REVIEW OF REPORTS

Cook Inlet and Tributaries
Copper River and Gulf Coast
Tanana River Basin
Yukon and Kuskokwim River Basins

SOUTHCENTRAL-RAILBELT AREA, ALASKA
(Hydroelectric Power Study)

PUBLIC HEARING
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
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Prepared by
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SECTION I

TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING

P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

COL. DEBELIUS: Good evening, Ladies and Gentlemen. My name is Col. Chuck Debelius. I'm the Alaska District Engineer. I'd like to welcome all of you this evening to our public hearing on the Southcentral Railbelt Study about which I'll speak in a few moments. I'd like to begin, however by making sure that each of you will have had an opportunity to fill out one of these cards. If you haven't gotten one, please raise your hand and someone will come up and give you one. You may indicate on the card if you'd like to speak this evening. I would observe that any of you who change your mind midway through the meeting and decide that you'd like to say something, even if you've checked no, may still raise your hand later on and we'll be happy to hear from you. I would also like to observe that any of you who may desire to submit written comments to be made a part of the public record is perfectly free to do so and, in fact, if any time within the next 30 days you will submit written comments to the district, we will be able to make them a part of the record. After 30 days, if you still want to submit written comments, we'd be happy to get them, but, of course, the record can't be held up forever and we'll be publishing it by then. I would like to observe, too, that any of you who feel as if you would like to have a copy of the public record may contact the district within about a month and we will be able to furnish one to you.

I'd like to begin, first of all, by introducing some of the people at the table with me this evening and then talk a little bit about how the Corps of Engineers operates within the State of Alaska. To my left, your right, is Mr. Bob Parnell. Bob happens to be the Study Manager for the Southcentral Railbelt Study. Next to him is Mr. Weldon Opp, who is currently the Chief of our Planning Branch within the Engineering Division of the Alaska District. Next to him is Bob Cross, in charge of Planning for the Alaska Power Administration. On my right first off is Charley Cheung, Chief of Engineering within the Alaska District. And, finally, Duane Petersen, who is representing our Environmental Section this evening. Of course, the young lady over here taking copious notes is our Reporter.

I'd like to say a few words how it is that a study of the type that we have under way comes to be and

what it means to you and to me and to all of us here in the State of Alaska. And having done that, I'm going to then ask Bob Cross to make any comments he desires to make on behalf of APA, finally to ask Bob Parnell to describe a little more specifically some words about the study we're going to talk about this evening, and then turn it over to you and ask for your comments. I would ask that at that time when we turn it over to you for your comments, if you would, that you come to the front table and identify yourself by name before you begin your comments. That makes it a lot easier to keep a decent record of the proceedings.

First of all, I think you should understand that any time that the Corps of Engineers undertakes a study, either of the nature of the one we talked about this evening or virtually any other having to do with civil works in the state, or even in the country for that matter, we do it in response to a resolution in general from the Congress, and that resolution will have come to us because someone or some group will have communicated to the Congress, either to their senator or to their representative, the fact that they believe a need exists for a particular thing. Once we have received a resolution and the funds from the Congress, we are asked to undertake a study, and the study that we undertake then has to accomplish certain things and, really, although there are very many of them, I'd like to just kind of break it down into four basic things.

We are asked, first of all, to determine if there really is a need for the particular thing that we've been asked to study. Now, of course, as I indicated, someone will have told their congressman that there is a need, but we go to a public meeting such as this and we ask you to communicate to us whether you believe a need does exist for the particular thing, or if you believe a need does not exist, because, really, when it comes right down to it, the only way in which we can properly make a report to the Congress of what is or isn't needed within the area for which we're responsible is to be able to go to you as the public and ask for your reaction to the proposed thing that we're studying. And in that respect, I think it's important to note that we always have what we call the first stage public hearing, and that's the kind of thing we're having tonight. At the first stage public hearing, you really not only have a chance to influence our study in terms of your perception of need or lack thereof, but also in the event that you believe the study is appropriate in the sense of the particular thing that's being looked at, you have an opportunity, if you will, to influence that

thing. For example, when we talk about a small boat harbor in some areas, you may want to talk more about where that harbor should be if you perceive that there is a need for one. You may want to talk about what kind of protection or what kind of capacity it should have and so forth. That kind of information from the public is very important to us.

If we can determine that there is a need for a particular thing and if that comes from you, the public, we then must look at other things. We necessarily must consider what alternatives there are for satisfying that need. And this evening, for example, if it should be determined that there is a need for power production in this area, for increased power production in this area, then we have to examine alternative ways of producing that power, from two standpoints: One, from the standpoint of simply the production of power itself. And, of course, that kind of alternative would consider things like non-renewable resources in terms of oil and natural gas and coal and nuclear power and things of that nature. And, on the other hand, renewable resources in broad terms, in terms of things like solar power, wind power, geothermal power and, of course, hydroelectric power.

In sofar as the actual work on the study in the event a need is seen, our engineering analysis would primarily be concerned with analysis of hydro power, because that, after all, is the charge from the Congress. Now, I would suggest that that doesn't mean that we don't look at other alternatives when we start worrying about environmental matters. We certainly do, and about those I'll speak in a moment. Well, let's assume that we do analyze a series of alternatives. For each of those alternatives, we have to be able to make some kind of indication to the Congress whether any one of those is economically justified or all of them. And by "economic justification," we mean that the benefits to be derived from a particular project exceed the cost of constructing that project. We call it the benefit-to-cost ratio. Now, for a power project or a power study of this kind, the benefit-to-cost ratio is fairly obvious. In other words, clearly, the benefits from the project to the Federal Government come from the revenues received from the sale of power, and the cost, of course, is what it takes to build it. That's not the limit, however, on many projects. For example, even on some of the ones we might consider looking at this evening, there is always the possibility, and certainly that forms a part of our study, of multipurpose

aspects of individual projects. For example, in the event that there is a project undertaken to produce hydro power, it might also have certain recreational values, and if there are benefits to be derived from recreational values, they too form a part of this benefit-to-cost ratio.

And, finally, of the four things I mentioned, need, alternatives, and economics, there is a fourth aspect which is very important, and that is the environmental aspects of any undertaking. We must, as you know, by law prepare an environmental impact statement on any given project that we might recommend to the Congress. And I think that it's very important to understand that in some cases in the same sense that a benefit-to-cost ratio may be the bugaboo that makes us go back to the Congress and say, "We're very sorry, but we cannot recommend this project to you, because it's not economical." In the same sense, it could be true that we have to go back to the Congress and say, "I'm sorry, we cannot recommend this project to you, because the environmental disadvantages are so great they overweigh any favorable economics associated with the project." And I think all of us are aware when we talk about hydro power of the Rampart Dam project. I think, certainly, right now in a reanalysis of the Rampart Dam project, it would not be difficult to be able to report a favorable benefit-to-cost ratio, given the way in which power rates have gone up lately. But we would have an extremely difficult time reporting a favorable environmental impact on that particular project. So that's the kind of example that I would use to indicate how it is that the environmental matters can be extremely important in determinations as to whether or not a particular undertaking should go or not go.

Well, having said all that, I'd like to say just a few more words about this particular study and, as I said, Bob in a few moments will describe it in more detail. But, as you probably know, the Southcentral Railbelt area really takes in this complex which includes Anchorage and Fairbanks and extends down the Kenai Peninsula, includes Seward and so forth. It is that area of the state in which about 75 percent of the population lies, and the current power consumption in the area is very significant. There have been projections on the part of the Alaska Power Survey that would indicate certain possible growths, and certainly that kind of information becomes important to us in our analysis of a study of this type. But even more important to me than that kind of input at this time is your reaction to the need or lack thereof for the kind of study that we're doing and

for the kind of project that could come to pass if a need exists. I would suggest, though, that because this area does include a large portion of the population, it has received some attention in the past in terms, not only of growth, in terms of population, but certainly in terms of engineering possibilities. And I think we can observe that more than 40 different possible hydro power sites have been identified in the area. And, clearly, if we are to undertake a study for the Congress, we should establish some order of priority, and the order of priority which we've established to conduct the study would have us look first at the Upper Susitna River for a variety of reasons, not the least of which has to do with the fact that the potential there is very great for hydro power development. The region in which we would look is beyond the point at which migratory fish would go, and that kind of thing, because it is on the one hand economical, on the other hand the possibility of less environmental problem, and, finally, because of its central location in this great, big populated area, all lead us to look toward the Upper Susitna as the area which ought to be studied first. I expect that our entire study will probably last four or five years. Hopefully, we will be able to analyze those possibilities or potentials on the Upper Susitna within the first two years or so.

Well, having said all that, I hope I've set the stage for you. I hope that each of you will realize that as the District Engineer this evening that it is not my function to try to influence you one way or another. My function here is to receive from you, if you will, your attitudes, your observations, your comments or reservations with respect to this idea of whether or not a need exists for hydro power development and, furthermore, those of you who care to make them, your observations about what alternatives may exist, about what the economics of the situation are, about environmental matters. Now, it turns out that because this area has been looked at in the past, it's worth noting that in the late 1950's and early '60's, the Alaska Power Administration, at that time under the Bureau of Reclamation, a study was made of a particular site called Devil Canyon, and the Alaska Power Administration has recently updated that early 1960's report on Devil Canyon. I would suggest that in our analysis when we get to looking at alternatives, should a need be expressed, clearly one of the alternatives that we would have to analyze is that Alaska Power Administration proposal. That is not to say, of course, that that necessarily would represent a final project, but it is certainly worth noting that a lot of effort has been put into that particular study.

And I would like to ask Bob Cross from APA if he would care to to make a few comments on what APA's involvement has been. After Bob is through, Bob Parnell will speak for a few moments, show you some slides about the area we're concerned with, and then we'll ask you for your public comment. So with that, I'll turn it over to Bob Cross. Bob?

MR. CROSS: Thank you, Colonel. And I'll be very brief. The Colonel just mentioned that our office, Alaska Power Administration, has updated some of the earlier studies on Devil Canyon and I have here the report, what it looks like, it's called "Devil Canyon Status Report." It's got a date of May, 1974, and it's got a fair amount of information on the background of Devil Canyon. The report has a fair amount of information on the previous studies on Devil Canyon and other sites in the Upper Susitna. If anyone would like to see it, I can get your name after the meeting, perhaps, and mail you a copy.

Here today, Alaska Power Administration is one of the Interior Department bureaus, and, as the Colonel mentioned, prior to about 1967, our office was Alaska District office of the Bureau of Reclamation. And the Bureau during its stay in Alaska did fairly extensive investigations in the Susitna Basin and a bunch of potential hydroelectric sites and, more specifically, on the Upper Susitna potential. So one of the reasons for being here today is to make certain that all of the information from those earlier Reclamation studies are available as input to this new Southcentral Railbelt Study. We'll be working with the Corps, particularly on the transmission and power-marketing aspects of the Southcentral Railbelt Study and also providing material from the earlier studies. That's really about all that I have to say.

COL. DEBELIUS: Thank you, Bob. I'll now ask Bob Parnell to show you a few slides that we have, which may help set the stage for the particular area of concern here. So, Bob?

MR. PARNELL: Thank you. If I could have the lights, please? The first slide that I have to show you indicates some of the 40 odd dam sites that could be located within the Southcentral Railbelt area of Alaska. Some of the more notable sites include Bradley Lake on the Kenai, four dam sites within the Upper Susitna River, Rampart Dam and a multitude of other possible dam sites. This slide

here indicates pretty much what we would call the South-central Railbelt area. The southcentral comes from that portion of the water resources designation for the State of Alaska and the railbelt, I would presume, comes from the fact that the Alaska Railroad runs from Seward through Anchorage and on up through Fairbanks. So we'd have the Southcentral Railbelt Region. This shows some of the more notable potential dam sites within the area.

As Colonel Debelius indicated earlier, if we were to look within the alternatives and at a particular site within the Upper Susitna River area, we could locate approximately four dams. These dams would be Devil Canyon, Watana, Vee and Denali. It should be noted that this set of dams is approximately half way between the load centers, electrical load centers, of Anchorage and the Fairbanks area.

This slide shows pretty much how the Devil Canyon area would look from the steep walled canyons within the area. This is pretty much a relief showing that if there was a dam in the Devil Canyon area, one in the Watana area, one in the Vee area, one in the Denali area, and one flew over the area, one would see something similar to this showing the backwater effect for the reservoirs.

This is pretty much a planemetric view of the Upper Susitna Dam sites showing the Devil Canyon Dam site, Watana Dam site, Vee Dam site and the Denali Dam site. This is a profile of the Susitna River and what it would look like if the four dams were constructed. In the lower area to your left is the Devil Canyon, next would be the Watana, the Vee and then the Denali. These would be different alternatives for the development of the Susitna River area. Another alternative would be a single dam concept, which would be possibly a single dam located down in the area where Devil Canyon is at this time. It should be noted that with one large dam in the area, there is a possibility of it flooding out the dam site upstream. These are some of the considerations that we will look at in our Southcentral Railbelt Study.

Colonel?

COL. DEBELIUS: Thank you, Bob. And with that, I would like to maximize the amount of time that we have for you to make your own observations. If we can have some lights, we'll begin to hear from the public. I think we've gotten a lot more cards. If you could just bring them up to the table, I'd appreciate it. A few people

have indicated to me the necessity to leave early and I'm trying to arrange the cards in such a way that I give them a chance to speak first. I would like to begin asking Wesley Gregg, who is here on behalf of Representative Don Young.

MS. GREGG: On behalf of the Congressman, his statement: I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony. I have just a few brief statements to make and regret that timing does not permit me to appear in person.

I feel, as do many others, that the Devil's Canyon dam complex would provide virtually all of Alaska's electrical energy needs. Accordingly, I introduced legislation early in the second session of the 93rd Congress to authorize the construction of two dams on the upper Susitna River. The bill, HR 12382, seeks Congressional approval to spend $1 million on environmental and feasibility studies and $750 million for construction. The bill has been referred to the Water and Power Resources Subcommittee of the House Interior Committee which is chaired by Bizz Johnson of California, who has proven to be a good friend of Alaska in the past and is most interested in beginning consideration of the Devil's Canyon bill in the immediate future.

