

**SUSITNA  
HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT**

**FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
PROJECT No. 7114**

**PUBLIC SECTOR  
FOLLOW-UP SURVEY REPORT**

**HARZA-EBASCO  
SUSITNA JOINT VENTURE**

**FINAL REPORT**

**JUNE 1955  
DOCUMENT NO. 2931**

***Alaska Power Authority***

SUSITNA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

PUBLIC SECTOR FOLLOW-UP SURVEY REPORT

Report by  
Harza-Ebasco Susitna Joint Venture

Prepared for  
Alaska Power Authority

Final Report  
June 1985

**NOTICE**

**ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS CONCERNING  
THIS REPORT SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO  
THE ALASKA POWER AUTHORITY  
SUSITNA PROJECT OFFICE**

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The communities of Talkeetna, Trapper Creek, Cantwell, and Healy have been identified as potential impact areas of the Susitna Hydroelectric Project. An inventory of the socioeconomic characteristics of these communities has been undertaken to provide the baseline information necessary to forecast project-related impacts.

The public sector survey was conducted to obtain information about public facilities and services in Talkeetna, Trapper Creek, Cantwell, and Healy. Information obtained from the survey identified employment, service, and client characteristics for each public agency in the communities. The survey was conducted in 1983 for Talkeetna, Trapper Creek, and Cantwell. In 1985, information was updated for these three communities and Healy was surveyed for the first time.

## 2.0 APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

The agencies surveyed were identified from several sources, including contacts made during the project feasibility study, the 1983 survey, other Susitna project surveys, and telephone listings. Thirty-one of 32 identified agencies responded, representing a 97 percent response rate.

The agencies surveyed are listed in Table 1. These agencies include federal and state departments as well as public schools and libraries. Between November 14 and 18, 1983, representatives of 19 agencies located in Talkeetna, Trapper Creek, and Cantwell were interviewed by telephone from Anchorage. Between April 23 and 26, 1985 representatives from these 19 agencies were again interviewed to update the information obtained in 1983. During this 1985 period interviews were conducted for the first time with eight agencies in Healy, two in Cantwell, one in Talkeetna, and one in Trapper Creek. When possible, the manager of each agency was interviewed. In cases where the manager was unavailable or did not have the requested information, the interviewer solicited the name of an agency contact who could provide the information.

The questionnaire used in 1983 consisted of 22 questions and required approximately 10 to 15 minutes to administer, depending upon the availability of information and the length of answers. The questionnaire used for Healy in 1985 was the same as that used in 1983 except that questions concerning operating budget were deleted. These questions were deleted because the 1983 survey found that local agency workers could not accurately answer the questions. The follow-up survey for Talkeetna, Trapper Creek, and Cantwell, conducted in 1985 consisted of 10 questions and required 5 to 10 minutes to administer. Samples of the 1983 and follow-up questionnaires are in Appendix A.

The surveys provided information on employment in the public sector on a community and area-wide basis. The results are summarized below.

TABLE 1  
Agencies Interviewed  
1985

Community	Agency
Talkeetna	Alaska Railroad, Talkeetna Station Department of Transportation and Public Facilities Federal Aviation Administration, Flight Service Station National Weather Service, Meteorological Office Susitna Valley High School Talkeetna Community School Talkeetna Elementary School Talkeetna Public Library Talkeetna Volunteer Fire Department United States Postal Service, Talkeetna Post Office
Cantwell	Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities Alaska Railroad, Cantwell Section Cantwell School, Railbelt School District Cantwell Volunteer Ambulance Service Cantwell Volunteer Fire Department Department of Public Safety, Alaska State Troopers Department of Public Safety, Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection United States Postal Service, Cantwell Post Office



Healy

Alaska Railroad, Healy Section  
Central office, Railbelt School District  
Department of Transportation and Public Facilities  
District Magistrate Court  
Healy Clinic  
Healy Volunteer Fire Department  
Tri-Valley School, Railbelt School District  
United States Postal Service, Healy Post Office

Trapper Creek

Trapper Creek Elementary School  
Trapper Creek Post Office  
Department of Transportation and Public Facilities  
Department of Public Safety, Alaska State Troopers  
Trapper Creek Community School

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### 3.0 PROJECT AREA RESULTS

#### 3.1 Geographic Location and Duration.

Most of the agency offices in each of the four communities were near the center of the community they served. Their location made them accessible to the majority of the community residents. Most of the agencies interviewed had been established in their respective community for 10 years or more; the newest office opened in 1983.

