

# Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project Document

## ARLIS Uniform Cover Page

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<b>Author(s) – Personal:</b> Wayne Dyok, Nick Szymoniak, and Jim Strandberg <i>(Authors from AEA's Board Meeting minutes for January 10, 2013.)</i>		
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# SUSITNA-WATANA HYDRO

*Clean, reliable energy for the next 100 years.*

[Susitna-WatanaHydro.org](http://Susitna-WatanaHydro.org)

# AEA Board of Directors

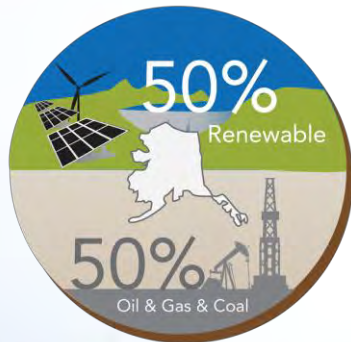
## January 10, 2013

1. Introduction
2. Licensing Update
3. Engineering
4. Economics



# Project Highlights

- Susitna-River, Mile 184
- 87 River Miles from Talkeetna
- 22-32 River Miles upstream from Devils Canyon
- ~50 percent of Railbelt's Energy Demand



**SUSITNA-WATANA HYDRO** *Clean, reliable energy for the next 100 years.*

## Project Highlights

### Location:

River mile 184, above  
Devils Canyon

### Size:

750-foot high dam

### Reservoir:

About 41-miles long, 2-miles wide (at widest)

### Estimated Supply:

Roughly 50 percent of Railbelt  
electrical demand

### Installed Capacity:

600 MW

### Annual Energy

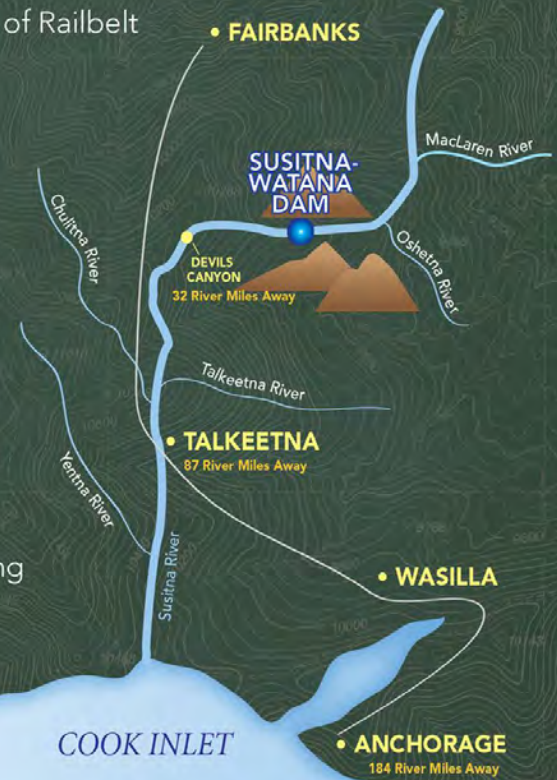
2,800,000 MWh

### Licensing:

Federal Energy  
Regulatory  
Commission (FERC)

### Project Life:

100+ years, providing  
long-term,  
stable rates



# Why Susitna-Watana Hydro

- Long-term diversification
- Clean, reliable, and stable energy source
- Promotes integration of variable power sources
- Will serve nearly 80 percent of state's population
- Will annually displace an estimated 1.3 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>\*
- 1,000 jobs during peak construction
- Stable electricity rates for businesses and consumers 100+ years

# Licensing Update

- Revised Study Plan
  - Filed with FERC: Dec. 14, 2012
  - Proposed 58 studies
- FERC Study Plan Determination
  - 45 studies: Feb. 1, 2013
  - 13 remaining studies in flux (April 1 versus May 14)

# 2013 Field Studies

- Begin winter field studies
- Gearing up to conduct environmental summer field effort
  - Field work includes agreements with Alaska Department of Fish & Game
  - Contracting and procurement
  - Logistical support including helicopters and field camps
  - Obtaining permits from land owners

# 2012 Engineering Highlights

- Selection of maximum normal reservoir level - 2050' (~735' dam)
- Drilled 8 boreholes to confirm design criteria
- Installed of 4 micro-seismic stations; repeater
- Studied utility generation & transmission
- Continued design feasibility and optimization
- Updated Cost Estimate