The time is right. Just as the nation is attempting to become self-sufficient in its energy needs, so must Alaska. We can harness Alaska's terrain and climate by building the dam up in the Talkeetna Mountains and making the winter snows do some work before running down the Susitna into Cook Inlet.

Already, the City of Anchorage Municipal Light and Power has been served notice that rate increases are on the way. While Fairbanks, and particularly Anchorage, have enjoyed power at reasonable rates, those days are numbered. The Trans-Alaska gasline may stave off a large increase in price for electrical production, but only for a few years. The competition for gas and oil will be so great before the end of this decade, Devil's Canyon will be considered competitive power. Devil's Canyon, by the end of the next decade, will be cheap power.

As this nation realizes more and more every day just how precious our oil reserves are, we must begin seriously to consider practical alternatives to petroleum as much as possible to heat our homes, power our industry, and help us in our daily lives.

Government agencies are studying alternative non-polluting ways of producing energy, including such exotic sources as solar power, geothermal energy and even wind power. Some of these, especially geothermal energy, have promise in Alaska. But none can be developed and put to use as fast and economically as water power.

Devil's Canyon must also be viewed as to its national contribution, for funds will come from the Federal Government. No other firm proposal has been made to date. Our government has enjoyed a few months of very favorable balance of payments during the energy crisis, but these occurred because the United States could not buy gas and oil we needed abroad. With the end of the oil embargo, the United States has again been plunged into an unfavorable balance of payments by the resumption of our need for importing gas and oil.

Unless the United States moved strongly to develop its alternate sources of power, our imbalance will continue to worsen, which can only lead to a lowering of the standard of living for all Americans. The end of the century will see the end of gas and oil as we know it today. Americans must conserve every cubic foot of gas and every barrel of oil -- not only in the South Forty-eight must we find alternate sources of energy -- but also in Alaska. Devil's Canyon is an alternate. Hydroelectric power is the cleanest source of energy available. Every cubic foot of gas and every barrel of oil saved in Alaska makes that much more available for the South Forty-eight and that much less that must be imported.

Potential hydroelectric sites on the Susitna River were first discovered more than twenty-five years ago. But detailed proposals for Devil's Canyon were shelved for years while Congress, the State of Alaska, and government agencies wrestled with controversial plans for damming the Yukon River at Rampart.

However, the economic and environmental factors that killed the Rampart Dam proposal make the Devil's Canyon dam look very, very attractive. Where there were major environmental objections to Rampart because of its impact on wildlife and land, the impact of Devil's Canyon will be minimal. No salmon spawn in the upper reaches of the river, removing one major objection and the location does not conflict with federal, state, or Native lands.

As you know, once completed, Devil's Canyon would generate 2.9 billion kilowatt hours of

electricity per year, equalling Alaska's current statewide electric demand, and supplying energy along the railbelt.

Considering the time needed to build such a dam, about five years, and the general growth in Alaska during the coming decade, I think it is most important that Congress begins work on this project this year.

COL. DEBELIUS: Thank you very much, Wes. And I would, just to make sure everyone is informed, mention one thing which I neglected to mention a moment ago. That is, we are really conducting the public meeting tonight in response to that resolution which refers to the Southcentral Railbelt Study. There is an alternative way in which projects could come to be studied or undertaken in this area, and the alternative way is represented by a bill which has been introduced in the House by Don Young and in the Senate by Senator Stevens, which would in that bill authorize construction of a project at Devil Canyon. So I think that was the bill that was mentioned early on in the discussion here.

I would also mention one other thing. I'm not sure how many of you here this evening will have come from the Kenai Peninsula or the Homer area, but there is also a project down there called Bradley Lake, which, although is separate from the Southcentral Railbelt Study in the sense that it is itself a separate study, if you have questions or comments about that as well, we'd be happy to hear them this evening.

Our next individual who indicated the desire to speak was Irene Ryan from the Department of Economic Development in the State. Irene.

MRS. RYAN: Thank you, Colonel. I'm speaking on behalf of the Department of Economic Development as well as the State of Alaska. I'll submit a written report, but I'd like to expand on it orally a little. I've reviewed, as well as the members in my department and the Governor's staff, the reports on the Devil Canyon projects, those dated March, 1961 and May, '74 from the Alaska Power Administration, as well as a briefing memorandum from the Henry Kaiser Company, which you are all familiar with. The other reports of the Alaska Electric Power Administration with regard to statistics on electrical energy during the 1960-'70

period are also familiar to me and to my department. We have contributed to the studies that are currently under way for the power needs anticipated for Alaska for the future decade.

I would like to submit for the record the general statement which supports the study and development of a hydro power facility or facilities at Devil Canyon. The introduction to the statement is:

The State continues to give its full endorsement to the development of the Devil Canyon hydroelectric project. With the impending energy shortage now facing the United States and the anticipated future energy needs of Alaska, the State feels it would be shortsighted not to proceed with this project as expediently as possible. The potential for resource development in this region of the state is likely to be greater than any other, since it is located close to both population centers and relatively inexpensive transportation. With the anticipated increase in the cost of power, the development of the Devil Canyon project would assure, in part at least, a supply of clean economic power for this rapidly developing region of the state for many years to come. In addition, Devil Canyon power would supply the missing link in the Anchorage-Fairbanks power grid.

However, we must regard this project in context with the national need and the national and international developments in the fields of energy and minerals. This examination must not only focus on the short term, i.e. within the decade to 1985, but also the longer term until the year of 2,000 and beyond. In the short term, increased imports of oil and gas accelerating and higher costs are again affecting our balance of trade. This past quarter, with the easing up shipments into the United States, we have again been plunged into a reverse balance of trade. This, of course, affects the value of the dollar abroad and also adds to the inflation of the cost of everything that we consume at home. Coal has been mentioned as the next near substitute for oil and gas, but the solution of polution problems will result in much higher costs than those that we have associated with the utilization of coal in the past. Coal gasification in the Four Corners area, which is now under way and which will utilize strip western coal, is estimated to be costing around one dollar per thousand BTU's per cubic foot. This is a much greater figure than that which is the cost of gas or natural gas at

the present time. However, even in the case of gas, the existing costs for gas are going to very rapidly accelerate with the increasing cost of exploration of having to go to remote areas to develop fields and with the exhaustion of the prolific cheaper gas fields that have been previously developed within the state.

I'd like to also mention that the coal liquification at the present time utilizing western coals again and the present ability to synthesize oil from coal places the cost of that oil at eight to nine dollars a barrel. There is considerable discussion in trade journals, as well as at the national level by those that are concerned that it is quite possible that the exporting countries are going to reduce the price of oil and gas to the United States just below that which would make it possible for us to economically produce oil and/or gas from coal, thus making us dependent upon them for imports.

Chemical feed stocks are also very important from our fossil fields. F. Perry Wilson of the Union Carbide at the National Refiners meeting last week called attention to the fact that as we face these days in the future of allocations and increasing prices in oil and gas, that the chemical feed stocks should also be considered in these allocations. He said, "It makes no sense to allocate fuel for the farmer and the physician, unless you can also guarantee tires for the tractor and the ambulance." Very few people in today's public who are used to all the materials that they see around them realize the utter dependence of American society as we know it today upon the products that come from oil and gas. I might just interject here the spray on my hair, the lipstick, my creams on my face, my dress, my silk stockings, my shoes, my underwear, my coat which is imitation fur, are all products that originate from oil or gas.

Of course, the increase in price and the reduction of supplies will bring substitutions, but these substitutions can demand more, not less, energy to produce. Mr. Wilson sees an approximate maximum mix for the year of 2,025 as possibly 45 percent coal, 45 percent nuclear and hydro power, and 10 percent petroleum. This is for energy. The current mix is 78 percent gas and oil and 17 percent coal with hardly a registered amount for other sources of energy. All uses of energy or uses of materials that produce energy, such as the hydrocarbons, are needed now and they will be needed in the future. The more esoteric

sources, such as solar or geothermal or wind power, have present limitations. Future developments and technology can make some of these feasible. But the ability to advance this technology depends upon the present continued development of energy. The national picture affects Alaska. It is obvious that as national needs increase, the importance of Alaska's oil and gas and Alaska's coal is going to be taken into consideration and it's quite possible that Alaskans will not have a say in how these allocations are made.

Another factor to be considered is that the present population bulge, which is between the 20 and 40 year ages, represents over half of the total population of the United States. This is the baby boom that just a short while ago was flooding our universities. They are now coming into the population to make their homes, to find jobs and to have babies. Because they have departed from the colleges and are entering our job market, it is the responsibility of government and all of us to consider the opportunities that we're going to give them to share in the good life that we all have. This same population bulge exists in Alaska and we are also affected by the fact that in the immediate future, we are going to have to find jobs for approximately 30 percent again as many people as are working today, and these are not people who come in from outside of Alaska, but our own Alaskan-born citizens.

Through 1960 to '68, in the United States, 16 million people moved from poverty levels to middle class. However, in '69 to '70, 3400 have slipped back to the poverty level. The American dream of making it possible for every individual to have an opportunity to enjoy the benefits of our civilization must not be lost. All these national dependents expect and will affect what we do with Alaska's resources. Also, we must not forget that with this group or population bulge in the United States, many of these young people are going to look to Alaska. They are going to come regardless of what we do, whether there are jobs here or not. I was of that group at the time that I left college, and it would not have made any difference to me whether someone said I could or couldn't find a job in Alaska. I came regardless. As long as we permit the independent movement of our people to where they desire, we are going to have a growing influx of people into Alaska and they in turn will require additional sources of energy. Therefore, I think the growth curve that we show for population as a

a result of statistical analysis should take some consideration of this unexpected effect.

Another factor that affects the energy consumption in the Alaska economy is the fact that an Alaskan citizen requires more energy per capita than a similar citizen in the Lower 48. This is due to the fact that we have more degree days of heat, more days of artificial light during the winter darkness. We need more energy to operate our utilities, our water and our sewer disposal. And with the concern for the environment for keeping our air and our water pure, in order to exist at all, we shall have to consume more energy in order to treat these effluents and to keep our water and our air pure. Hydro power or any form of energy can be exported in the form of products that require a great deal of energy. And these products are in short supply already. We hear that the next crisis is not going to be one of energy, but one of metals and materials. However, in the production of the metals and materials that we're going to need to continue our civilization as it is now, we are going to need increasing amounts of energy. Again, industry is looking to Alaska as the energy-rich state. Not one, but several, companies who are interested in fabricating metal products, who are interested in the purification of minerals, who are interested in aluminum plants and cement plants, have already visited our department and are asking us as to the possibilities of locating their plants in Alaska. Sources of energy in the United States, in the Lower 48, and the Pacific Northwest are getting scarce, and these companies, recognizing the fact that they are going to be expected to supply the American public with their needs in these minerals, are looking for other sources of energy supply, in the course of which they have come to us in Alaska.

Another item. Every engineer recognizes the fact that hydro power is a prime, economical source of firm power. Peaking loads can be taken care of by other plants. Therefore, looking at the energy needs of the railbelt area, where the greatest number of the people in the State of Alaska at the present time live and where the greatest anticipated future demands are, it would only be from an engineering standpoint common sense to develop the hydroelectric potential in the Devil Canyon area, to have it furnish the base for the electrical energy for the communities of Fairbanks, Anchorage, the growing towns along the railbelt, for Seward and Kenai. This not only for a

firm base of power that could take care of the general load, but also to protect us in the case of a calamity at any one of the other communities.

In closing, and submitting this report, we again urge you to complete this study and proceed with all haste for the best and most economical development of hydro power in the Devil Canyon area.

COL. DEBELIUS: Thank you very much, Irene. Our next speaker is Mr. Jerry McCutcheon. Jerry.

MR. MCCUTCHEON: For the record, my name is Jerry McCutcheon. I am a conservationist and I support Devil Canyon and Bradley Lake with some reservations. One of these I would like to see done before any further steps are taken in Devil Canyon. That is the appointment of a board, commission or other name, or whatever you'd like to call it, comprised of conservationists who would follow and oversee the process of and planning of Devil Canyon and any other hydroelectric project that may come into being. I'd like to explain why by telling you what I have experienced as a conservationist and answer some questions raised by the Alaska Center for the Environment and the Daily News.

As a practicing conservationist, I object to some of the things that have been done, supposedly in the name of conservation. Some of these have been very destructive to conservation. For example, several years ago, I had before the Borough Assembly the non-area-wide power of parks and recreation. Spenard and the City had already had parks and recreation powers, but 60,000 other Anchorage Borough residents were not covered. The State of Alaska was granted five dollars for each person covered by the parks and recreation power. The Borough would have received an additional $300,000 without having to put up more than the cost of counting the ballots. $300,000 was not all. The Borough could have taken the 300,000 and used it to obtain federal matching funds. The Bureau of Outdoor Recreation had by law just had their matching formula raised to 75 percent. The Borough's 300,000 would have been matched by 900,000 in federal matching funds for a total of 1,200,000 without the Borough having to put up more than the cost of an additional ballot at the upcoming election. Who killed it? Conservationists. At that time, unification was an issue. A small group of conservationists and the former Borough Assemblyman,

Chairman, John Asplund, decided to go for area-wide power of parks and recreation, thus using the parks and recreation power to provoke the City of Anchorage and unification people. Things were pretty well set up. Ed Willis, from the outside area of the City, was to introduce the resolution. Ben Marsh from the City Counsel was to second it. When the conservationists got through with the issue, it became an anti-City, anti-Borough, first-class Borough, second-class Borough, home-rule Borough, pro-unificiation, anti-unification, screaming, shouting brawl. When what was left of the parks and recreation power finally got to a vote, only Benny Leonard kept his head and voted for it. All of the rest of the assembly, including the two sponsors, voted against the resolution.