#### 3.2 Employment

The majority of the employees for all agencies combined had been residents of the community for more than one year. In most communities, full-time and part-time employment at agencies, excluding schools, was stable throughout the year. One exception was Cantwell, where the number of full-time employees increased by one-half during the winter. The other exception was Trapper Creek, where the number of part-time employees doubled during the summer months. As would be expected, schools maintained only a small staff, ranging from zero to five part-time employees during the summer months.

Of the 25 agencies other than schools, 15 used part-time summer employees and 16 used part-time winter employees. In most communities, the number of part-time employees was larger than the number of full-time employees for either season.

Eight of the 31 agencies responded that they had experienced problems in the last fiscal year. Problems mentioned included budget constraints, availability of workers, inadequacy of facilities, structural problems with the facilities, and increasing enrollment (schools) without additional staff.

TABLE 2  
EMPLOYMENT BY SEASON, EXCLUDING SCHOOLS  
1983-1984  
(Number of Employees)

Community	<u>Summer 1984</u>		<u>Winter 1983-84</u>	
	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time
Talkeetna	19	10	18	9
Trapper Creek	21	10	11	10
Cantwell	17 <sup>1/</sup>	14	16 <sup>1/</sup>	20
Healy	<u>26</u>	<u>24<sup>1/</sup></u>	<u>28</u>	<u>22<sup>1/</sup></u>
TOTAL	83	58	73	61

<sup>1/</sup> This number represents the mid-point of a range that respondents provided.

Source: Harza-Ebascc Public Sector Survey, April 1985.

TABLE 3  
EMPLOYMENT BY SEASON FOR SCHOOLS  
1983-1984  
(Number of Employees)

Community	<u>Summer 1984</u>		<u>Winter 1983-84</u>	
	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time
Talkeetna <sup>1/</sup>	52 <sup>2/</sup>	4	13	33
Trapper Creek	0	1	13	6
Cantwell	0	0	1	6
Healy	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>20</u>
TOTAL	5	5	31	65

<sup>1/</sup> Includes Susitna Valley High School.

<sup>2/</sup> Varies, but estimated at 5.

Source: Harza-Ebasco Public Sector Survey, April 1985.

TABLE 4  
CHANGE IN FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT BY SEASON<sup>1/</sup>  
1978-1984  
(Number of Employees)

Community	Summer							Winter 1983-84						
	1978	'79	'80	'81	'82	'83	'84	1978	'79	'80	'81	'82	'83	'84
Talkeetna	13	13	12	12	12	16	14	30	30	26	26	27	30	42
Trapper Creek	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	14	14	14	16
Cantwell	11	12	12	14	14	14	12	16	18	16	19	18	19	26
Healy <sup>2/</sup>	--	<u>24</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>42</u>
TOTAL	33	58	59	61	60	65	61	44	89	82	103	104	105	124

<sup>1/</sup> Data on schools are included.

<sup>2/</sup> No data for 1978, numbers represent mid-points for ranges given by the respondents. The lower total employment for the summer of 1978 reflect the missing data for Healy being treated as zero.

Source: Harza-Ebasco Public Sector Survey, April 1985.

### 3.3 Future Development

One agency planned to reduce service levels in 1986. Five of the 31 agencies planned to expand their existing service levels, but for three of these, the plans were either uncertain or depended on whether the future budget would be adequate.

## 4.0 RESULTS BY COMMUNITY

### 4.1 Talkeetna

Of the 10 Talkeetna agencies interviewed, 8 had been established in the community longer than 5 years. All of the agencies had been in Talkeetna more than five years.