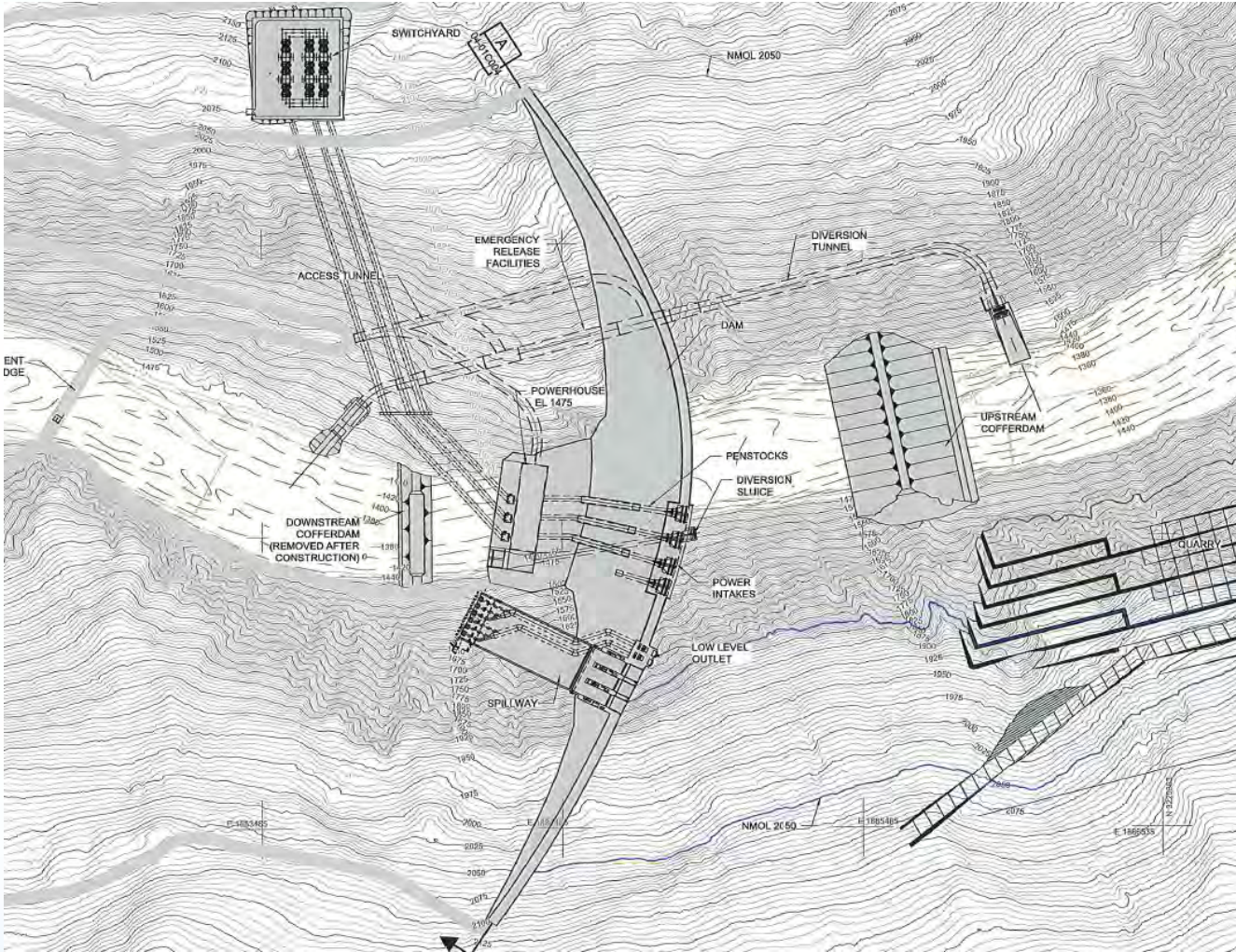
# 2012 Geotechnical & Seismic

- Work to confirm suitable quarry source
- Geologic mapping and borehole information used to adjust dam arrangement
- Measuring groundwater and temperatures
- Continued characterization of seismic sources
- Collection of local seismic event data

# 2013 Engineering Goals

- Resources and Procurement Plan
- Geotechnical Exploration at Dam Site
- Utility Precedence Agreement
- Design Feasibility Report

# Project Site Plan



# Independent Construction Cost Estimate

- AECOM produced estimate
  - Extensive hydro experience, including Arctic climates
  - Ranked as best hydroelectric developer
- Estimate based on
  - January 2012 conceptual design (dam, access, transmission, facilities)
  - AEA's line item list and quantities
- Tasks and deliverables
  - Unit price estimate by line
  - Independent construction schedule