Looking back on the donnybrook, the affair was rather humerous, but those conservationists cost us $1,200,000 and possibly that much more since then. They were told ahead of time what the results would be, they were begged not to do it, but they had to make it a hot political issue. After the damage was done, one of those involved, Pam Millsap said, "Well, we got involved in politics and we shouldn't have." Since then, I haven't seen or heard of that group of conservationists doing much to undo what they did. Not one of that group who lost that $1,200,000 has challenged Devil Canyon power project with what I consider blatantly phoney issues, while admitting this was once a conservationist's project.

Helen Nienhueser and a day later the Daily News raised a question of why the need for Devil Canyon, but both allowed it was once sponsored by conservationists and that it would do minimal damage to wildlife. As a conservationist who pushed and pleaded for the Devil Canyon resurrection, I will answer them in terms that they will understand. The answer is a dreary one and generally turns off the public, because it turns up so many times by the same people with the same empty rhetoric. There is a spaceship called Earth. It's about 4 billion years, 4 and a half billion years old, and it's about another billion years before the sun around which it revolves ceases to produce enough energy to keep the Earth alive. It was calculated this spaceship called Earth could sustain a population of 7 billion. Now we're half way there, that statement is severely questioned, and some say we have already reached the sustainable population. In any event, it's just several decades before

we reach the 7 billion population. Today hundred of thousands of people starve, milions suffer from malnutrition. While the spaceship Earth may have a theoretical life of a billion years, we're already running out of some things the most, and most importantly, it's gas and oil, the moment at which we have become so dependent. This is not something new. The gas and oil journals of 15 years ago were making graphs and predictions of when it would happen. Every cubic foot of gas and every barrel of oil that is saved will be that much more valuable when the real crunch comes. Every source of renewable power that is made operational will make the transition that much less disasterous. This transition is not going to be accomplished by something new and miraculous; it's going to be done by small projects here. Devil Canyon is just one small dam in the overall picture.

Several years ago, when I started to pump some life back into the Devil Canyon project, I had to approach it from the standpoint of the subsidy, because it would not be competitive. The approach was the balance of payments in the United States and conservationists of nonrenewable resources. Nobody was interested in the philosophical issue, not the members of Congress, our Governor, conservationists or local politicians, except Congressman Young. Young helped obtain information and then the necessary legislation, thanks to some Arabs whose philosophical arguments of what was going to happen in the 80's has been brought into being. Now some are speculating that Devil Canyon may be on its way to paying its own upon completion. In short, our spaceship Earth is running out of gas and in the lifetime of most of us living today, oil and gas as we know it will be gone. We damn well better start doing something to solve it, because we are going to hear a lot more about the 3 F's: Fuel, food and fertilizer. And it doesn't mean subverting the public interest for three kayakers. That is the why of Devil Canyon, an old conversationist's story that should have been known.

Miss Nienhueser and the Daily News, after asking why, made the following statements that: "The Susitna River is a beautiful, wild river." The Susitna is, in fact, a dirty, foul tasting, cold river that does not even smell good. And for those who are not familiar with the Susitna, go down to the city dock an hour before or an hour after high tide and look at that dirty mass of swirling water around the pilings. Cook Inlet is cleaner by comparison. Two of the three people

went down the Susitna River in kayaks in 1972 for the first time and, therefore, the Susitna is a darling of the kayakers. Since when do three people who do not like it well enough even to go back, speak for all the kayakers? For those who may be curious enough to try it, they'll find something the kayakers didn't want to have to admit. The Daily News went one better. They called it "The darling of the sports fishermen." There are no runs of fish beyond Devil Canyon; there are no repotts of any fish in any of the areas affected by the dams in legislation now before Congress. This does not mean there are not fish; this just means it's unlikely Chester Creek produces more fish, and may be the darling of a large number of kayakers, but it's not the darling of the sports fisherman, and neither is the Susitna River.

Miss Nienhueser went on to question how we were going to use all that power, implying that it became available all at once. There are four dams which can be built at four different times as needed. Within the dams, there are power units that can be added as needed. The project is an easy one to adjust to demand. Miss Nienhueser questions how long it would take the beautiful river to silt up, rendering the dams unusable. I guess she did recognize there was silt in the streams somewhere along the line. The answer's in the reports. She should have read those reports. All the persons have a right to speak up, so does the press. The public expects the press to have gathered all the reasonable available information before editorializing. The Daily News did not. The Daily News reporter went to Young's office for information; Young's office sent him to me because I had more than the Corps of Engineers did at that time. I gave the reporter a condensed version of the first two dams and offered the reporter more. The reporter was not interested to a point of simply not wanting to know. The Daily News did not read the reports of the National Park Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service, The Agricultural Experiment Station, the Bureau of Mines, the Bureau of Land Management, the Forest Service.

You see, even then, they were doing what we call today an environmental impact statement. Last but not least, the News did not read some of the reports of the Corps of Engineers at that time with reference to the actual need for conservation in the Devil Canyon project. If there was a way to find out something wrong with Devil Canyon, the Corps had the time, the money and the desire to do it. The damage done of the - the damage done through the

editorial hurt the News more than the project locally, but that editorial will be sent to the conservationists in the South 48 states and they will report it to their members about a beautiful, wild river, darling of the sports fisherman and kayakers. Alaskans will wonder why the people in the South 48 are so uptight about a dirty river, and the people in the South 48 will wonder why we're so stupid to do such a damn, dumb thing that's so terrible to such a pristine stream. There will be no way to stop it. It will be accepted as fact, the credibility of the conservationists will sink lower.

How do we prevent such inaccurate information and deliberate misinformation becoming a way of life for Devil Canyon, as well as other projects? I believe a board of responsible conservationists could overcome those problems and the sooner a board is appointed to the Devil Canyon project the better it will be for all concerned. A member of this board will be given the right to ask questions and to receive answers, thus the board would monitor the planning of the dam and the answers would be had or new approaches would have to be taken. It is better to change something early before it is firmly fixed than after it is poured in the concrete of personal pride. Power companies in the South 48 had used this process. They state it is more tedious; however, it avoids some of the battles that occur at the end of the planning process, and allows construction to proceed. We in Alaska have had enough delays. On the other hand, we've had enough blind progress that has gotten us nowhere and everybody lost. We must find a middle ground and use that middle ground. This method has been used elsewhere with success and there is no reason it can't be used in Alaska.

Thank you.

COL. DEBELIUS: Thank you, Jerry. I assure you this was not done with malice aforethought, but the next card I have is Helen Nienhueser.

MS. NIENHUESER: Thank you. I guess I don't need to introduce myself. Jerry's done a good job of that. For the record, I do not recognize the incident he referred to regarding parks power.

I am speaking for the Alaska Center for the Environment, which is a grass roots organization concerned about the future of Alaska and the direction in which it is going. We have 236 members from all over the state, both individuals and organization, and our

support is steadily growing.

We do not at this time wish to either endorse or oppose hydroelectric development on the Upper Susitna River. We do, however, have some questions to ask which need to be answered before a decision is made on whether or not to build dams on the Susitna River.

The first and most important question is perhaps not really one that it should be the Corps' responsibility to answer, except insofar as you too, as individuals, are citizens of Alaska, and as citizens should be concerned, as we are, about the quality of life in Alaska 10 years, 50 years, 100 years from now. That question is, how much growth do we want here? How much more growth can we have without destroying the special quality of life that drew many of us here in the first place? The proposed hydroelectric project on the Susitna is a big one; it would encourage growth during its construction phase and further encourage growth by the availability of more power once it was built. Is that what we want? Perhaps if enough of us ask this question over and over the politicians who presented this project to the Corps will finally hear us; perhaps some of them will eventually begin to question whether more growth is really what we want for Alaska.

A major question that we believe must be examined thoroughly is whether we will really need as much power as the Alaska Power Administration says we will. Present demand for power in the railbelt area is about 2 billion kilowatt hours per year. In the 12 years from 1960 to 1972, the annual electrical generation in the railbelt increased slightly over 1 billion kilowatt hours. In other words, our power use doubled. If it were to double again in the next 12 years, we'd use 4 billion kilowatt hours in 1984, and perhaps 6 billion in 1990. Yet, the Alaska Power Administration says we'll use 10 billion kilowatt hours per year in 1990. Their figures are sophisticated; mine are not. Sometimes those who are unsophisticated see more clearly than those who are trapped within a system of seeing things one way. Another set of figures to look at is the population growth projected by the Greater Anchorage Area Borough report "People in Anchorage." According to that, the 1970 population of Anchorage was 125,000. An average of the projections given in the report shows a population of 270,000 in 1990 or just a little more than double what we have now. Assuming that the entire railbelt will grow at about the same rate as Anchorage, it would be logical to assume that

in 1990 we would require just a little over double the power we now require or a little over 4 billion kilowatt hours per year. That's a far cry from APA's 10 billion kilowatt hours. Per capita energy consumption can and should go down, especially if institutions such as APA will encourage reduced consumption. Our point here is that APA's projected demand of 10 billion kilowatt hours per year by 1990 is the rationale for building dams on the Upper Susitna. If the demand were in fact a great deal less, then that demand might more easily be met in other ways. Future demand for energy in the railbelt is the key to deciding whether additional sources of energy are needed or whether existing facilities can be expanded to meet future requirements. The impact statement and planning documents must carefully consider this.

The EIS must examine thoroughly the various alternatives for providing power for the railbelt, and not just alternative sources of hydro power. We are in a state rich in fossil fuels, yet our consumption of fossil fuels is a drop in the bucket compared to national consumption. While we recognize the value of oil and gas for petrochemicals, we question whether Alaska uses enough fossil fuels to really make a difference in the overall national picture. If shipped Outside, would our fossil fuels really be used for petrochemicals, or would they be used to create smog in Los Angeles? As environmentalists, we are acutely aware of the arguments of the recent past that it was necessary to build a pipeline to Valdez so that we could get oil to the South 48 as fast as possible. We knew the West Coast couldn't absorb that oil and redistribute it to the Midwest where it is really needed; we said that, and we said that if the pipeline went to Valdez, Alaskan oil would go to Japan, but no one listened. Now that the Valdez route is secure, it appears likely that, in fact, Alaskan oil will go to Japan. Now we are told that our fossil fuels are too valuable and too expensive to use for generating electricity in Alaska and that, therefore, we need a major dam or series of dams to produce electricity. This is an important question that should be addressed by the EIS: why are available or prospectively available fossil fuels in the railbelt not satisfactory to produce energy in Alaska? If fossil fuels will be available, for how long? What will the comparative dollar costs be? The comparative environmental costs? These questions must also be asked for other possible hydro projects. And in discussing alternatives, the alternative of no new power project should be discussed.

When comparing the economic costs of

various alternatives, the interest rate used in the computation should be the same for each alternative. Furthermore, it should be computed at the cost of borrowing money in Alaska.

In considering alternative sources for producing any needed energy in the railbelt area, we hope that the EIS will go beyond a theoretical analysis of costs for construction and operation and also consider probably site locations for such plants. This is especially important since the location of a plant can cause great environmental impacts. For example, what impacts would take place if a large steam plant were built in the Fairbanks area when we already have severe winter air quality problems?

A vital question which needs attention is how does this proposed project fit into the land use planning being done by the Joint Federal State Land Use Planning Commission? The same question applies to alternative methods for producing energy in the railbelt area.

In assessing environmental costs or impacts, we hope the EIS will go beyond the narrow confines of the Susitna River valley and consider the impact on the human environment, assess how much growth these dams will bring to the railbelt and what that will do to the Alaskan way of life.

We are, of course, concerned that the usual questions of impacts on the land, the wildlife, and recreation be thoroughly examined; we know that the Corps will do this well. We also hope that a variety of sites on the river will be examined so that if it is decided to build dams, the Corps will have the necessary information to choose the site(s) with the least impact on the river. We want to know what kind of transmission lines would be built and where they would go. Is there a possibility of underground lines? We want the project examined in totality, not one piece at a time. Four dams are proposed; if two are built the other two are likely to follow; all four should be included in the EIS, for only in that way can an accurate assessment of the impact be included in the EIS, for only in that way can an accurate assessment of the impact on the river and the environment be made. If the Kaiser proposal is built, what would the impacts be, compared to the four-dam proposal?

The Susitna as a wild river has a value now; that value can only increase in time as more and more Alaskan rivers are turned to other uses. This

future value must be considered too.

We thank the Corps for this opportunity to express our concerns.

COL. DEBELIUS: Thank you very much, Helen. The next person who indicated the desire to speak is Charles Konigsberg. Mr. Konigsberg.

MR. KONIGSBERG: Col. Debelius, my name is Charles Konigsberg. I speak for myself. I would like to associate myself with a good deal of remarks made by Mrs. Nienhueser, except that I stand up here in opposition to the Devil Canyon Dam and I stand in opposition to the study itself. I'd like to say by way of comment to Jerry McCutcheon, who unfortunately isn't here, that in the business in which I'm in, 3 F's is definitely failing, and I'm a bit surprised that he didn't include the two others and make it five F's, fun and the fifth one I leave to your imagination.