The survey results indicated that the levels of employment in Talkeetna were stable year round in all of the agencies, with the exception of the two public schools. The higher average employment level in the schools during the winter could be attributed to the seasonality of school operation. The employment levels by season are presented in Tables 2 and 3.

Full-time employment by season since 1978 is presented for Talkeetna in Table 4. As shown, during the 1978-1983 period, employment levels fluctuated slightly in the summer and winter. In 1984, however, there was a substantial increase in the number of full-time winter employees, though the number of full-time summer employees remained relatively constant. This cannot be attributed to the one additional agency surveyed in 1985 because all of these employees were part-time. Rather, it is the product of an increase in school employment. Most of the employees for both summer and winter had resided in Talkeetna for more than one year.

Two of the agencies had experienced problems in the last fiscal year, including inadequate facilities and insufficient staffing. Three of the 10

remaining agencies anticipated maintaining their current level of service, at least in the short term.

#### 4.2 Trapper Creek

The Trapper Creek survey included interviews with six agencies. Each agency had been established in Trapper Creek for a minimum of five years. Two of the agencies had been located in the community for more than 10 years.

Full-time employment remained constant from summer to winter in Trapper Creek at agencies other than the schools. Similar to Talkeetna, winter employment in Trapper Creek was higher than summer employment at agencies other than schools due to when schools were in session (Tables 2 and 3). Part-time employment at agencies other than schools, however, was almost double in the winter what it was in the summer (Tables 2 and 3). Full-time employment levels for the past seven years had been fairly stable with a total increase of five employees from 1978 to 1984.

One agency experienced problems during the past year, citing structural problems with the building. Only one of the agencies had plans to increase services.

#### 4.3 Cantwell

Eight agencies participated in the Cantwell survey. All but 1 of the 8 agencies had been established in the community for more than 10 years; 4 agencies had been established for more than 20 years. The oldest agency was formed in 1923.

Part-time employment in Cantwell remained stable from winter to summer at agencies other than schools. Full-time employment, however, decreased from 20 in the winter to 14 in the summer. Similar to Trapper Creek and Talkeetna, school employment decreased substantially during the summer months. The agencies reported an increase in full-time winter employment

over the past 7 years from 16 to 26 persons. Full-time summer employment remained fairly stable over the past 7 years (Table 4). All of the employees were residents of Cantwell for one year or more.

One of the agencies reported that funding problems were causing inadequate staffing during the summer. None of the agencies had plans to change service levels.

#### 4.4. Healy

The Healy survey included interviews with eight agencies. All 8 had been in the community for at least 10 years, and 4 of these had been established for over 20 years.

The survey results indicated that the level of part-time and full-time employment in Healy at agencies other than schools remained fairly constant from winter to summer. The seasonality of school employment caused summer employment in the schools to be substantially lower than in the winter months (Tables 2 and 3). Full-time employment by season is presented in Table 4. From 1979 to 1985, employment remained constant at the eight agencies interviewed.

Two of the eight agencies had experienced problems in the last fiscal year due to lack of funding for additional staffing. None of the eight agencies had plans for expansion; seven anticipated maintaining their current level of service.



# APPENDIX

## APPENDIX A

Questionnaire # \_\_\_\_\_

Community \_\_\_\_\_

Interviewer \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**SUSITNA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT**  
**1983 PUBLIC SECTOR SURVEY**

Agency Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address:

Mailing: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (907) \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Representative Interviewed:

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

First Contact Attempt

Contact Made: 1. YES \_\_\_\_\_  
2. NO \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

Second Contact Attempt

Contact Made: 1. YES \_\_\_\_\_  
2. NO \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

Third Contact Attempt

Contact Made: 1. YES \_\_\_\_\_  
2. NO \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am conducting a survey for the Alaska Power Authority, as part of the Susitna Hydroelectric Project. A more complete understanding of the public and governmental agencies in the area is needed to plan for the construction and operation of the Project. The survey questions are about your agency and its plans for the future.

We would like you to participate in this survey. Your answers will be confidential and voluntary, and will be greatly appreciated.

Q-1 What are the main services your agency provides from this office?

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Q-2 What geographical area or areas does this office serve?

