips by light aircraft at \$500/trip	\$ 150,000
- Subtotal, Phase I	\$4,543,000
(b) Phase II	
- Air transportation	\$ 510,000
(c) TOTAL, Phase I and II	\$5,053,000

4.2 - Use of Light Aircraft

This approach assumes construction of a 3,000-foot runway and total resupply by light aircraft. Precise cost estimates for such a strip have not been prepared, but it is clear they would substantiate the need for \$2 million in equipment rentals and perhaps 3/5 of the remaining \$2 million. Thus, costs are assumed as follows:

(a) Phase I

Design and construction managementAirfield constructionAir transportation	\$ 33,000 3,200,000
Daily trips, say 800 @ \$500 - Increased heavy lift by	400,000
Rolligon in winter	250,000
- Subtotal, Phase I	\$3,883,000

(b) Phase II

	- Air transport - Rolligons	\$ 400,000 250,000
	- Subtotal, Phase II	\$ 650,000
(c)	TOTAL, Phase I and II	\$4,533,000

4.3 - Use of Helicopters

This approach assumes design and construction of a helicopter pad only. Construction would use some in-place equipment to construct camp gravel pad. Daily use of a large helicopter (such as a Bell 205A-1) in months of May through September is assumed and daily trips by a smaller helicopter (such as Bell 206B) are assumed in other months.

(a) Phase I

	Design and construction padTrips by Bell 205A-1	\$	25,000
	12 mos \times 30 dys \times 3 hrs \times \$890*	\$	931,200
	- Trips by Bell 206B		
	16 nis x 30 <u>dys</u> x 3 hrs x \$370*		532,800
	- Increased heavy lift by Rolligon in winter	\$	250,000
	- Assume non-flying days for weather @ 15%, or .15(961,200 + 532,800) rounded out		(225,000)
	- Subtotal Phase I	\$1	,544,000
(b)	Phase II (same less \$25,000)	\$1	,519,000
(c)	TOTAL Phases I and II	\$3	,063,000

*Rates provided by Sea Airmotive, Inc. Normally, a contract rate will be equivalent to three times the cost of an hourly rate, so that several trips may actually be made in any given day.

5 - ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVES

It must be kept in mind that a heavy-lift airfield is likely to be required by the time project construction commences. While such a cost can be deferred initially, it cannot be entirely avoided. A discussion of each alternative follows:

5.1 - Use of Large Aircraft

While the cost for this alternative is clearly greatest, it has the advantage of providing a facility available for use throughout the entire project period, including project construction and beyond through plant operation. It would ensure a heavy lift capability in summer for unforeseen emergencies. It also would offer the possiblility of better all-weather operation than the helicopter alternative. Disadvantages include:

(a) High cost,

(b) Requirement for a wetlands permit, which may cause some delay,

(c) Commitment to major capital cost prior to the Go-No-Go decision and

(d) Possible significant costs for snow clearing in winter.

5.2 - Use of Light Aircraft

While the initial cost for this approach is slightly less than for that for large aircraft, a significant cost for lengthening the original strip would have to be incurred later. All of the above disadvantages remain in force, but the unforeseen heavy-lift emergency can no longer be accommodated.

5.3 - <u>Use of Helicopters</u>

This approach was originally discounted on the ground that its \$3.2 million cost for Phases I and II significantly exceeded the \$2.2 million originally estimated for the work in Phase I and II. (\$2.2 million is the sum of \$1.7 million cited in Paragraph 1 (c) for Phase I and \$0.5 million for air transportation during Phase II.) This approach offers certain advantages:

(a) The Phase I costs remain approximately the same as estimated.

(b) Operations can probably begin without a gravel pad, thereby avoiding wetland permit delay.

(c) Capital investment prior to Go-No-Go decision is minimized. (d) An exclusive contract with a helicopter charter service could

further reduce costs estimated for hourly rates.

(e) Some sharing of helicopter time for field support (such as drop-offs enroute to Talkeetna) could reduce pressure on tight field helicopter support estimates.

f) The camp area is more easily restored to its original condition if

no actual project is undertaken.

Disadvantages include:

- (a) Loss of emergency heavy-lift capability for unforeseen events,
- (b) Deferrment of capital costs which must ultimately be invested if a project is ever to be built,
- (c) Greater sensitivity to poor weather conditions, and
- (d) An increase in the costs originally estimated for Phase II (In the amount of approximately \$1 million).

6 - RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- (a) The helicopter alternative be selected as preferred for at least the first year of operation of the camp until the Go-No-Go decision is reached.
- This issue be reviewed prior to January 1981 so that equipment for airfield construction can be brought to the camp in February 1981 if necessary.
- No change be made in estimated costs for Phase I until operational experience proves up the possibility of saving approximately \$100,000* in Phase I.
- APA approve these recommendations as soon as possible so that they can be incorporated in the revised POS.

Charles A. Debelius, P.E.

Study Director

*This cost may have to be incurred in the event that the helicopter charter service is unable to provide a receiving warehouse and passenger scheduling service. We are currently evaluating such a requirement and will attempt to include it as a work statement in helicopter subcontracting.