I'm opposed to the proposal for the Devil Canyon Dam and to the study itself for a variety of reasons, the first one of which there is not demonstrated need for this power. And I emphasize the word "demonstrated." Obviously, if the dam is built, and you're talking in terms of anticipated need, it will become a self-fulfilling prophesy and project. Now, this, of course, reflects the fact that those who speak in these terms are addicted to what ought to be clearly an outmoded concept of growth and progress. These things are in the mill and these things are suggested in Congress and Col. Debelius is on the receiving end of it, unfortunately, quite simply not because there is a need, but because people want there to be the notion of need, so that they can proceed in terms of doing their thing. This is not necessarily always bad, but I think we ought to understand that this is certainly one of the more significant mechanisms at work and not a case of demonstrated need. I would take much more seriously the arguments of people like Irene Ryan and Jerry McCutcheon and others with respect to this project if they also introduced a consideration of the conservation of energy. If you talk about need for energy in this country, and this country particularly, I should say you have to recognize the fact that we are the world's worst wasters of energy; that the most objective analyses of the energy usage in this country is that approximately 35 to 45

percent is totally wasted. The hydrocarbons utility manager, Dow Chemical Company, states very flatly that without any suffering whatsoever, they could save 20 percent of the energy consumed. Many experts say that U.S. manufacturing wastes 50 percent. And if you want the full measure of the enormous wasting of energy in our system, consider the American farmer, who's considered to be so productive. He uses far more energy to grow his crops than he gets out of it in equivalent energy. For every BTU of energy that the American farmer uses, he gets one-fifth of a BTU in return. Compare this to the Chinese peasant, who gets 58 BTU's for every BTU he puts into his efforts.

My point here is a very simple one, that the argument for energy as anticipated and the crocodile tears that are being demonstrated here by others for the nation's need and the international needs simply don't wash. We waste so very much. We give cheaper rates if you will burn the lights, use your air conditioners day and night year round. And many people do exactly that. We do not know how to use energy and an argument for developing further energy sources in this country at the cost that we all know what will happen here in Alaska, whether dams or whatever else it is that is built to produce the energy, is simply a spurious one at the very best.

What I'm concerned about here at the moment, I have developed increasing confidence that the Corps is sufficiently environmental conscious so as to minimize the environmental impact of whatever it does and, therefore, what I'd like to focus on is the cultural impact of such a project in Alaska. What I think will happen if this project gets underway is that it will feed the fires of speculation and over-population, and that the consequence will be, as is already demonstrated here in Anchorage and elsewhere, a gradual deterioration and quality of life that the Alaska residents lead. If you doubt this, consider that answer to all things, the Alaska pipeline. We have been regaled for years about all the goodies that will be forthcoming to the Alaskan population if the pipeline is only approved and gotten under way. Well, where are the goodies? All that I can determine so far, and the prospects are for more of the same, is increasing crime, congestion, noise, lack of security and a wholly unsatisfactory way of life. What guarantees do we have that these kinds of projects will, in fact, contribute to the

happiness and welfare of the Alaskan people? The evidence is all to the contrary. Consider, for example, Anchorage, particularly with respect to the fact that in the past several years, there has been a steady increase in unemployment of over four percent. The Anchorage Borough is the second wealthiest county in the country by U.S. Census Bureau of Statistics. Where is it in terms of happiness of the people? I don't see it. What happens, of course, is that a few benefit from the financial consequences resulting from these projects, and a great mass of people, in fact, pay for that benefit to the few.

You have also the consequence of far-reaching effects that projects like these, the pipeline in particular, drain off the talent to higher paying jobs, as a consequence of which ordinary business and government, in particular, are unable to meet the competition and their efficiency is reduced. In a situation of transition in a place like Alaska, as you see today, it's absolutely essential that the talent remain with the public agency insofar as is possible to do so.

My concern again is that why do we need such additional projects? We aren't able to cope with the first one that's been thrust upon us. And, although it's not the Corps' responsibility, I understand, the Corps is, nevertheless, going to be a party to the further complication of our existence here in Alaska if it proceeds with such projects. And if you argue that it's just a study and that you are just assembling facts and data, all I can say is don't you believe it. It doesn't work that way. Whatever you turn up in terms of facts, data, studies and so on, carries with it an injunction to do something with it. The existence of the study commands that something will be done, and the only safe way to approach the project, until we learn how to get a better handle on our cultural situation, which is to say to deal with the socio-political and economic consequence of these projects, is not to do it. And I don't mean this in terms of a blind outright opposition to it. What I do mean is that until we learn how to do these things much better than we've demonstrated in the past, particularly here in Alaska, we've got to hold them in abeyance. We simply have to hold them in abeyance.

I think that's all I'd like to say.

COL. DEBELIUS: Thank you very much, Charles. Our next speaker is Mr. Jack Hession.

MR. HESSION Col. Debelius, Members of the Corps, my name is Jack Hession. I represent the Sierra Club here in Alaska. I have some very brief remarks here this evening. I think at this stage, we have some reservations about this project, particularly along the lines expressed by Chuck Konigsberg. However, this is not the time to come to a firm decision on this matter. I think that the purpose of the environmental impact statement procedure is to analyze what we're getting into, especially alternatives, and only then come to a rational decision. Until that time, we will reserve judgment.

However, we're wondering about the role of the Joint Land Use Planning Commission, Federal State Planning Commission. I wonder if the Corps will coordinate its efforts with the Commission, which after all was established to do this very thing. We do complement the Corps for its efforts to fully inform the public. Another decision of the Corps to undertake a study of the river itself by a Seattle consulting firm is also to be complemented. And we hope that public hearings will be held on the final environmental impact statement prior to any decision to go ahead with this project.

Thank you very much.

COL. DEBELIUS: Thank you, Jack.

I'm not generally trying to respond to all of the comments that are made, because it's your prerogative to make any you like. I would want to make it clear, so everybody understands it, that we don't just hold one public hearing. We will hold later staged public hearings, and certainly it would be our intention later on, when we reach a point in time where we have an EIS or a completed study with recommendations, to hold public hearings and let you know what those things have to say. So I just want to make that clear.

Our next speaker is Norman Goldman. Is Norman Goldman here?

MR. GOLDMAN: I don't believe I really have anything to contribute at the moment. I just kind of wanted to see what the picture was and reserve comment later.

COL. DEBELIUS: Fine. Mr. Goldman declines to say anything at the moment. Next is W. C. Rhodes.

MR. RHODES: Thank you for the opportunity to visit with the Corps and the other people here at the head table and the public. My name is W. C. Rhodes. I represent the Homer Electric Association, which furnishes and distributes all of the power for the Kenai Peninsula, save one small corner around Seward. I have listened intently at some of the comments about the possibility of not needing power. The demand for power in the Kenai Peninsula is already a hundred million kilowatt hours per year. I see the meter readings; I know what I'm talking about. The demand three years from now will be 200 million kilowatt hours. We're setting close to a project that has no known ecological problems, that being Bradley Lake. It is a dead lake; no fish, very little wildlife, sets high on a high valley with the falls between it and the bay; and the possibility of doing any ecological damage in building a small dam up there is remote. The power plant design even is being designed underground so that we've no ecological damage there. One of the problems that we have heard of recently is the comparative study that the Corps and the Alaska Power Administration has made as to proposed cost of this dam, as compared to using gas fired turbines, either steam or the regular gas turbine. The figures that I have heard kicked around are very conservative on gas costs and construction costs for the gas comparison units, but very expensive on the hydro end. And I don't think that at this time that Bradley Lake is getting a fair shake. Now, it will develop ultimately about 400 million kilowatt hours a year, which is the projection for just ten years from now for the kilowatt hour need on the Kenai Peninsula. And this is not a very long time, constructionwise, with lead times that we have at the present time.

I would like to ask anyone at the head table if they know what heat rate was used in the combined cycle generating plant comparison. Can you tell me, Bob?

MR. CROSS: Twelve thousand.

MR. RHODES: Twelve thousand? This is in combined cycle?

MR. CROSS: Excuse me, Bill, you're referring to the Federal Power Commission's evaluation?

MR. RHODES: Right. I understand you're working with the Federal Power Commission. I understand there are 8,580 BTU's per kilowatt hour and there's been very few plants anywhere in the United States been

been able to attain that efficiency. And they're way on the conservative side. We people in the power business know that that type of plant in general used over 10,000 BTU's per kilowatt hour. Some of the other figures stand scrutiny, and I would like to call it to the public's attention, if this meeting serves no other purpose, that there is a possibility that the figures being used for gas costs and heat rate for a comparison of those types of generation versus hydro are just a little bit out of line, and I would like to see it more on a fair comparison.

Thank you.

COL. DEBELIUS: Thank you very much, Bill. Next is Mortimer Clement.

MR. CLEMENT: I want to thank the Corps for the opportunity of speaking here. I didn't anticipate speaking and I didn't anticipate being boosted up by a shuffling of the cards, I assume, to this position. However, I am grateful for it. I'd like to make a very, very brief statement.

I also, like Jerry McCutcheon, but in a different way, am a conservationist at heart. I came to Alaska for the joys that abound here in the great outdoors, the wilderness, the wildlife and to get away from the congestion of the Lower 48. I am a pilot and have been a registered guide, have toured most all of north Alaska. I personally have been over all of the ground of the Susitna. I have hunted the area. I know it well. And even before I knew that there was such a project for a hydro electric dam on the Susitna River at that point, it fairly yelled out and shouted to me that this would be an ideal spot for just such a development.

I would like to counteract some measure of the statements that the arch conservationists -- and I use the word "arch," because I believe that they are certainly extremists in the matter of conservation -- that we have heard previously. They have certainly carried to the extremes some of the statements as to the scenic wonders of the river, the wild river, and the fishing paradise. I certainly believe, having also guided in fishing in some of the real ideal spots of Alaska, that dams on the Upper Susitna can do nothing but improve the recreational value of the area and improve the fishing to provide a greater benefit to all people who enjoy the

outdoors. The area, as I've stated, is ideally suited for a hydroelectrical project. I will not go into the economics and all of the rest, which is covered by and will be covered by many others testifying. I think that the need is here and I think that hydroelectric power is certainly the answer at this point in time. The statements made as to polution of the air in Fairbanks and other areas, the increased use of petrochemicals which are going to diminish in supply, only tends to accentuate the fact that we are going to become more and more reliant and, in fact, perhaps we may ultimately become almost entirely reliant upon hydroelectric power. It is the one type of power which is renewable, whereas our other resources are unrenewable and will suffer depletions. It is the one type of power which we can control ourselves with the help of nature and the good Lord willing.

I think that we should move as fast as possible in the development of this area and I think we should not allow ourselves to be diverted by cries from my fellow conservationists. I thank you.

COL. DEBELIUS: Thank you.

Now, what I would propose to do, because I think it's a good time to do that, is to take a break of about 20 minutes. I know some of you would like to get out for a moment. And reassemble in here then by my watch at 9:25.

(Recess taken)

COL. DEBELIUS: Ladies and Gentlemen, I do ask you to take your seats again, we'll get underway. I didn't mean to clean house here by calling a break. I'm afraid we lost quite a few from the previous session. I would ask those of you who are left here if you've come in late and you would like to speak or to fill out a registration card, please raise your hand and we'll make sure that you get one. I do have a few more who have asked to speak and after we have heard from them, I would like to open the session to your questions or comments, if you'd like, about the study.

Our next speaker is George Faerber.

MR. FAERBER: Good evening, my name is George Faerber. I had no intentions of speaking tonight, until I heard the presentation of Mr. Jerry McCutcheon.

I believe that's what the name was. And I'm a registered guide and I've lived and worked on the Su River for over six years, and I plan on being there another 60 years, and I resent him calling the river a -- the impression he gave was that it was a smelly, dirty sewer. It's not. It's a clean, wild, beautiful river, and I'll drink water out of that river any day of the year, but I wouldn't even think of drinking any water out of the creeks around this town. And the only smell there is the smell of clean, fresh air. And as to the dam not affecting any fish, true, up river from the Devil Canyon area, to my knowledge, there are no salmon. But there are grayling and lots of them; either that or I don't know what it is that I've fried in my frying pan for so long. And, as far as the river not being used for recreational use, I'm on the river daily with boats and I take clients on float trips on the river, and they seem to have a great time. And I don't believe the consideration should only be given to the fish that live upstream from the dam. I think more important to consider the large salmon runs and grayling and trout and Dolly Varden that live downstream from the dams. And what worries me about the dams is the possible high concentration of nitrogen in the water. And, true, I was discussing this with a couple of individuals a few minutes ago, and the point was brought out that the nitrogen disipates from the water fairly rapidly, but there are good spawning streams very close to the Devil Canyon that have very good fishing streams. I've fished in them lots of times and I've taken other people into them lots of times, and I think the dam may have some effect on these fish. And there are a lot of wildlife species that live in, near or around the river, and I personally, I'm for the dam, in spite of what you may have gathered from what I said. But I think that the dam, I believe, has to be built. It's necessary. But when the dam is built, it should be built from the outlook of you're dealing with a live, living river that's not dead, and to plan accordingly.

That's all I have to say tonight. Thank you.

COL. DEBELIUS: Thank you very much, George.

Next, Mr. Dale Briggs has asked to speak.

MR. BRIGGS: Thank you. A comment was made that I didn't quite sit still for, and that was well, do we really want Alaska to grow, do we want it to grow that much? Well, I don't think we have any choice. I think we could probably build a fence around Alaska and

say there won't be anybody else come in, and we might say the ones that are here can't raise any more kids. But this isn't going to happen. It is going to grow and we are going to have a country here and there are going to be people. The responsible then comes to the government to say are we going to supply these people electricity. And I perfectly agree with the guy when he says that we waste a lot of material. We waste a lot of electricity. Sure, I'll go along with that. But until we get people educated, there isn't much we can do about it. We're still going to have to live with it. And these people saying well, maybe we just don't need that electricity, I don't know where they're getting their figures. I'm on the board of the Matanuska Electric Association and without any regard to the Susitna project at all, the projections of all the reliable engineering that we can get our hands on say we're going to double in the next five years. And I think these guys know what they're talking about. They aren't saying that they're in support of anything. They're just telling us, "Well, you better be figuring on this, because this is what is going to happen to you." And we have to be prepared for it.