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Q-3 What special groups, if any, does this office serve?

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Q-4 How many years has this office been in this community?

- a. \_\_\_\_\_ (code)  
b. \_\_\_\_\_ (actual number of years)

1. LESS THAN 1
2. 1-2
3. 3-5
4. 6-10
5. MORE THAN 10

Q-5 How many persons, including yourself, were employed during the summer of 1984? (Be sure to include people who work under contract, such as clerical workers, janitorial service workers, food service workers, and/or bus drivers.)

FULL-TIME (more than 34 hrs/week) \_\_\_\_\_

PART-TIME (less than 34 hrs/week) \_\_\_\_\_

Q-6 Were most of these summer 1984 employees people who lived here for one year or more, or people who lived here for less than one year; or a mixture of both?

1. RESIDENT FOR ONE YEAR OR MORE \_\_\_\_\_

2. RESIDENT FOR LESS THAN ONE YEAR \_\_\_\_\_

3. MIXTURE OF BOTH TYPES OF RESIDENTS \_\_\_\_\_

Q-7 How many persons, including yourself, were employed during the winter of 1983-84? (Be sure to include people who work under contract, such as clerical workers, janitorial service workers, food service workers, and/or bus drivers.)

FULL-TIME (more than 34 hrs/week) \_\_\_\_\_

PART-TIME (less than 34 hrs/week) \_\_\_\_\_

Q-8 Were most of these winter 1983-84 employees people who lived here for one year or more, or people who lived here for less than one year; or a mixture of both?

1. RESIDENT FOR ONE YEAR OR MORE \_\_\_\_\_

2. RESIDENT FOR LESS THAN ONE YEAR \_\_\_\_\_

3. MIXTURE OF BOTH TYPES OF RESIDENTS \_\_\_\_\_

Q-9 How many persons, including yourself, were employed during the summer in the last 5 years? (Be sure to include people who worked under contract.)

	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978
FULL-TIME					
(>34 hrs/wk)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
PART-TIME					
(<34 hrs/wk)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Q-10 How many persons, including yourself, were employed during the winter in the last 5 years? (Be sure to include people who worked under contract.)

	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978
FULL-TIME					
(>34 hrs/wk)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
PART-TIME					
(<34 hrs/wk)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Q-11 What is your office's budget for this community for this fiscal year?

\_\_\_\_\_

Q-12 What are your fiscal year dates?

\_\_\_\_\_

Q-13 What month do you begin preparing your budget for the next fiscal year?

\_\_\_\_\_

Q-14a How does the present fiscal year's budget for this office compare to the budgets in the previous 5 years?

1. A LOT MORE IN THIS BUDGET THAN IN PREVIOUS YEARS \_\_\_\_\_
2. MORE IN THIS BUDGET THAN IN PREVIOUS YEARS \_\_\_\_\_
3. ABOUT THE SAME IN THIS BUDGET AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS \_\_\_\_\_
4. LESS IN THIS BUDGET THAN IN PREVIOUS YEARS \_\_\_\_\_
5. A LOT LESS IN THIS BUDGET THAN IN PREVIOUS YEARS \_\_\_\_\_
6. FLUCTUATED, NO CONSISTENT PATTERN \_\_\_\_\_
7. NO BASIS FOR COMPARISON \_\_\_\_\_

IF 1, 2, 4, 5, or 6, THEN:

Q-14b What are the main factors which contributed to this change in the budget?

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Q-15a Did your agency experience any problems in the last fiscal year?

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. YES  
\_\_\_\_\_ 2. NO

IF YES, THEN:

Q-15b What were those problems?

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Q-16a Does your office have any plans to expand its services in this area?

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. YES  
\_\_\_\_\_ 2. NO  
\_\_\_\_\_ 3. NOT SURE

IF YES, ASK NEXT TWO QUESTIONS.

Q-16b What are your expansion plans?

WHERE \_\_\_\_\_

WHEN \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF NEW HIRES \_\_\_\_\_

BUDGETED/FUNDING \_\_\_\_\_

Q-16c Are there any factors which would limit your expansion plans?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Q-17a Does your office have any plans to decrease its level of service in the next fiscal year?