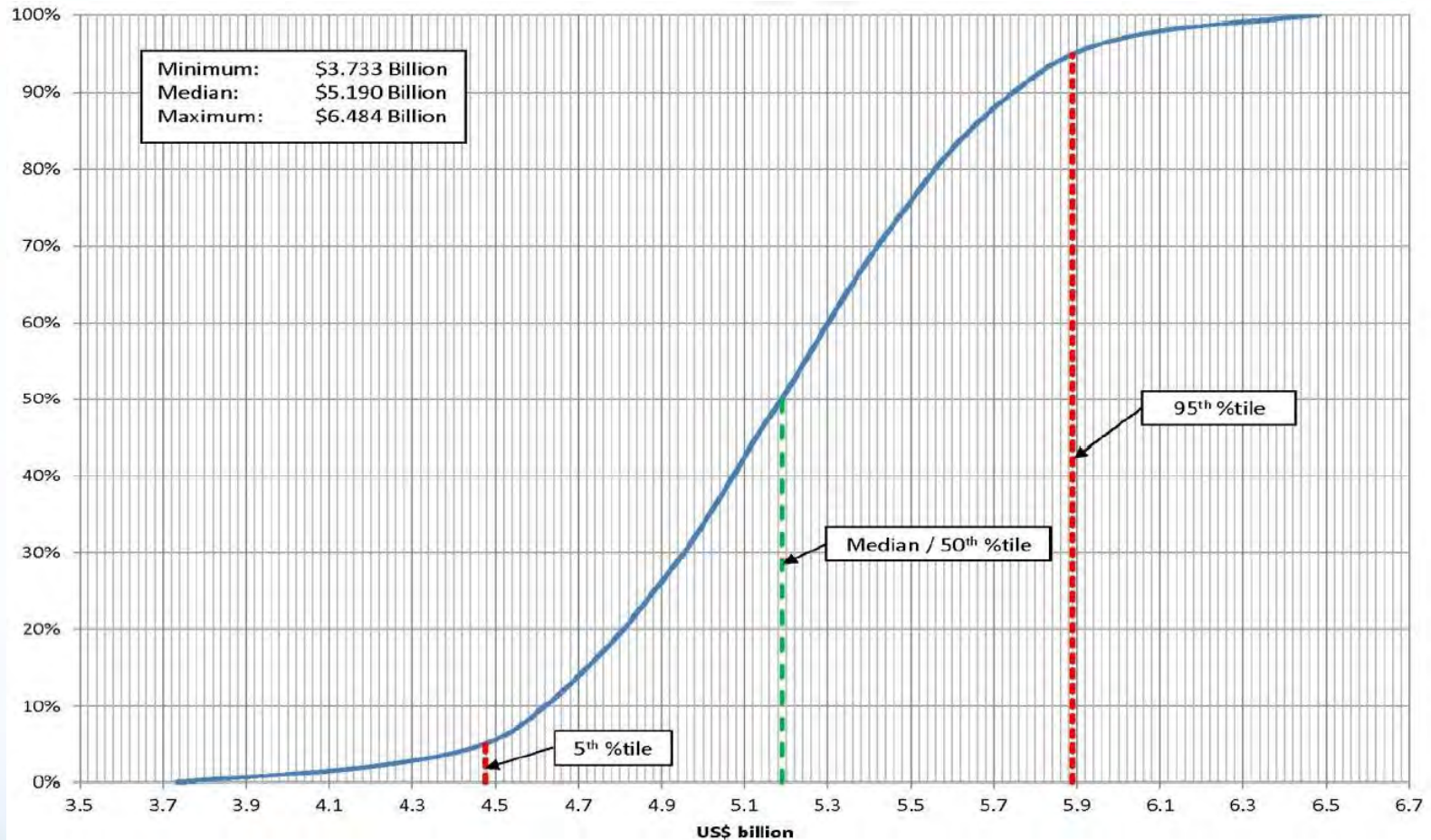


# Independent Construction Cost Estimate: Results

- Estimates within 9%
- Accuracy of the most probable estimate: -11% to +26%
- AECOM confirms
  - Feasible timeline
  - Roller-Compacted Concrete (RCC) dams constructible in cold climates
- AECOM recommends
  - Year-round construction (James Bay Project example)
  - Consideration of early reservoir filling for early power generation



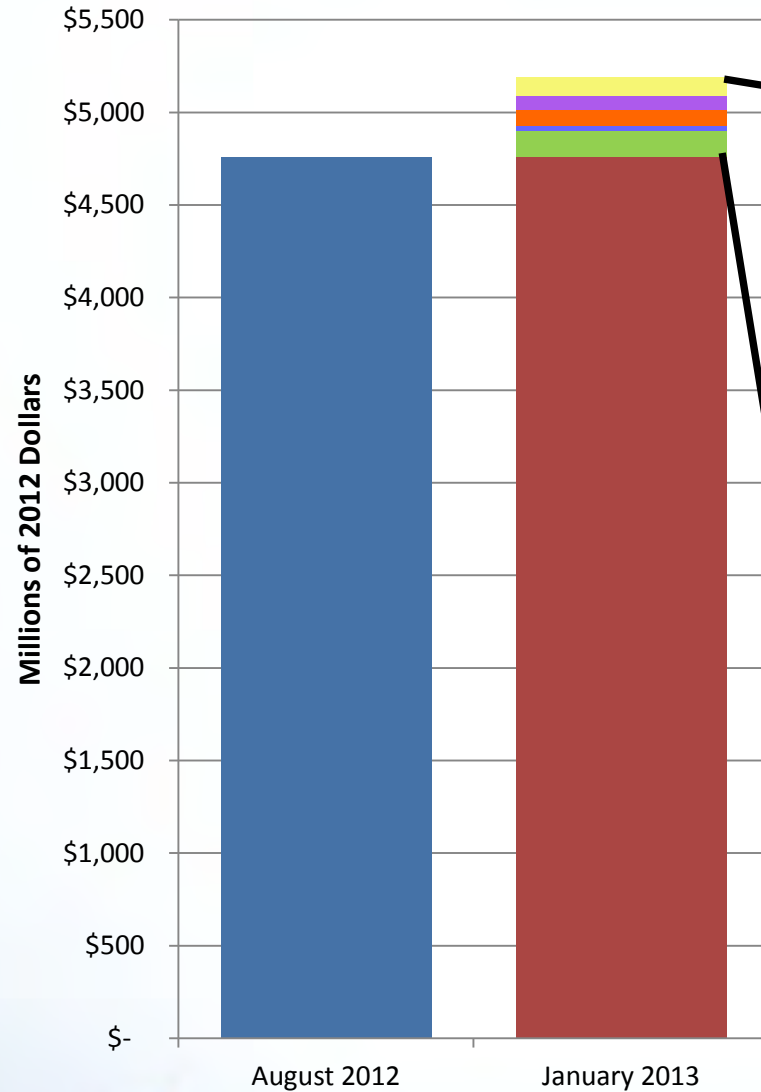
# Probabilistic Range of Total Project Costs