As far as the worth of the dam is concerned, it's almost taken care of itself in the reliability that it will lend to the electrical energy supplied to the people in the railbelt area. To be able to tie together in a grid the generating facilities up and down the railbelt so that we have a grid that, if one of us fails, another will pick it up, is worth the money. I'm an ecologist, but I'm not a fanatic. I think that ecology is something that in the past has been ignored, and that has not been given the proper respect, and I think that any time that we get into any kind of a project, whatsoever, without taking into consideration the ecology and the conservation of the assets of this country is our responsibility, and I think that it has to be done. But the point that would make that the overriding thing against the needs of man, then I don't think this is so, because I don't think that man's a trespasser on this Earth. I think he's here and I think he's expected to be here. I think it is the responsibility that we do use this as best we can; that we do not spoil it. And I'm not for it and I don't think that this is something that we can put up with.

Any development that we do has got to be done carefully, and I have all the confidence in the Corps that in their study of it and their recommendations will be careful, as far as the ecology's concerned, but no way, no way can we pass up this opportunity to supply

the railbelt of Alaska the potential that lies in Devil Canyon. I agree with the gentleman, I agree that the Susitna River is beautiful. Of course, I haven't spent much time on it. I think it's great, but there is a time when you have to choose, well, are we going to supply people with the needs to develop a country or aren't we? And I think this is what it comes to.

Thank you.

COL. DEBELIUS: Thank you very much. I do have a card. Richard Weinig has asked to speak.

MR. WEINIG: My name is Richard Weinig. I am an attorney in town. I have been a resident of Alaska for the last three years, and I expect to be a resident probably for the rest of my life. I am not a member of the Sierra Club. I speak only for myself. On the evidence presented to me as of this time, on testimony I've heard, of any of the publications that I have read, I have had the gravest reservations about either the Kaiser or the other projected Devil Canyon Dam at this time. I think, although I cannot confirm this, and this will have to be born out by later studies--I think that the project is promoted more for development's sake than for an actual need. I have the gravest reservations about it, because of not what it will necessarily do to the environment, nor the environment's sake, but what I think it may do to the quality of life for those of us who live in the Anchorage area. I think that I came and I think that a great many of the rest of us came for equality of life that is unique in Alaska, and it isn't available anywhere else in this country. That is the access to good, wild, untrammeled, wild country not too far from town. And, of course, I think the thing would be fine even with the development of 135 or 150,000 people that we have now, except that we have line to line traffic out of Anchorage every Friday night and line to line traffic into Anchorage every Friday night.

I think that if we find that we're confined to hunting and fishing country that is within reasonable access of any road within our area, it's not unreasonable to drive 125 or 150 or 175 miles. I have come from reasonably untrammeled country in western Colorado, and if anyone suggested that if one were on a weekend to drive to hunting and fishing areas for 175 miles, they'd think you were crazy. And I think that the greatest danger of the project at this time is that it will promote development and increase this particular tendency, thus decreasing the

quality of things that we have come to Alaska to see, the quality of a life that we have come to Alaska to have. I think that it's almost unquestioned that if the project is approved, there will have to be a road into the Devil Canyon area; there will have to be a road through the Upper Susitna area linking, say, for instance, the four dams, if the four dams are in the project as opposed to the single one dam. I think that there is no question but that once a road has gone in there, you're going to see the similar trammeled down corridors along each side of that road for recreational use that you've seen anywhere on the roads leading out of the Anchorage area, whether it's going down to the Kenai Peninsula, whether it's the new Fairbanks Highway, whether it's the Denali Highway, come hunting season. And I think that in doing this, you're going to be sacrificing an area which at present is accessible only through the Alaska Railroad, for instance, accessible only through a railroad going, say, 45 miles north of Talkeetna where you have access, easy access, to relatively untrammeled country. But it isn't overfilled with people.

And I think that by encouraging this particular project that we are going to be further destroying and further paving over and further trampling down the available corridors of recreational use out of Anchorage. My reservations are, as I say, not for the environment itself, not for trees as opposed to people, but for the quality of life that we people in Anchorage will be relinquishing. I did not come here to make a prepared statement, but that is my belief at this time.

COL. DEBELIUS: Thank you very much. And I do want to verify at this point that I have gone through all the cards of those who have indicated the desire to speak on the card. If I'm wrong, please raise your hand. I'd be happy to have you speak. (Pause)

What we prefer to do at this point in our public hearing is to offer you the opportunity to either ask questions or to make comments if you'd like from the floor or make any other observations you care to. So if you have something you'd like to say or some questions you'd like to ask, please raise your hand or stand up,

Yes, sir.

MR. LUTHMAN: How many acres would the Denali Dam flood at its height?

COL. DEBELIUS: Do you have the acres that it would flood, Bob?

MR. CROSS: The figure that's in our status report is 54,000 acres.

MR. LUTHMAN: Is that a stable lake or would that be a lake that would raise up and down, I mean by drawing water off to fill the other lakes?

MR. CROSS: There would be fluctuation in the levels of the lake, yes. The purpose of the dam would be to release water during the winter for winter generation mainly.

MR. LUTHMAN: Thank you.

COL. DEBELIUS: I hope everyone heard the question. If they didn't, I'll try and repeat the questions.

MR. FAERBER: What affect would the dams have on the water flow on the river below the dam?

COL. DEBELIUS: The question was what affect the dams would have on water flow on the river below the dams. I think, first of all, of course, that because this is a first stage meeting, I have to speak in terms of some of the hypotheses that have been presented. As I say, the alternatives that we would look at would necessarily, of course, include the one that APA has done, and there are certainly others, including the Kaiser proposal, which would have a different kind of configuration. But, in any case, because I don't have a specific final design for a dam, I can't give you specific quantitative answers. But I can say this, that it is quite true that we would have to comply with some very serious stipulations on the part of those who are necessarily concerned; for example, the Fish and Wildlife. To give you an example of that, on the Chena River Lakes Project, which we're currently constructing in Fairbanks, we were required to permit a flow in the Chena River of a certain number of of thousand cubic feet per second at various times during the year. This particular requirement came to us from those agencies who are necessarily charged with protecting the fish and wildlife resources; for example, the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, National Marine Fisheries and so forth. Those requirements were provided to us and those were given. On the basis of that given, our design was very much fluid.

I think the same thing would pertain here, that is that we would be required to maintain a certain minimum flow in the river, and I'm not prepared to say exactly what that is, because I don't determine that. That comes to me from those who have the capability to determine. But we would be required to maintain a certain minimum flow at various times of the year and we would have to comply with and work with that when we start talking about filling the dams or operating for power purposes and so forth. And probably the best way to say it, if you want to look at it in terms of generalities, I think that whenever you talk about filling a dam, you naturally are planning to fill it most at those periods when the water is flowing much higher than you'd like it to flow anyway. During those periods when the water is flowing relatively low, then you simply let all the water go by, because you have a structure that lets it go by and you only fill at those times when you have an excess of the amounts that you need. I can't give you quantitative information. I hope that that answers your question.

Mr. Cheung wanted to add something also about water quality. And again, this is the kind of thing that's necessarily covered in some detail in our environmental impact statement, but, insofar as water quality in addition to quantity of flow, one of the interesting things that is true is that we have the capability in the event that a dam were built to provide some basis when there is an unusual situation, an unusual case, for example, when the water is much warmer than we'd like it to be or much colder than we'd like it to be below the dam, simply because at that time of year, you have an unusually warm or an unusually cold period, it is possible if you have a lake and an outlet works that are normally designed this way, it is possible to take water, for example, near the surface of a reservoir which tends to be generally, fairly warm water or to take it from way down near the bottom, which tends to be quite cold, and thereby, if necessary, assist in controlling the flowing water. Optimally, of course, you provide that environment which is most favorable to the wildlife you support below the dam.

Do we have any other questions? Question, ma'am? In the very back.

MRS. WILSON: I'm Nancy Wilson and I live at Gold Creek with my four children. Do you have anything to say to me that would put my mind at ease in the event of an earthquake that all that won't end up in my living room?

COL. DEBELUIS: That's a very good question, and I hope everyone heard it. The question was do I have anything to say to reassure Nancy that in the event of an earthquake, the dam won't end up in her living room. And I have to assure you this, that in the design of any dam, it is absolutely imperative that one do a very, very careful earthquake analysis. I think that if you look at the record of the Corps of Engineers, you might be able to accuse us of building a lot of dams, but there is no case in recorded history for the Corps of Engineers that you can ever show a dam that failed that the Corps built. And we tend to overbuild in that sense. We tend to be extremely conservative, and, naturally, earthquake criteria will be taken into account; in fact, necessarily must be. But I have to assure you that, if anything, we are probably a lot more conservative than others would have us be, because we spend more money in some cases than people think we might need to, simply because we tend toward this conservativeness.

Yes, sir.

MR. GOLDMAN: I assume that the dam would remove most additional silt from the river downstream, which it seems to me to be an asset to downstream fishing, if that's the case. An example of this is what happened to the Glenn Canyon Dam, where if anyone ever took a raft trip down the Colorado River from Lee's Ferry, you were in boiling red mud for a few hundred miles. Now, you go down the river in nice, clear water and the fishing is great in the Glenn Canyon, which it never was before.

COL. DEBELIUS: Thank you. I think the question itself is very important, and it is probably true that some of the silt that is carried in the waters would be removed in the process of operation of a dam. I think some people have expressed fear from the other direction in the sense that they say, "Well, look, suppose you build a dam and you do begin to collect silt behind it as it settles out; is it not true that within some given period of time, be it 50 years or a hundred years, that the dam would silt up and, therefore, you wouldn't be able to use it anymore?" And the answer to that particular question, yes, of course silt will tend to deposit. But it is not true that the dam would thereby be destroyed in terms of usefulness, because there are techniques that are being used in other places right now that are effective in the terms of removing silt that tends to form. So I think that it's quite possible that the water quality below the dam could be enhanced in that

sense. And, again, when in the process of the advanced engineering and design of a project of this nature, we do some very careful and detailed analyses to determine exactly what kind of things we must do to prevent any problems arising therefrom. I think, you know, it's also probably true in the same sense to observe that one of the things that I think is very important in this kind of study is that we proceed in the way that we're proceeding. We have tried to meet early -- in fact, we met on the 30th of April with various representatives of those groups representing environmental interests, because we certainly want to be responsive to them. I think that it's important for us in the process of doing a study when we report to the Congress on what the hydro power potential is in the Susitna River Basin to be able to report to them at the same time what the environmental impacts are in any kind of hydro power potential that might be developed. And I would suggest too that it is not necessarily true that, because we are conducting a study, it necessarily follows that a project comes to pass. I think a lot of people have that idea. But I think we can show some fairly frequent cases in the past where a study that we have undertaken has led to a conclusion that says no, we do not recommend to the Congress a particular thing at this time, either because of the economics of it or because of environmental aspects. And I think, therefore, that you all should believe as representatives of the public that the real purpose of the public hearings, this one tonight, the one we had the other night in Fairbanks, is to get from you, the public, your reaction to the study that we have been asked by the Congress to undertake. And I very much appreciate the comments that we have received, both pro and con. And I assure you that we will very carefully take them into consideration and make them a part of our study process.

Do I have any other questions? Yes, sir?

MR. LUTHMAN: In what relation would the power line, the high transmission line, have in relation to the Anchorage-Fairbanks Highway, as far as visual pollution is concerned?

COL. DEBELIUS: The question had to do with visual pollution, the esthetics of a transmission line which would obviously have to be built in order

to bring power from any dam site to populated areas. And, of course, because we are early on in a study at this point, we're not prepared to give any precise dimentions or locations of transmissions lines. It is possible to say, again, in generalities that one of the alternatives for the transmission line that would be analyzed would be the rail line itself. In other words, one might consider the rail line as an existing communications corridor which runs between Anchorage and Fairbanks, not too far from the locations of possible dam sites. So it would not be impossible then to consider the rail corridor as an area in which transmission lines might lie. I would doubt seriously that the highway itself would necessarily be the route. It certainly would be an alternative we'd study, but I don't see it as being a very big candidate right now.

I would suggest further that there is ultimately the possibility, as many have expressed tonight, representing the electric power marketers here, there is clearly the possibility that eventually, depending upon growth in the area and so forth, that a transmission loop might end up coming to be, that is a loop which, if you could imagine it, could run from Anchorage to Fairbanks to Tok, to Glennallen back to Anchorage. So in the event that there ever is a break in the transmission line, you still can provide power to any of the population centers. This loop system or grid, if you want to call it that, is extremely important and I think that this is one of the problems that we have in Alaska currently. We have a hydroelectric project down in Snettisham near Juneau, which is currently not providing power to Juneau, because we have a transmission line problem. There is no grid there, so there is a single line, and I would suspect that over a period of time, the ability to provide a loop or a grid, if you will, or an alternative is a very desirable one if power production is seen as a need in the area.

And, by the way, insofar as the transmission line is concerned, Bob Cross here from APA, of course, ought to say something, if he'd like. I would observe that should it come to pass in the process of the study that a project is recommended, it's probably true that the advanced engineering and the design of the dam itself would be a Corps of Engineer undertaking. I would foresee at least at this point that APA might very well be doing the study of transmission work, just to give you an idea of how various agencies would work

together on this thing.

Bob, did you want to add anything?

MR. CROSS: No.

COL. DEBELIUS: Yes, ma'am?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Exactly what route did you plan to get all your men and machinery into that area?

COL. DEBELIUS: The question was exactly by what routes would we plan to get our men and machinery into the area. And again, I think the question has to be considered a little premature, because I don't have a study of that. We're right now at the beginning point as opposed to some later point in time where we can give precise details. Clearly, there is the possibility, for example, of observing that the Denali Highway runs right into the area where the Denali dam reservoir would be. That would certainly be a route. The Alaska Railroad, on the other hand, is not very far from the southern end of this Susitna River Basin. I would suggest, too, some interesting points, and that is that the amount of men and machinery that might go into such an area is itself a matter to be considered when we look at environment. Again, turning to Snettisham, which is a project that we have been involved in, if ever there was a project that very carefully considered environmental matters, it was that one. For example, the transmission line there was built in such a way that not even a road, not even a trail, was constructed in order to build it. Every tower was put in by helicopter. The wires that were strung on the towers were strung by helicopter. The men who came in to do the work were flown in by helicopter. The concrete that was used to put in anchors at the tower base for the tower guys was actually brought in by chopper in a bucket and so forth to minimize the extent to which a great deal of machinery went into the area.

