

Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project Document

ARLIS Uniform Cover Page

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All reports in the Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project Document series include an ARLIS-produced cover page and an ARLIS-assigned number for uniformity and citability. All reports are posted online at <http://www.arlis.org/resources/susitna-watana/>





March 1, 2013

Ms. Kimberly D. Bose
Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

**Re: Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 14241-000;
Filing of 2012 Baseline Environmental and Resources Study Reports**

Dear Secretary Bose:

As explained in its Pre-Application Document and Revised Study Plan (RSP) for the proposed Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 14241 (Project), the Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) carried out numerous baseline environmental and resources studies related to the proposed Project during the 2012 field season. Because the 2012 studies occurred prior to the commencement of the study phase of the licensing effort under the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (Commission) Integrated Licensing Process, AEA was not required to complete these baseline studies. However, AEA voluntarily undertook these studies for purposes of taking advantage of the 2012 field season to gather environmental data related to the proposed Project, and to help inform the scope and methods of the licensing studies during 2013-14, as set forth in AEA's RSP.

As AEA has completed the study reports associated with these 2012 baseline environmental and resources studies, it has made the study reports publicly available by uploading them to the "Documents" page of its licensing website, <http://www.susitna-watanahydro.org/type/documents/>. The purpose of this filing is to submit these study reports to the Commission's record for the above-referenced Project.

In particular, the following study reports are attached, all of which are relevant to the Commission's study plan determination scheduled for April 1, 2013:

- Attachment A: *Adult Salmon Distribution and Habitat Utilization Study* (January 2013)
- Attachment B: *Synthesis of Existing Fish Population Data* (February 2013)
- Attachment C: *Mercury Assessment and Potential for Bioaccumulation* (February 2013)

- Attachment D: *Technical Memorandum, Susitna River Large Woody Debris Reconnaissance* (March 2013)
- Attachment E: *Riparian Vegetation Study Downstream of the Proposed Susitna-Watana Dam* (February 2013)
- Attachment F: *Technical Memorandum, Reconnaissance Level Assessment of Potential Channel Change in the Lower Susitna River Segment* (February 2013)
- Attachment G: *Stream Flow Assessment* (February 2013)
- Attachment H: *Development of Sediment-Transport Relationships and an Initial Sediment Balance for the Middle and Lower Susitna River Segments* (February 2013)
- Attachment I: *Technical Memorandum, Initial Geomorphic Reach Delineation and Characterization, Middle and Lower Susitna River Segments* (February 2013)

As the remaining 2012 study reports are finalized, AEA will continue to update its website and submit them to the record.

If you have questions concerning this submission, please contact me at wdyok@aidea.org or (907) 771-3955.

Sincerely,



Wayne Dyok
Project Manager
Alaska Energy Authority

Attachments

cc: Distribution List (w/o Attachments)