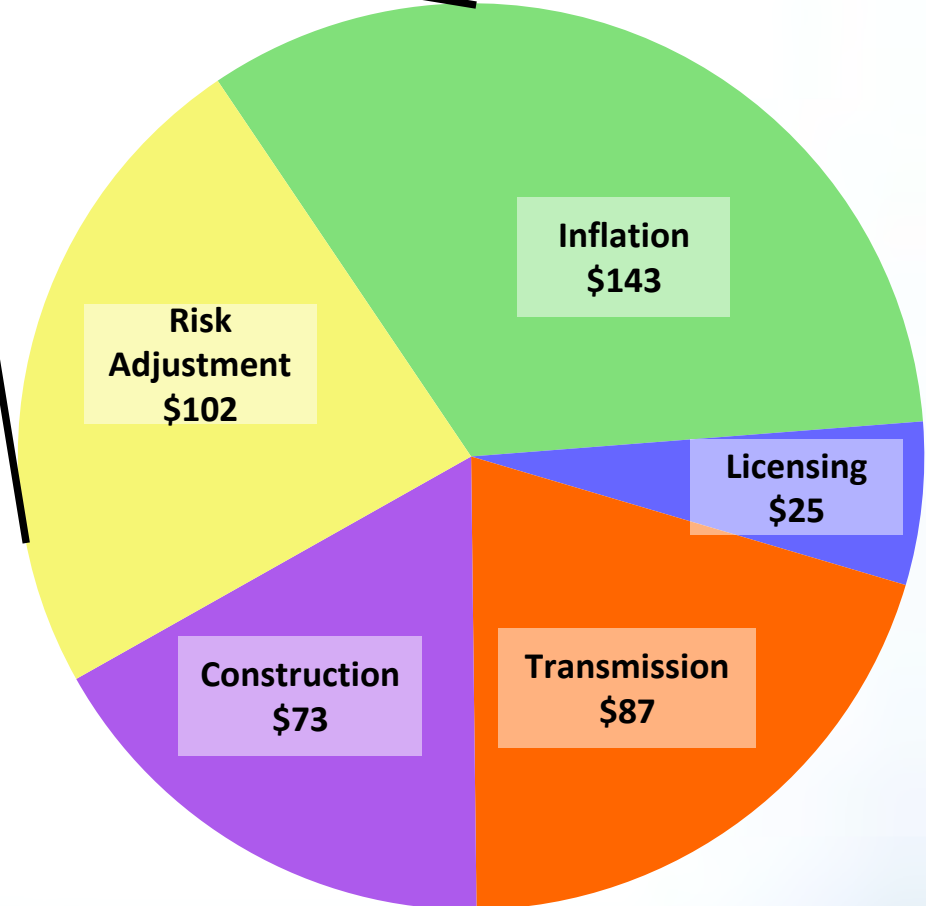
# Capital Cost Takeaway

- Slight increase in cost estimate since last year, yet the range of probable costs reduced.
- AEA remains committed to providing the most accurate cost information possible.