MR. RHODES: It's not a fair question, but did the line work?

COL. DEBELIUS: Say again, sir?

MR. RHODES: Did the line work after you got it built?

COL. DEBELIUS: Yes, it did for a while. As I say right now, I have a problem with the line. This is one of the things that speaks for the idea of a

loop or a grid.

MR. RHODES: I was being a little bit facetious, but this is one of the places where I know you bent over backwards to go along with the wishes of the conservationists. And isn't it true at the present time we taxpayers are going to pick up the tab of about $10 million to put that line back where it was originally planned in the first place?

COL. DEBELIUS: I can't necessarily --

MR. RHODES: Come on, level with me.

COL. DEBELIUS: I'm not prepared to say what the costs will be. It is clear that there is going to be a cost associated with a permanent fix to the line, and it is clear, at least at this point, that we may very well have to go back to where the line was originally planned in the first place. I can't say whether $10 million is a proper figure or not right now, because my estimators are working on it. It is also true that naturally the cost of doing that to the federal, the Federal Government pays for, and ultimately when you talk about the sale of power, the consumer is paying for it, you know, the power that's been produced. So I guess I can answer most of it by yes.

Wes?

MRS. GREGG: I think I probably missed something in your opening remarks, Colonel. Did you say that the Bradley Lake is part of the study you're doing?

COL. DEBELIUS: I said that Bradley Lake is part of the railbelt itself; it is not part of the Southcentral Railbelt Study; that is that the Bradley Lake project was separately authorized by the Congress some years ago and we are studying that under a separate authority. But I did invite, if people desired, any comments they might have, since it does, of course, lie within the railbelt.

MRS. GREGG: Do you have a target date for presenting your report on this study to Congress?

COL. DEBELIUS: Yes. As I mentioned early on in our discussion here, the Southcentral Railbelt Study itself is one which necessarily includes at least some consideration of more than 40 hydro power

sites. That's relatively unwieldy if you think in terms of trying to report to the Congress eventually on all of that. So, as a matter of fact of a manageable task and as a matter of looking at those areas which, at least on the surface, appear to be priority for study, we are looking on the basis of the Upper Susitna as the first area we'd look at, and our target is to be able to report to the Congress within two years on the Upper Susitna Basin and we would call that an interim report. Ultimately, the total railbelt study, I would suspect, may take four or five years to complete.

Yes, sir.

MR. CLEMENT: Colonel, this is not necessarily a question. But it's a comment and an observation which I know will not allay the fears of some conservationists, because I don't think anything will allay the fears of the people who would preserve the area in its present natural state. But I'd like if possible to have them visualize the benefits, recreational and otherwise, that people have derived from access to such areas as Grand Cooley, Cooley Dam, some of the sites on the Columbia, Lake Mead, if they know in the West. And I would like to ask them also, those who have fears, about a highway which may eventually or a roadway which may eventually border the lake systems on the Upper Susitna, if they would deny the pleasure that people have experienced, tourists, as well as residents of Alaska, in the Denali Highway, that if they really believe that that area remaining as it is preserved would be a benefit and would serve any purpose, whatsoever.

COL. DEBELIUS: Thank you very much, sir. I think this does go back to this point that we mentioned earlier about the fact that the Federal Government does look at any possible project in terms of multi-purpose aspects. And whereas it's quite clear that we're looking at hydro power potential, because the Congress has asked us to do that, we would also necessarily be expected to analyze the recreational value of a lake or a pool formed by a dam, and the joys or pleasures that some people get from having that kind of scenery available to them. So I guess it's important to understand that our work must include the multi-purpose aspects and not just hydro power, although clearly power production is the primary purpose of any structure that might be built in this area.

MR. LUTHMAN: What are the possibilities of an underground transmission line?

COL. DEBELIUS: Thank you for the question. The question was what are the possibilities of an underground transmission line, and the answer to that is that it is so extremely costly to attempt to build an underground transmission line that it's virtually impossible to consider. And I realize that everybody thinks in terms, look, gee, in the big city, we can put in underground utilities and they work pretty well. But I think we're talking, we have to kind of get down to the kind of terms we're talking, the voltage that one needs to transmit that huge chunk of power, if you will, from a power production site to a city where it then has a distribution center and it goes out at lesser voltages to other areas make it possible to put underground utilities within a community pretty well, but makes it extremely uneconomical to try and transmit very high voltages through some kind of underground system.

I think too that it is worth noting that there is always the possibility, at least, of considering submarine cable type thing when you're talking about a river. I again consider that an extremely expensive alternative and not necessarily a favorable one in terms of even though it wouldn't be visual, I'm not sure that that is necessarily the best kind of transmission facility for this area. So I would suspect more than likely that the transmission line alternatives from an economic standpoint, at least, would tend to favor a standard overhead transmission line between population centers.

Yes, sir.

MR. LUTHMAN: What are the chances of an electrified field underneath your transmission lines?

COL. DEBELIUS: The question was what are the chances of an electrified field underneath the transmission lines. I think it's an interesting principal, that when you are transmitting power, alternating current power by transmission lines, it is true that there is necessarily a field of electric energy around. In fact, you may have read that some very smart farmers from time to time over the years have actually built themselves kind of a big coil through

which the electric field passes back and forth and, as you who are students of electricity know, when you cut a coil with a changing electric field, you can produce a current in that coil. And there was an interesting case that occurred some years ago where a farmer in the Midwest did this. He built the big coil. He didn't touch the state's transmission line or anything else, but he was supplying power to his farm and he was taken to court and he would argue, look, I'm on my own property. I have not in any way touched the transmission line and, therefore, I should not be sued or made to pay for the power. And he lost the case on the basis that he was actually tapping the electric energy. So it is true there is an electric field. It is, however, not perceptible, I believe, to anyone who is in the vicinity. It is not in any sense that we've been able to determine harmful to either vegetation or animal life and it's not as if you were going to, for example, get an electric shock by being nearby.

Yes, sir.

MR. KRELL: This proposal of changing the capitol, say it is changed to the Railbelt area, wouldn't that change the study of your dams quite a bit?

COL. DEBELIUS: Yes, sir. That's a very important point. The question was is it not true that the proposal to move the state capitol away from Juneau into some area, perhaps somewhere north of Anchorage, wouldn't that change the study quite a bit. And my answer to that is obviously yes. In the event that a decision is made by the people of Alaska to move the capitol, the net effect, of course, has to be that there is a very gross change in the population characteristics of the area, the expected energy consumption; and if it has any effect at all, to me the effect would probably be that the current projections of electric power consumption growth would have to be increased somewhat, which would make it even more important to have an early way to produce a fairly large supply of power, whether it be by hydroelectricity or by some other means. But clearly, if the capitol were moved to this area, some kind of fairly drastic increase fairly soon in power generating capability would have to come to pass in the area.

Do we have any other comments or questions? If not, ladies and gentlemen, I would thank you very much for your attention this evening. I have enjoyed the meeting and I thank you for coming up.

SECTION II

EXHIBITS AND LETTERS

DON YOUNG
CONGRESSMAN FOR ALL ALASKA

COMMITTEES:
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May 8, 1974

Presented by Ms. Gregg for Congressman Young

STATEMENT BEFORE THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS

I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony. I have just a few brief statements to make and regret that timing does not permit me to appear in person.

I feel, as do many others, that the Devil's Canyon dam complex would provide virtually all of Alaska's electrical energy needs. Accordingly, I introduced legislation early in the second session of the 93rd Congress to authorize the construction of two dams on the upper Susitna River. The bill, HR 12382, seeks COngressional approval to spend $1 million on environmental and feasibility studies and $750 million for construction. The bill has been referred to the Water and Power Resources Subcommittee of the House Interior Committee which is chaired by Bizz Johnson of California, who has proven to be a good friend of Alaska in the past and is most interested in beginning consideration of the Devil's Canyon bill in the immediate future.

The time is right. Just as the nation is attempting to become self-sufficient in its energy needs, so must Alaska. We can harness Alaska's terrain and climate by building the dam up in the Talkeetna Mountains and making the winter snows do some work before running down the Susitna into Cook Inlet.

Already the City of Anchorage Municipal Light and Power has been served notice that rate increases are on the way. While Fairbanks, and particularly Anchorage, have enjoyed power at reasonable rates, those days are numbered. The Trans-Alaska gasline may stave off a large increase in price for elecgrical production but only for a few years. The competition for gas and oil will be so great before the end of this decade, Devil's Canyon will be considered competitive power. Devil's Canyon, by the end of the next decade, will be cheap power.

As this nation realizes more and more every day just how precious our oil reserves are, we must begin seriously to consider practical alternatives to petroleum as much as possible to heat our homes, power our industry, and help us in our daily lives.

Government agencies are studying alternate non-polluting ways of producing energy, including such exotic sources as solar power, geothermal energy and even wind power. Some of these, especially geothermal energy, have promise in Alaska. But none can be developed and put to use as fast and economically as water power.

Devil's Canyon must also be viewed as to its national contribution, for funds will come from the Federal Government. No other firm proposal has been made to date. Our government has enjoyed a few months of very favorable balance of payments during the energy crisis but these occurred because the United States could not buy gas and oil we needed abroad. With the end

of the oil embargo, the United States has again been plunged into an unfavorable balance of payments by the resumption of our need for importing gas and oil.

Unless the United States moves strongly to develop its alternate sources of power, our imbalance will continue to worsen, which can only lead to a lowering of the standard of living for all Americans. The end of the century will see the end of gas and oil as we know it today. Americans must conserve every cubic foot of gas and every barrel of oil -- not only in the South Forty-eight must we find alternate sources of energy--but also in Alaska. Devil's Canyon is an alternate. Hydroelectric power is the cleanest source of energy available. Every cubic foot of gas and every barrel of oil saved in Ala-ka makes that much more available for the South Forty-eight and that much less that must be imported.

Potential hydroelectric sites on the Susitna River were first discovered more than twenty-five years ago. But detailed proposals for Devil's Canyon were shelved for years while Congress, the State of Alaska, and government agencies wrestled with controversial plans for damming the Yukon River at Rampart.

However, the economic and environmental factors that killed the Rampart Dam proposal make the Devil's Canyon dam look very, very attractive. Where there were major environmental objections to Rampart because of its impact on wildlife and land, the impact of Devil's Canyon will be minimal. No salmon spawn in the upper

reaches of the river, removing one major objection and the location does not conflict with federal, state, or native lands.

As you know, once completed, Devil's Canyon would generate 2.9 billion kilowatt hours of electricity per year, equalling Alaska's current statewide electric demand, and supplying energy along the railbelt.

Considering the time needed to build such a dam, about five years, and the general growth in Alaska during the coming decade, I think it is most important that Congress begins work on this project this year.

ALASKA CENTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Statement for public meeting on Devil's Canyon 5/8/74

My name is Helen Nienhueser. I am speaking for the Alaska Center for the Environment, a grass roots organization concerned about the future of Alaska and the direction in which it is going. We have 236 members from all over the state, both individuals and organizations, and our support is steadily growing.

We do not at this time wish to either endorse or oppose hydroelectric development on the Upper Susitna River. We do, however, have some questions to ask which need to be answered before a decision is made on whether or not to build dams on the Susitna River.

The first and most important question is perhaps not really one that it should be the Corps' responsibility to answer, except insofar as you too, as individuals, are citizens of Alaska--and as citizens should be concerned, as we are, about the quality of life in Alaska 10 years, 50 years, 100 years from now. That question is, how much more growth do we want here? How much more growth can we have without destroying the special quality of life that drew many of us here in the first place? The proposed hydroelectric project on the Susitna is a big one; it would encourage growth during its construction phase and further encourage growth by the availability of more power once it was built. Is that what we want? Perhaps if enough of us ask this question over and over the politicians who presented this project to the Corps will finally hear us; perhaps some of them will eventually begin to question whether more growth is really what we want for Alaska.

A major question that we believe must be examined thoroughly is whether we will really need as much power as the Alaska Power Administration says we will. Present demand for power in the railbelt area is about 2 billion kilowatt hours per year. In the 12 years from 1960 to 1972 the annual electrical generatic in the railbelt increased slightly over 1 billion kwh. In other words, our power use doubled. If it were to double again in the next 12 years we'd use

4 billion kwh in 1984 and perhaps 6 billion in 1990. Yet the Alaska Power Administration says we'll use 10 billion kwh per year in 1990. Their figures are sophisticated; mine are not. Sometimes those who are unsophisticated see more clearly than those who are trapped within a system of seeing things one way. Another set of figures to look at is the population growth projected by the Greater Anchorage Area Borough report "People in Anchorage". According to that, the 1970 population of Anchorage was 125,000. An average of the projections given in the report shows a population of 270,000 in 1990 or just a little more than double what we have now. Assuming that the entire railbelt will grow at about the same rate as Anchorage, it would be logical to assume that in 1990 we would require just a little over double the power we now require, or a little over 4 billion kwh per year. That's a far cry from APA's 10 billion kwh. Per capita energy consumption can and should go down, especially if institutions such as APA will encourage reduced consumption. Our point here is that APA's projected demand of 10 billion kwh per year by 1990 is the rationale for building dams on the Upper Susitna. If the demand were in fact a great deal less, then that demand might more easily be met in other ways. Future demand for energy in the railbelt is the key to deciding whether additional sources of energy are needed or whether existing facilities can be expanded to meet future requirements. The impact statement and planning documents must carefully consider this.