FM . R. M. JENS

SUBJECT: SUSITNA AIRSTRIP COST ESTIMATE

SHOWN BELOW IS THE COST ESTIMATE YOU REQUESTED FOR CONSTRUCTION OF AN AIRSTRIP TO ALLOW HERCULES TAKEOFF AND LANDINGS AT THE WATANA DAMSITE. THE FOLLOWING ASSUMPTIONS WERE MADE IN FORMULA-TING THE COST ESTIMATE:

- .THE LENGTH OF THE STRIP WAS ESTABLISHED AT 6300 TO ALLOW TAKEOFF OR LOADED AIRPLANES TO FACILITATE EQUIP-MENT REMOVAL. IF ONLY LANDING OF LOADED AIRPLANES IS REQUIRED THEN THE STRIP CAN BE SHORTENED TO 5300 FEET.
- .. NO ALLOWANCE HAS BEEN MADE FOR DRILLING AND SHOOTING THE MATERIAL SITE. IT IS ASSUMED THAT D-8'S WITH . RIPPERS CAN DEVELOP THE MATERIAL SITE.
 - .ALLOWANCES WERE MADE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A MAXI-MUM OF 10,000 FEET OF ACCESS ROAD FROM THE MATERIAL SITE TO THE AIRSTRIP SITE. IN REALITY, THE COST OF THIS ACCESS ROAD MAY BE ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE ENTIRE PROJECT AND NOT JUST FOR THE AIRSTRIP.
 - -ROOM AND BOARD AND PERSONNEL TRANSPORTATION COSTS WERE NOT INCLUDED IN THE FIGURES SHOWN.

. . . . SUSITNA AIRSTRIP - COST ESTIMATE

150' X 6300' WITH 100' X 200' LOAD/UNLOAD PAD ACCESS ROAD: ASSUME MAXIMUM OF 10,000° X 30° ACCESS ROAD: ASSUME MAXIMUM OF 10,000° X 30° ACCESS ROAD: 110,000CY AIRSTRIP & PAD: 22,000CY ACCESS ROAD: 132,000CY AIRSTRIP & PAD: 132,000CY AIRSTRIP & PAD: 150,000CY AIRSTRIP & PAD: 150,000CY

\$ 99,000 13,500

792,000

COSTS

MATERIALS:

• EMBANKMENT (\$.75/CY)
• TOP COURSE (\$.75/CY)

-NAVIGATION AIDS (BEACON & VASI

LIGHTING)
LABOR & EQUIPMENT:

.PROCESS, LOAD, HAUL, PLACE EMBANKMENT (\$6.00/CY)

. . PROCESS, LOAD, HAUL, PLACE TOP

COURSE (\$12.50/CY)

MOBILIZATION/DEMOBILIZATION:

.CAT TRAIN (DOZERS, LOADERS, .85

MECH TRUCKS, ETC.)

HERC FLIGHTS (URUSHER, DUMP TRUCKS, R(LLER, GRADER)

-EQUIPMENT SETUP & TEARDOWN (20 MDAY AT \$250/MD) ----TOTAL

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December 18, 1979

Mr. Mike Jenns Frank Moolin & Associates 3201 C Street Suite 600 Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Dear Mike:

In connection with the construction of camp facilities in support of the Susitna Feasibility Study, CIRI/Holmes & Narver has prepared detailed estimates for construction of two alternative runways at the proposed camp site. As you can see from the attachments, these estimates range from just over \$5 million to more than \$6 million depending upon runway length. Needless to say, these amounts are significantly more than you had earlier estimated in connection with our representation to the Power Authority. I would very much appreciate your review of the CIRI work with a view toward either confirming that these estimates are reasonable or providing me with your latest opinion as to the cost of constructing a runway.

A particularly significant cost in the total described by CIRI has to do with equipment rental. It is the position of CIRI/H&N that any equipment brought in during the winter of 1980 cannot be removed from the camp site until the winter of 1981. The constraint appears to be on the ability to use rolligons during the summertime.

In the event that you consider these new estimates as correct or nearly so, it is clear to us that we need to consider the alternative of resupplying the camp by helipcoters. In this latter case, we would propose to bring a year's supply of fuel in by rolligon, and use helicopters to carry passengers in and out of the camp as well as to transport perishables and certain spare parts which may be needed in the course of the work. My initial analysis indicates that this could possibly be accomplished by planning one trip per day using Hueys from either Talketna or Anchorage. In the wintertime I suspect that this function could be performed using one Huey trip every two or three days to support the camp. I would appreciate it if you would get the latest rates from various charter services, particularly if we were to enter into a contract for an extended period for providing support of this type. This might be arranged either by contracting for a certain number of hours every month or by contracting for a certain number of trips each month. My own analysis supports the thought that in the event the runway exceeds about \$1.3 million, the helicopter support approach becomes the favorite alternative. Would you be so kind as to give me your own views in this regard?

ACRES AMERICAN INCORPORATED

Consulting Engineers
Suite 329. The Clark Building
Columbia, Maryland 21044

Telephone 301-992-5300 Washington Line 301-596-5595

Other Offices: Buffalo, NY: Pittsburgh, PA: Raleigh, NC: Washington, DC

Mr. Mike Jenns December 18, 1979

Page 2

I would very much appreciate your response to these items within the next few days since the question of airfield construction significantly impacts upon the extent to which we arrange for rolligon transportation from Denali Highway to the proposed camp site.

It now appears that I will not be in Alaska again until sometime after the first of the year. Please accept my best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy Holiday, and please do extend my regards to Frank as well. All of us wish him a speedy recovery.

Sincerely,

C. A. Debelius, P.E. Deputy Project Manager

cc: J. D. Lawrence

J. G. Warnock

J. D. Gill

Attachments: as stated

CAD:jr



Frank Modin & Associates, inc.

REVIEW OF MEMOS & WHEVER ESTIMATE

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