## Comparing Cost Estimates



## Components of Cost Update (\$millions)

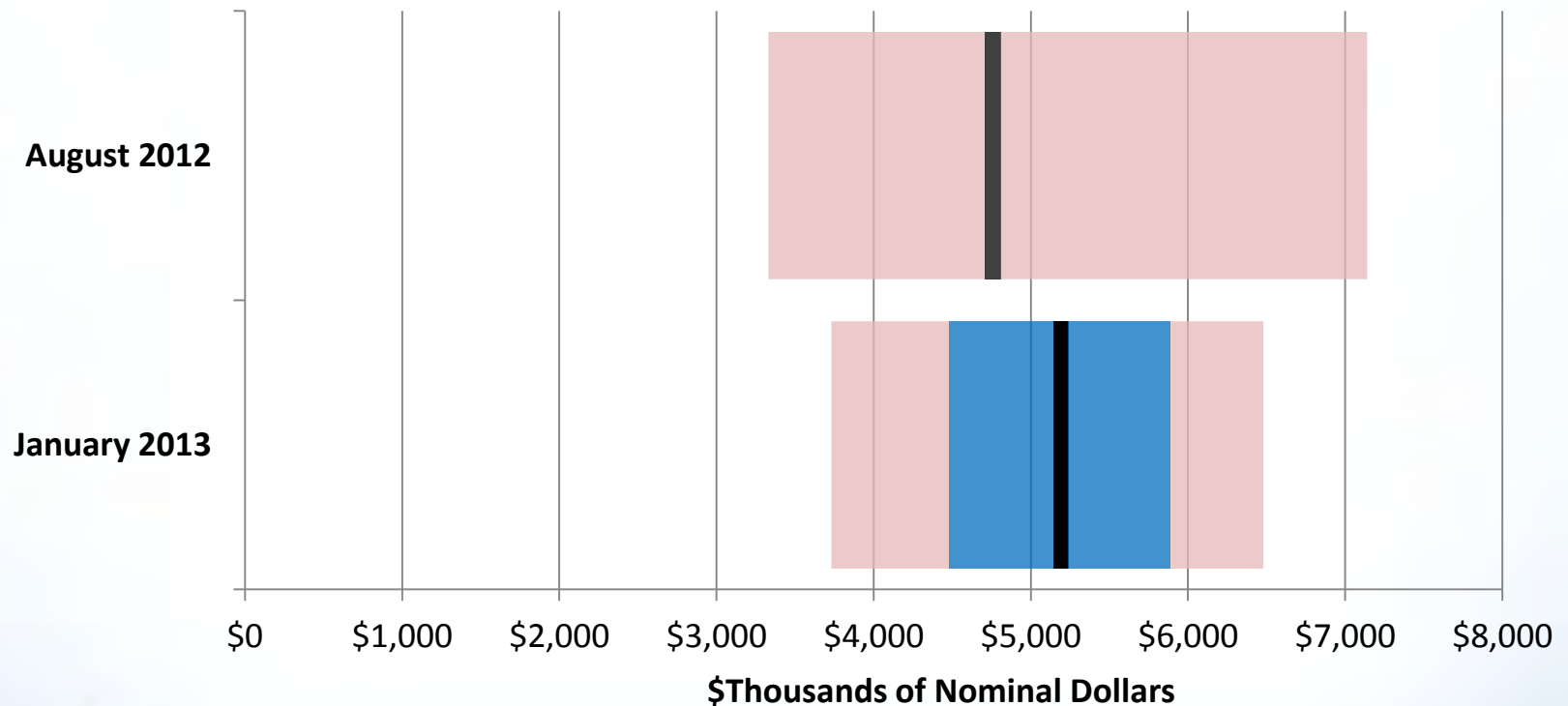




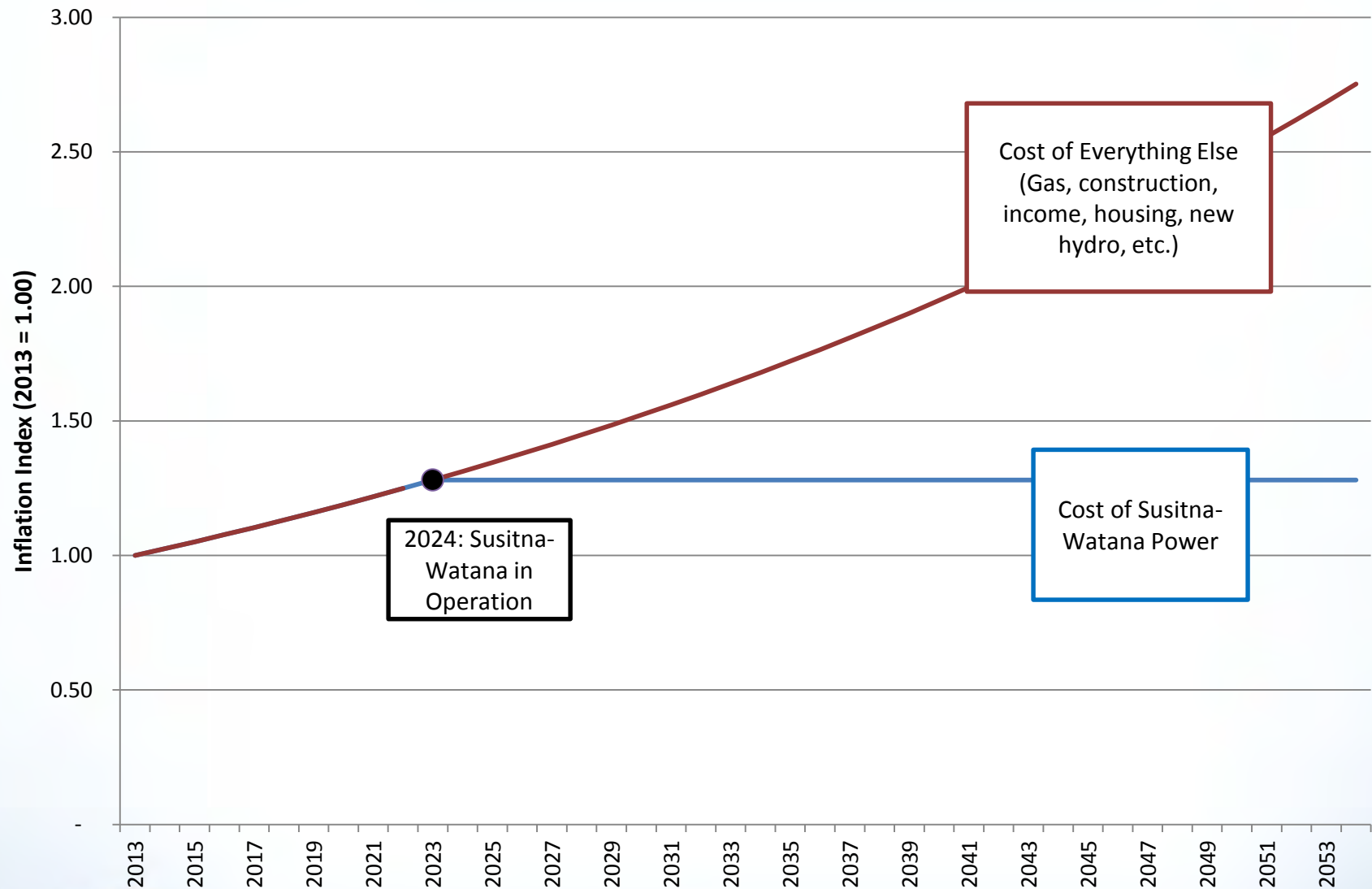
# Cost Update

	Best Estimate	Low Estimate*	High Estimate*	Minimum Cost	Maximum Cost
August 2012	\$4,760			\$3,332	\$7,140
January 2013	\$5,190	\$4,480	\$5,890	\$3,733	\$6,484

*\*Low and High Estimates represent a 90% probability*



# Impacts of Inflation on Susitna-Watana Power Costs



# Susitna-Watana Hydro Power Cost

- The method for projecting Susitna-Watana Hydro power costs same as last year
- Capital costs is the only variable to change
- Capital cost increase resulted in a small increase in the power cost
- Assumes no direct State financing

# Base Case Economic Assumptions

Capital Costs (\$mill)	\$5,190
Power Production (GWh)	2,800
Interest Rate	5.00%
Debt Term (years)	30
Annual O&M Costs (\$mill)	\$16
Operation Start Year	2024