The EIS must examine thoroughly the various alternatives for providing power for the railbelt, and not just alternative sources of hydro power. We are a state rich in fossil fuels yet our consumption of fossil fuels is a drop in the bucket compared to national consumption. While we recognize the value of oil and gas for petrochemicals, we question whether Alaska uses enough fossil fuels to really make a difference in the overall national picture. If shipped Outside, would our fossil fuels really be used for petrochemicals, or would they be used to create smog in Los Angeles? As environmentalists, we

are acutely aware of the arguments of the recent past that it was necessary to build a pipeline to Valdez so that we could get oil to the south be as fast as possible. We knew the West Coast couldn't absorb that oil and redistribute it to the Midwest where it is really needed; we said that, and we said that if the pipeline went to Valdez, Alaskan oil would go to Japan, but no one listened. Now that the Valdez route is secure, it appears likely that, in fact, Alaskan oil will go to Japan. Now we are told that our fossil fuels are too valuable and too expensive to use for generating electricity in Alaska and that therefore we need a major dam or series of dams to produce electricity. This is an important question that should be addressed by the EIS: why are available or prospectively available fossil fuels in the railbelt not satisfactory to produce energy in Alaska? If fossil fuels will be available, for how long? What will the comparative dollar costs be? The comparative environmental costs? These questions must also be asked for other possible hydro projects. And in discussing alternatives, the alternative of no new power project should be discussed.

When comparing the economic costs of various alternatives, the interest rate used in the computation should be the same for each alternative. Furthermore, it should be computed at the cost of borrowing money in Alaska.

In considering alternative sources for producing any needed energy in the railbelt area, we hope that the EIS will go beyond a theoretical analysis of costs for construction and operation and also consider probable site locations for such plants. This is especially important since the location of a plant can cause great environmental impacts. For example, what impacts would take place if a large steam plant were built in the Fairbanks area when we already have severe winter air quality problems?

A vital question which needs attention is how does this proposed project fit into the land use planning being done by the Joint Federal State Land Use Planning Commission? The same question applies to alternative methods for producing energy in the railbelt area.

In assessing environmental costs or impacts, we hope the EIS will go beyond the narrow confines of the Susitna River valley and consider the impact on the human environment. Assess how much growth these dams will bring to the railbelt and what that will do to the Alaskan way of life.

We are of course concerned that the usual questions of impacts on the land, the wildlife, and recreation be thoroughly examined; we know that the Corps will do this well. We also hope that a variety of sites on the river will be examined so that if it is decided to build dams the Corps will have the necessary information to choose the site(s) with the least impact on the river. We want to know what kind of transmission lines would be built and where they would go. Is there a possibility of underground lines? We want the project examined in totality, not one piece at a time. Four dams are proposed; if two are built the other two are likely to follow; all four should be included in the EIS, for only in that way can an accurate assessment of the impact on the river and the environment be made. If the Kaiser proposal is built, what would the impacts be, compared to the 4 dam proposal?

The Susitna as a wild river has a value now; that value can only increase in time as more and more Alaskan rivers are turned to other uses. This future value must be considered too.

We thank the Corps for this opportunity to express our concerns.

Helen Nienhueser

Helen Nienhueser for the
Alaska Center for the Environment
913 W 6th
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

DEVIL CANYON POWER REPORT

Presented by Irene Ryan

THE STATE CONTINUES TO GIVE ITS FULL ENDORSEMENT TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DEVIL CANYON HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT. WITH THE IMPENDING ENERGY SHORTAGE NOW FACING THE UNITED STATES AND THE ANTICIPATED FUTURE ENERGY NEEDS OF ALASKA THE STATE FEELS IT WOULD BE SHORTSIGHTED NOT TO PROCEED WITH THIS PROJECT AS EXPEDIENTLY AS POSSIBLE. THE POTENTIAL FOR RESOURSE DEVELOPMENT IN THIS REGION OF THE STATE IS LIKELY TO BE GREATER THAN ANY OTHER, SINCE IT IS LOCATED CLOSE TO BOTH POPULATION CENTERS AND RELATIVELY INEXPENSIVE TRANSPORTATION. WITH THE ANTICIPATED INCREASE IN THE COST OF POWER, THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DEVIL CANYON PROJECT WOULD ASSURE, IN PART AT LEAST, A SUPPLY OF CLEAN ECONOMIC POWER FOR THIS RAPIDLY DEVELOPING REGION OF THE STATE FOR MANY YEARS TO COME. IN ADDITION, DEVIL CANYON POWER WOULD SUPPLY THE MISSING LINK IN THE ANCHORAGE-FAIRBANKS POWER GRID.

THE CURRENT INSTALLED CAPACITY OF THE REGION (280,500 KW) IS ADEQUATE TO HANDLE CURRENT NEEDS. (AVERAGE MONTHLY LOAD IS 151,000 KW AND THE PEAK MONTHLY LOAD IS 209,000 KW). HOWEVER, EVEN CONSERVATIVE POPULATION ESTIMATES INDICATE A GROWTH OF OVER 70% IN THE RAILBELT POPULATION BY 1990 TO OVER 470,000 PEOPLE. THIS CONSERVATIVE ESTIMATE ALONE WILL PUSH THE POWER NEEDS OF THE REGION WELL BEYOND ITS CURRENT CAPACITY. CONSEQUENTLY, SUBSTANTIAL ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT IN PWER GENERATION FACILITIES WILL BE REQUIRED.

SEVERAL ALTERNATE POWER SOURCES ARE AVAILABLE TO THE STATE, HOWEVER, HYDROPOWER IS DEFINITELY THE BEST ALTERNATIVE. SEVERAL REASONS SUBSTANTIATE THIS POSITION:

1. MINE MOUTH COAL GENERATION-THIS TYPE OF ELECTRICAL GENERATION REQUIRES EXPENSIVE POLLUTION CONTROL DEVICES. IN ADDITION, COAL GENERATION OF POWER IS MORE LABOR INTENSIVE THAN HYDROPOWER AND WOULD BE SUBJECT TO INCREASES IN LABOR COSTS.

2. PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS BASED GENERATION-THIS TYPE OF ELECTRICAL POWER OVERCOMES THE POLLUTION AND LABOR COST PROBLEMS. HOWEVER, WITH THE CURRENT SHORTAGE OF PETROLEUM IT IS LIKELY THAT THE VALUE OF PETROLEUM WILL BECOME SO GREAT FOR ITS USE IN THE PRODUCTION OF GOODS RATHER THAN ENERGY, THAT THE COST TO PRODUCE POWER FROM PETROLEUM WILL BE PROHIBITIVE.

3. HYDROPOWER-THIS TYPE OF POWER GENERATION IS THE CLEANEST SOURCE OF POWER AVAILABLE, IT IS NON-LABOR INTENSIVE AND CONSEQUENTLY SHOULD SUPPLY THE MOST ECONOMIC POWER AVAILABLE SINCE IT USES A RENEWABLE RESOURCE.

THE DEVIL CANYON PROJECT ALSO OVERCOMES ONE OF THE MAIN OBJECTIONS TO HYDROPOWER IN THAT MUCH OF THE LAND WHICH WILL BE SUBMERGED UNDER WATER IS NEARLY UNINHABITED BY EITHER MAN OR ANIMALS.

THE LOCATION OF THE POWER PLANT AT DEVIL CANYON WOULD BE AN ADDITIONAL ASSET SINCE THE UPPER SUSITNA VICINITY HAS THE ADVANTAGE OF RELATIVELY CONTINUOUS MINERAL EXPLORATION SINCE EARLY IN THE CENTURY. THE FURTHER ADVANTAGE OF SURFACE TRANSPORTATION ACCESS HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE FEASIBILITY OF PROSPECTING BY OFFERING AN OUTLET FOR PRODUCTS. BASE METAL, ANTIMONY, AND SILVER HAVE BEEN MORE OR LESS CONTINUOUSLY PROSPECTED IN THE KANISHNA AND STAMPEDE AREAS, LED-ZINC-SILVER OCCURRENCE AT MT. EIELSON, RECENT DISCOVERIES OF COPPER MINERALIZATION IN THE DENALI-MACLAREN RIVER AREAS, MON-METALLIC AND INUSTRIAL MINERALS SUCH AS LIMESTONE AND CLAY ARE ALL POTENTIAL USERS OF POWER FROM THE PROJECT. SUB-SURFACE MINERALIZATION IS ONLY BEGINNING AND COULD PRODUCE ADDITIONAL DEMANDS FOR POWER IN THE REGION. STATE OIL ROYALITIES COULD BE AN ADDITIONAL SOURCE OF DEMAND FOR POWER IN THE REGION BY SUPPLYING POWER TO A POTENTIAL PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRY.

BECAUSE THE POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THIS REGION IS HIGH AS A POPULATION, A RESOURCE EXTRACTION AND A MANUFACTURING CENTER THE STATE'S INTEREST IN SEEING THIS PROJECT COME TO FRUITION CANNOT BE OVER-EMPHASIZED.

Soldotna, Alaska

May 8, 1974

District Engineer
Corps of Engineers
Box 7002
Anchorage, Alaska

Dear Sir:

I wish to submit the following statement as part of the Devil's Canyon Dam Project public hearing scheduled today in Anchorage.

I advocate construction of a high dam at Devil's Canyon at the site proposed by Kaiser Company for the following reasons:

1. One large dam at Devil's Canyon should be significantly cheaper to build than two smaller ones at Devil's Canyon and Watana, which the large one would replace. My reasoning is this: One large dam would be much closer to the Alaska Railroad for the heavy haul of construction materials than two smaller dams; only one expensive system of river diversion tunnels, dam foundations, powerhouse & generators, and transformers & powerlines would be required, instead of two; site investigations, designs, plans, and contracts for one dam instead of two. Furthermore, if the Denali Dam water storage reservoir is later found to be a desirable and acceptable supplement to the large Devil's Canyon Dam, the additional cost would be the same for either proposal. Thus Denali is a future option, and not a necessity.

2. The full power potential of Devil's Canyon and Watana dam sites could be utilized, sooner and perhaps cheaper, with one large dam at Devil's Canyon, by constructing a 5-6 mile penstock or tunnel downstream to a powerhouse at or below the small Devil's Canyon damsite. If a tunnel is feasible, it could also be used for the transportation of construction materials to the damsite, thus by-passing some of the most rugged canyon area for a railroad spur or access/haul road. Or if the tunnel is used temporarily for river diversion during dam construction, the nearly dry downstream bed could be used for an access & haul route.

3. A large Devil's Canyon Dam would have sufficient reservoir capacity to operate economically without the Denali Dam water storage reservoir; while the smaller one would not.

4. If only one large dam is built at Devil's Canyon, the reservoir area would be considerably less than a small Devil's Canyon dam, the Watana dam, and the Denali dam combination.

5. One large dam at Devil's Canyon should be in full power operation much sooner than the nearly equivalent combination of small Devil's Canyon, Watana, and Denali; thus releasing gas & oil presently used very inefficiently for

electrical generation, for a higher priority use elsewhere.

6. I suggest that the large Devil's Canyon dam be built about 100 feet higher than Kaiser's proposal (to the elevation of Watana dam at the 1900' contour level) to utilize the maximum potential of the canyon. This would require a low, earth-fill dam less than 50' high at the center and about 1/2 mile long, to plug the outlet into Stephan Lake (elev. 1862).

7. The most inaccessable Vee Dam should be built last--if and when the power is needed, and the conservationists are agreeable. Leaving this portion of the upper Susitna River at least temporarily unflooded may gain their acceptance of the remainder of the project, and give more time to consider the environmental impact in that area.

8. I think emphasis and priority should be given to using the entire power generated by the Devil's Canyon Project to replace existing sources of electrical generation in the railbelt area, including electrifying the Alaska Railroad, plus a modest allowance for normal future population growth; instead of reserving a large block of power for industrial use as desired by Kaiser Company and continueing the wasteful use of natural gas in simple-cycle turbines for electrical generation.

In conclusion, I urge you to make a serious objective analysis of the feasibility of constructing the highest dam possible at or near Devil's Canyon, and compare it fairly with the cost, power output, and environmental impact of your current proposal of four dams. If you have already done so, please mail me a copy. I would also appreciate copies of the transcripts of the Fairbanks and Anchorage public hearings according to the published offering made by Lyman Woodman, your public information officer.

Thank you for listening to my opinions and suggestions. I'm convinced that Devil's Canyon is by far the best large hydro development site in south-central Alaska, and the sooner we get it built the better, for both Alaska and rest of U.S.A. I'll do what I can to promote it, if most of it's power is not simply diverted to new industry and existing non-renewable sources of electrical energy continue to be needlessly expended.