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. YES

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. NO

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. NOT SURE

IF YES, THEN

Q-17b What are these plans?

WHERE \_\_\_\_\_

WHEN \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_



Questionnaire # \_\_\_\_\_  
Community \_\_\_\_\_  
Interviewer \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

SUSITNA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT  
FOLLOW-UP PUBLIC SECTOR SURVEY

Agency Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address:

Mailing: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (907) \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Representative Interviewed:

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Completed:

1. YES \_\_\_\_\_

2. NO \_\_\_\_\_

If not, why \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am conducting a survey for the Alaska Power Authority, as part of the Susitna Hydroelectric Project. Last year, we spoke to \_\_\_\_\_ of your agency and obtained information about your services. This year I would like to update our information. Your participation is voluntary and your information confidential. Do you mind if I ask you a few questions?

Q-1 Are the main services your agency provides from this office?

YES \_\_\_\_\_

NO \_\_\_\_\_ CHANGES? \_\_\_\_\_

Q-2 Do you still serve \_\_\_\_\_  
from this office?

YES \_\_\_\_\_

NO \_\_\_\_\_ CHANGES? \_\_\_\_\_

Q-3 Do you still serve the special groups of \_\_\_\_\_ from this office?

YES \_\_\_\_\_

NO \_\_\_\_\_ CHANGES? \_\_\_\_\_

Q-4 Is it correct that your office has been in this community for \_\_\_\_\_  
years? \_\_\_\_\_ (actual number of years) (last year +1)

YES \_\_\_\_\_

NO \_\_\_\_\_ CHANGES? \_\_\_\_\_

Q-5 How many persons, including yourself, were employed during the summer of 1984? (Be sure to include people who work under contract, such as clerical workers, janitorial service workers, food service workers, and/or bus drivers.)

FULL-TIME (more than 34 hrs/week) \_\_\_\_\_

PART-TIME (less than 34 hrs/week) \_\_\_\_\_

Q-6 Were most of these summer 1984 employees people who lived here for one year or more, or people who lived here for less than one year; or a mixture of both?

1. RESIDENT FOR ONE YEAR OR MORE \_\_\_\_\_
2. RESIDENT FOR LESS THAN ONE YEAR \_\_\_\_\_
3. MIXTURE OF BOTH TYPES OF RESIDENTS \_\_\_\_\_

Q-7 How many persons, including yourself, were employed during the winter of 1983-84? (Be sure to include people who work under contract, such as clerical workers, janitorial service workers, food service workers, and/or bus drivers.)

FULL-TIME (more than 34 hrs/week) \_\_\_\_\_

PART-TIME (less than 34 hrs/week) \_\_\_\_\_

Q-8 Were most of these winter 1983-84 employees people who lived here for one year or more, or people who lived here for less than one year; or a mixture of both?

1. RESIDENT FOR ONE YEAR OR MORE \_\_\_\_\_
2. RESIDENT FOR LESS THAN ONE YEAR \_\_\_\_\_
3. MIXTURE OF BOTH TYPES OF RESIDENTS \_\_\_\_\_

What is your office's budget for this community for this fiscal year (FY85?) (Includes both operations and maintenance and capital expenditure monies.)

\_\_\_\_\_

What month do you begin preparing your budget for the next fiscal year?

\_\_\_\_\_

Q-9a Did your agency experience any problems the last fiscal year?

1. YES \_\_\_\_\_
2. NO \_\_\_\_\_

IF YES, THEN:

Q-9b What were those problems?

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Q-10a Is there a need to expand your office?

1. YES \_\_\_\_\_
2. NO \_\_\_\_\_
3. NOT SURE \_\_\_\_\_

Q-10b Do you know if there are expansion plans for your office?

YES \_\_\_\_\_

NO \_\_\_\_\_

UNSURE \_\_\_\_\_

Q-10c IF YES, THEN:

What are these plans?

WHERE \_\_\_\_\_

WHEN \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER COMMENTS? \_\_\_\_\_

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