# Susitna-Watana Power Costs (\$/kWh)

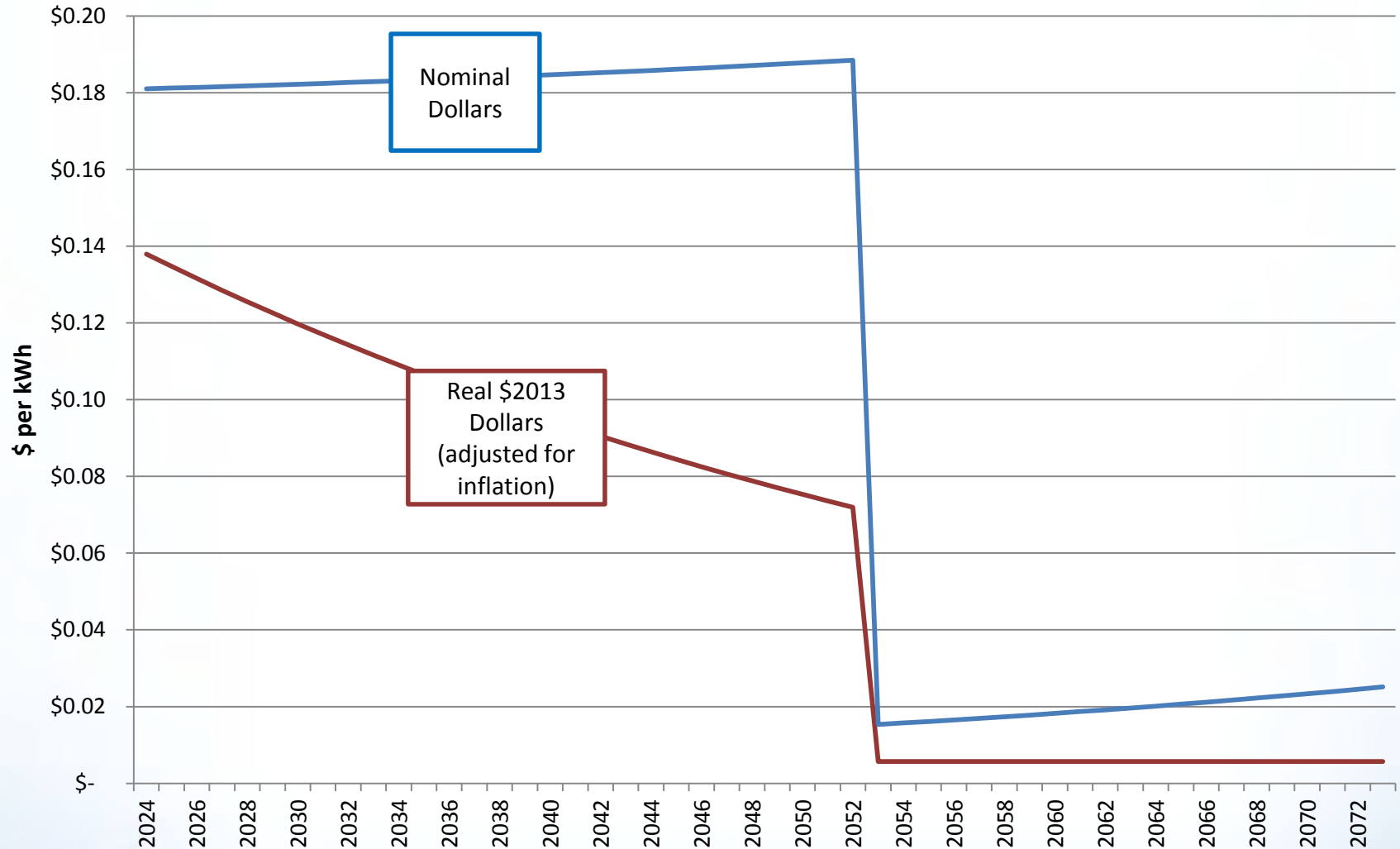
Year 1 Rate (\$2024)	\$0.181
Year 1 Rate (\$2013 Real)	\$0.138
10 Year Ave Rate (\$2013 Real)	\$0.124
25 Year Ave Rate (\$2013 Real)	\$0.106
50 Year Ave Rate (\$2013 Real)	\$0.061

Real= Adjusted for Inflation

Assumes no Direct State Financing

# Susitna-Watana Power Costs: Real vs. Nominal

(Assumes no Direct State Financing)



# Natural Gas Generation Comparison

- Competitive with natural gas in the early years, much lower cost over long term
- Future natural gas prices are unknown
- Assume a constant efficiency and non-fuel cost for natural gas generation
  - Heat rate of 8,000 (Btu/kWh)
  - Non-fuel cost of \$0.03 per kWh