Sincerely yours,

Charlie Parker

Charlie Parker

C.C. To others

Schematic Profile of Devils Canyon Project on upper Susitna River between Anchorage & Fairbanks, Alaska

By: Charlie Parker, Soldotna, Alaska, 2/10/83

SECTION III

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE
ANCHORAGE

8 MAY 1974

NAME	ADDRESS	ORGANIZATION
Reed Harris	632 6th	NMFS/NOAA - Commerce
Fred Anderson	2941 Lexington Ave.	C. of E.
Dale Briggs	Eagle River	Matanuska Electric
Meg Girand	Box 787, Eagle River	AAC
Lt. Ralph Brock		CE-NPAEN-PR-EN
Charles Konigsberg	SRA, Box 91	Self
Wesley Gregg	115 Federal Bldg.	Congressman Young
Don Thurston	813 D Street, Anchorage	US Fish & Wildlife
Doris Johnson	221 E 7th	C. of E.
Rita Shiffer	5419 E 42nd	C. of E.
Peg Tileston	4780 Cambridge, Anchorage	AK Center for the Environmen
Jack Sprague	St. Rt. A, Box 48-T Anchorage	
Helen Nienhueser	913 W 6th	AK Center for the Environmen
Vernon A. Luthman	Box 4-1118 Anchorage, Alaska 99509	
Nancy S. Wilson	Gold Creek, Alaska c/o ARR	
John P. & Betty Irvine	5122 Strawberry Rd., Anchorage	
Stephen Kurth	5001 Roger Drive Anchorage, Alaska 99507	
W. C. Rhodes	Homer	Homer Electric
Dennis L. Hardy	SRA Box 4106-D Anchorage	C. of E.
Thomas K. Wilson	1233 Karluk Street Anchorage	KTVA Eyewitness News
Kathy Bushue	4401 Northwood	Student
Molly Bushue	4401 Northwood	Student

NAME	ADDRESS	ORGANIZATION
Karen Sundby	1500 46th Ave. Anchorage	Student
EARL C. Chandler	3410 Boniface Pky.	Civil Engineer
Gary Flightner	Star Route A, Box 1458-F	C. of E.
William J. Moran	Box 1891, Anchorage	CEA
Gunnar Flygenring	Box 4095, Anchorage	CEA
Ralph R. Stefano	704 W 2nd Anchorage	
Ken Flynn	302 E 2nd Anchorage	
Mort Clement	3126 E 17th Anchorage	
Ms. P. L. Redmond	P. O. Box 4-079 Anchorage, Alaska 99509	
George Faerber	Box 293 Wasilla, Alaska 99687	
Andy Bowls	Box 2405 Anchorage, Alaska 99510	
Theodore L. Smith	7447 Henning Anchorage	Dames & Moore
Virgil Knight	1522 Coffey Lane, Anchorage	
Richard A. Weinig	1902 Alder Drive Anchorage, Alaska 99504	
Jack M. Hession	3304 Iowa Street #5 Anchorage	Sierra Club
Irene Ryan	Dept. of Economic Devel. Juneau	State of Alaska
Vance E. Borden	8300 Dewberry Street Anchorage	Student
Keith A. Trexler	4125 Terrace Drive Anchorage, Alaska 99502	
Jules V. Tileston	4780 Cambridge Way Anchorage	BOR
Donald T. Krull	4220 Baxter Road Anchorage	

NAME	ADDRESS	ORGANIZATION
John E. Swanson	1770 Oxford Anchorage	R&M Consultants
Theodore L. Smith	7447 Hennings Way, Anchorage	
Salvatore DeLeonardis	555 Cordova Anchorage	BLM
J. David Dorris	895 Cardigan Circle Anchorage	APA
Jerry J. McCutcheon	Box 2340 Anchorage, Alaska 99510	
Kent Miller	1407 Queens Road Berkeley, California	H. J. Kaiser Co.
Edward W. Bennet	7227 E Dubin Anchorage, Alaska 99504	TV News
Norman C. Goldman	P. O. Box G Palmer, Alaska 99645	M. E. A.
Stanley J. Erickson	833 W 13th Ave. Anchorage	
Henry P. Lang	2117 Belair Drive Anchorage	C. of E.
Dwayne and Helaine Detamore	768 Delaney Street Anchorage	C. of E.
Peter M. Lang	2117 Belair Drive Anchorage	Student
Robert J. Wienhold	Box 189 Eagle River	C. of E.
H. Kaye Pullen	603 Mason Drive Anchorage	C. of E.
William L. Armstrong	21-279B Juniper EAF Base, Alaska	C. of E.
Bob Cross	Box 50 Juneau, Alaska	APA

Corps Personnel

Colonel Charles A. Debelius, District Engineer

Mr. Kisuk Cheung, Chief, Engineering Division

Mr. Weldon Opp, Chief, Planning & Reports Branch

Mr. Duane Petersen, Environmentalist

Mr. Robert Parnell, Project Engineer

SECTION IV

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ALASKA DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 7002
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF: NPAEN-PR-R 8 April 1974

ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLIC MEETINGS
ON HYDROELECTRIC POWER IN THE
SOUTHCENTRAL RAILBELT AREA, ALASKA

MEETINGS TO BE HELD

MAY 6, 1974
MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM
RYAN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
921 AIRPORT ROAD
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA
AT 7:30 P.M., A.D.S.T.

MAY 8, 1974
TUDOR ROOM
HOLIDAY INN OF ANCHORAGE
239 WEST 4th AVENUE
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AT 7:30 P.M., A.D.S.T.

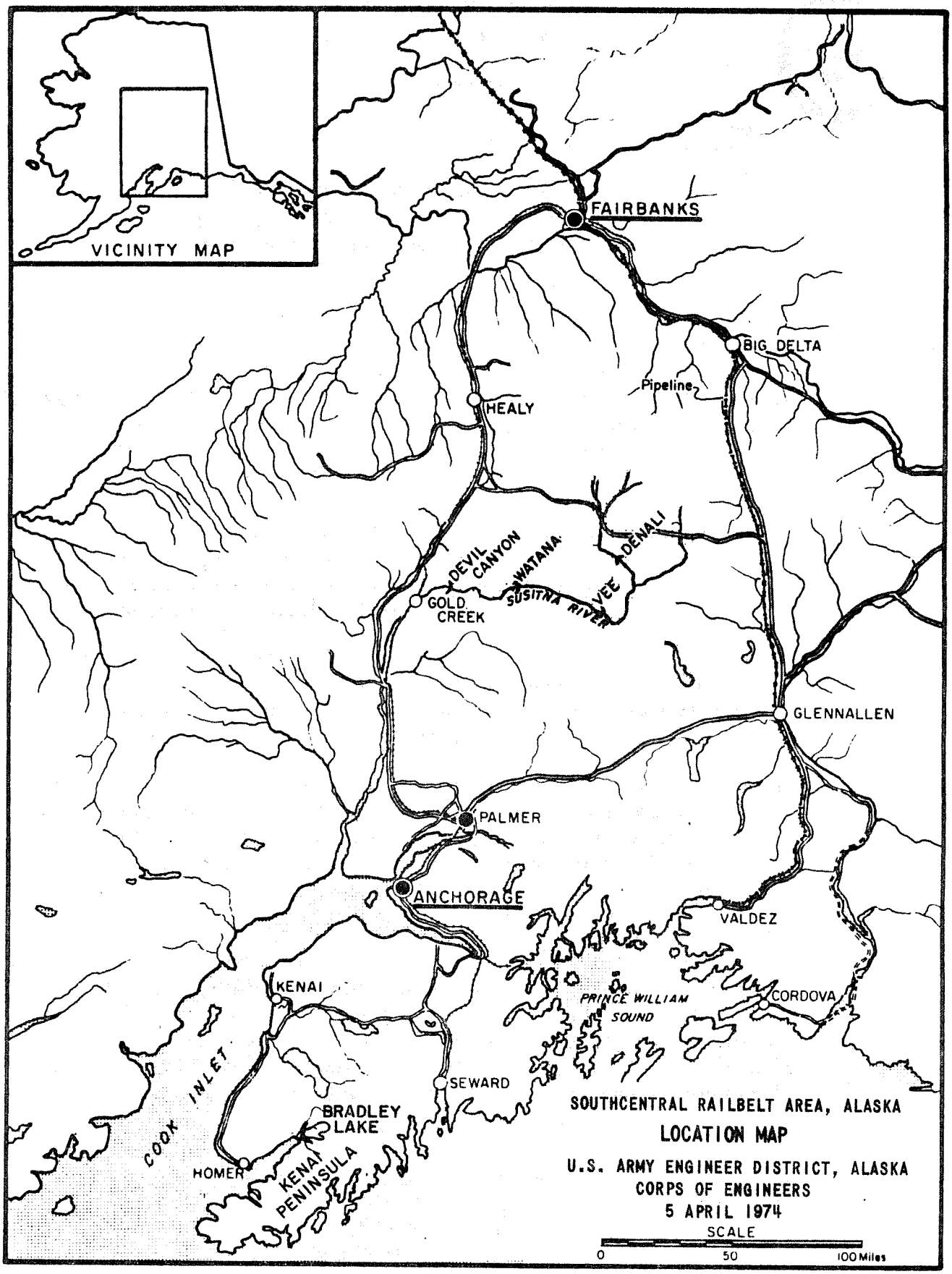
The Corps of Engineers is beginning a hydroelectric power study in response to a Congressional resolution which directs an appraisal of hydropower potential in Southcentral Alaska, specifically the Susitna River system, to service the Southcentral Railbelt area of the State.

Public meetings are being held to initiate public participation in the Southcentral Railbelt area study to gain information and evidence concerning electrical energy needs of the area and possible solutions in obtaining this energy through hydropower.

All interested parties are cordially invited and will be given full opportunity to present their views on any or all aspects pertinent to the study. All statements, oral or written, will become part of the official record of the study. Written statements may be given to the presiding official at the meeting or may be mailed to the District Engineer at the address shown in the letterhead of this announcement.

Recommendations to higher authority on feasibility and selection of a plan of improvement will be made only after full consideration is given to the information received and to the expressed views of all agencies, groups, and citizens. Although the study may result in recommendations for Federal Government actions, their accomplishment would depend upon subsequent authorization and funding by the United States Congress.

CHARLES A. DEBELIUS
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer


VICINITY MAP
FAIRBANKS
BIG DELTA
Pipeline
HEALY
DEVIL CANYON
WATANA
DENALI
SUSITNA RIVER
VEE
GOLD CREEK
GLENNALLEN
PALMER
ANCHORAGE
VALDEZ
KENAI
PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND
CORDOVA
SEWARD
COOK INLET
BRADLEY LAKE
HOMER
KENAI PENINSULA
SOUTHCENTRAL RAILBELT AREA, ALASKA
LOCATION MAP
U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, ALASKA
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
5 APRIL 1974
SCALE
0
50
100 Miles

SECTION V

MAILING LIST

SOUTHCENTRAL RAILBELT STUDY

ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLIC MEETING
TO BE HELD 6 MAY 1974
AT FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLIC MEETING
TO BE HELD 8 MAY 1974
AT ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

MAILING LIST

CONGRESSIONAL:

Honorable Ted Stevens
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510
(w/mailing list)

Honorable Ted Stevens
United States Senator
Juneau, Alaska 99801
(w/mailing list)

Honorable Mike Gravel
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510
(w/mailing list)

Honorable Mike Gravel
United States Senator
Juneau, Alaska 99801
(w/mailing list)

Honorable Don Young
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515
(w/mailing list)

Honorable Don Young
Representative in Congress
Suite 115, Federal Building
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(w/mailing list)

FEDERAL:

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ATTN: DAEN-CWP-W
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(5 cys w/mailing list)

Division Engineer
North Pacific Division,
Corps of Engineers
210 Custom House
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(2 cys w/mailing list)

Resident Member
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(w/mailing list)

District Engineer
Seattle District,
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Water Resources Coordinator
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Rockville, Maryland 20852

The Administrator
Soil Conservation Service
Department of Agriculture
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Director
Coastal Engineering Research Center
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U. S. Department of Commerce
Washington, D. C. 20230

FEDERAL (cont)

Secretary of Transportation
Department of Transportation
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Regional Coordinator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Sixth Avenue, Region X
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(3 cys)

Director & Regional Leader
Water Resources Council
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Washington, D. C. 20037
(2 cys)

Director
Pacific Northwest Region, NPS
931 Fourth & Pike Building
Seattle, Washington 98101
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Chief, Bureau of Power
Federal Power Commission
Washington, D. C. 20426
(4 cys)

Assistant Secretary for Manpower
& Employment
Department of Labor
Washington, D. C. 20210
(4 cys)

Administrator
Federal Aviation Agency
Washington, D. C. 20590
(4 cys)

Director, Alaskan Region
Federal Aviation Administration
632 Sixth Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Western Regional Director
Maritime Administration
450 Golden Gate Avenue, Box 36073
San Francisco, California 94102

Secretary of Health,
Education & Welfare
Washington, D. C. 20201

Chief, Division of Economics
& Basin Studies
Portland Service Center
Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 3861
Portland, Oregon 97208

The Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1626 "K" Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20460
(2 cys)

Assistant Surgeon General
Chief, Sanitary Engineering Offic
U. S. Public Health Service
Dept of Health, Education & Welf
Washington, D. C. 20203

Secretary of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

Distribution Division (C-44)
National Ocean Survey
Department of Commerce
Riverdale, Maryland 20840

Director, Anchorage Field Office
National Ocean Survey
632 Sixth Avenue, Room 302
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
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Director
Resources & Civil Works Division
OMB, Room 192
Executive Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20005

Regional Director
Western Regional Office
Economic Development Administration
1700 Westlake N.
Seattle, Washington 98109

FEDERAL (cont)

Chairman
Council on Environmental Quality
722 Jackson Place, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

Chief, Federal Activities Branch
Environmental Protection Agency
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Regional Director
Pacific Northwest Region
Bureau of Outdoor Recreation
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Chief, Archeological Investigations
National Park Service
Western Regional Office
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San Francisco, California 94102

Regional Hydrologist, Alaska Region
NOAA National Weather Service
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Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Division Engineer
U. S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration
P. O. Box 1648, 709 W. 9th Street
Juneau, Alaska 99801

General Superintendent
Office of Indian Affairs
Department of the Interior
Juneau, Alaska 99801
(2 cys)

Mr. Weymeth E. Long, State Conservationist
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204 East 5th Avenue, Room 217
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Mr. Bob Cross
Project Development Division
Alaska Power Administration
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Juneau, Alaska 99801

Economic Development Administrat
U. S. Department of Commerce
Washington, D. C. 20230

U. S. Department of Commerce
Economic Development Administrat
1700 Westlake Avenue, North
Seattle, Washington 98109

Head, Engineering & Watershed
Planning Unit
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Director
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University of Alaska Campus
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Regional Administrator
U. S. DHUD, Region X
Arcade Plaza Building
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Chief, Alaska Field Operations C
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Administrator
Alaska Power Administration
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State Director
Bureau of Land Management
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Alaska Game Commission
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General Manager
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FEDERAL: (cont)

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Mr. Edward F. Weitzel
General Planning Engineer
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Portland, OR 97208

State Director
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Portland, Oregon 97205

Economic Research Service, USDA
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Arctic Health Research Center
Public Health Service, DHEW
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Secretary of the Navy
Department of the Navy
Washington, D. C. 20350

DOT Coordinator for Water Resources
Dept. of Transportation (AWL/83)
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