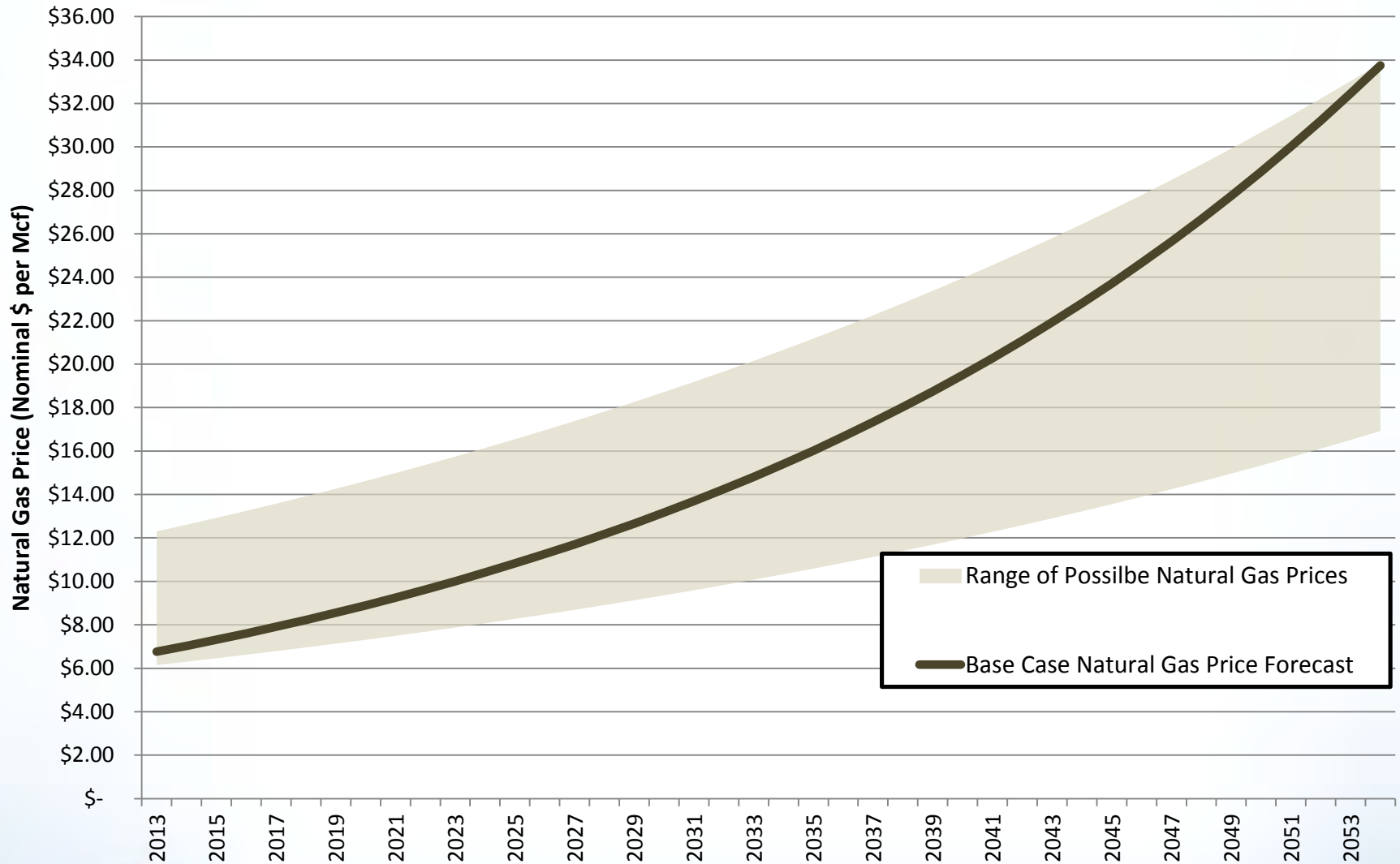
# Natural Gas Price Forecast

- A single forecast was needed for a “Base Case” comparison
  - \$6.50 per Mcf in 2012
  - Increases at 4% annually (1.5% greater than inflation)
- Realistically, future natural gas prices are better represented with a range
  - Prices can range \$6.00 to \$12.00 per Mcf in 2013
  - Range increase with inflation (2.5% annually)

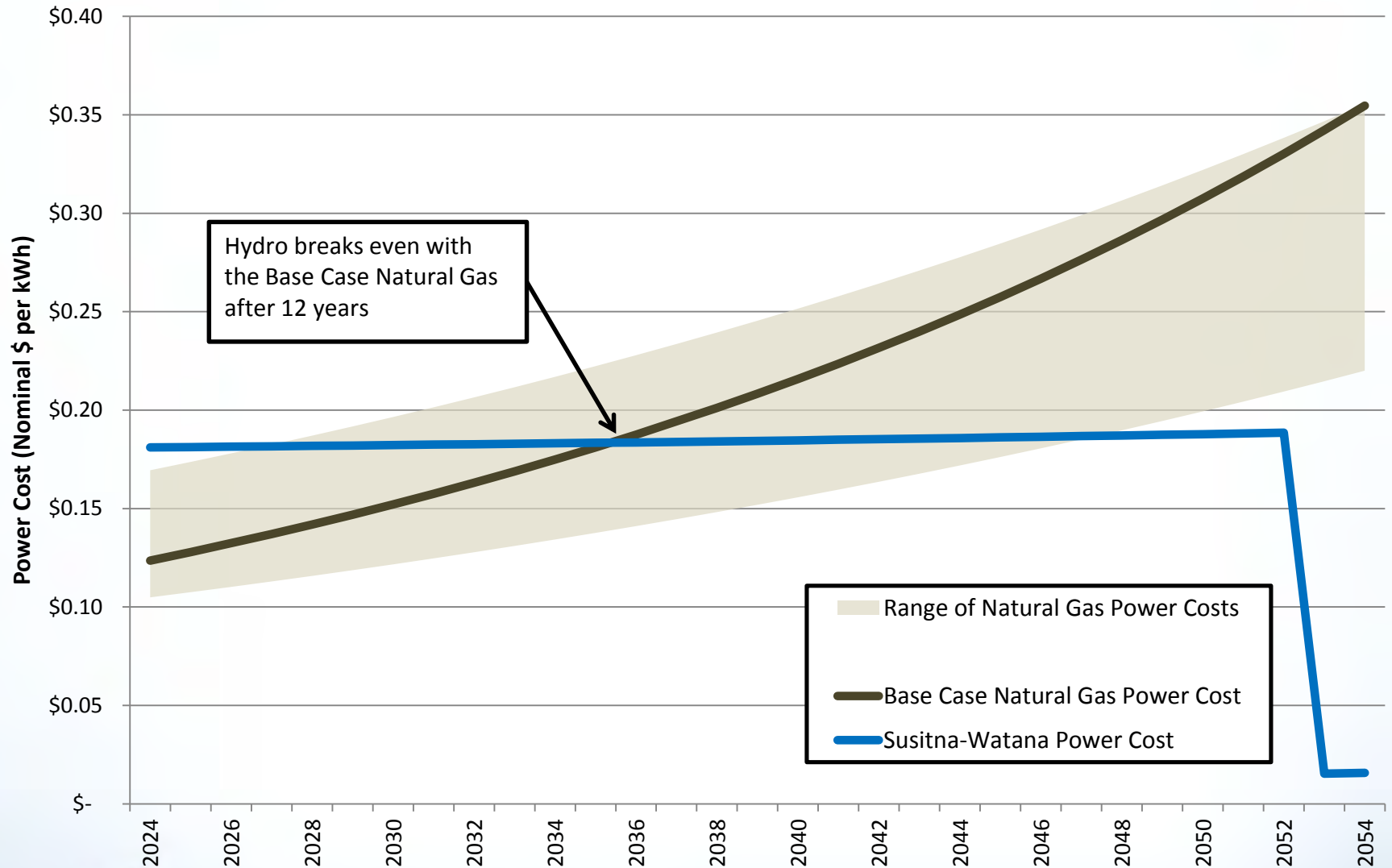




# Natural Gas Price Forecast and Range



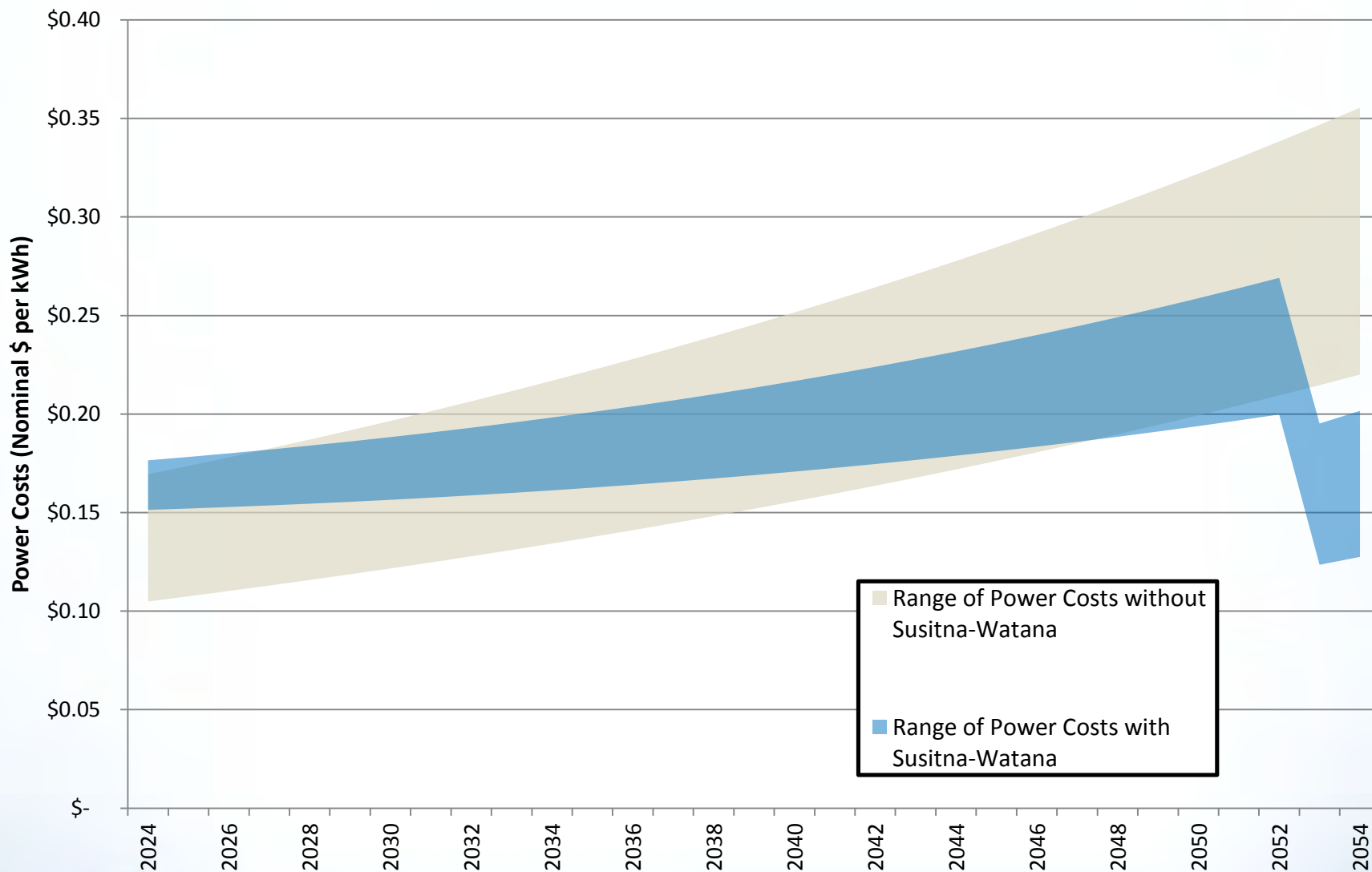
# Susitna-Watana vs. Natural Gas Power Costs



# Susitna-Watana Hydro Reduces Power Price Uncertainty

- Hydropower reduces electricity price uncertainty and volatility
- Following chart compares the impact of the range of natural gas prices on the average power costs under two scenarios
  - First scenario assumes 100% natural gas generation
  - Second scenario assumes 50% hydro and 50% natural gas generation

# Power Costs Under Range of Natural Gas Prices



# Economic Takeaways

- Project cost estimate increase was largely a result of inflation and risk adjustments
- Susitna-Watana power remains cost competitive with natural gas in the early years, and will cost much less over the project life
- Breaks even with natural gas after 12 years without any direct State financing
- Susitna-Watana Hydro can significantly reduce future power cost uncertainty





### Project Highlights

**Location:** River mile 184, above Devils Canyon

**Size:** 750-foot high dam

**Reservoir:** 41-miles long, 2-miles wide (at widest)

**Estimated Supply:** Nearly 50 percent of Railbelt electrical demand

**Installed Capacity:** 600 MW

**Annual Energy:** 2,800,000 MWh

**Licensing:** Federal Energy Regulatory

# Susitna-WatanaHydro.org