

Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project Document

ARLIS Uniform Cover Page

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January 16, 2018

All work on the Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project had come to a full stop by the end of calendar year 2017. AEA closed out the project in a way that preserved the value of the State's investments and maintained the public value of the data collected through careful, thorough archiving. Additionally, FERC's updated Study Plan Determination (SPD) provides the State with certainty on what is needed to file a comprehensive FERC license application should the project be restarted. With its SPD, FERC reaffirmed the scope of studies necessary for determining impact assessment and developing protection, mitigation and enhancement measures, and FERC validated the quality and integrity of work completed to date. To the extent the project proposal does not change and the data gathered does not become stale, FERC ruled that AEA would not need to repeat the already-completed Integrated Licensing Process steps. If restarted, FERC may require additional scoping and/or modifications to the approved Study Plan.

- The completed engineering feasibility report contains information necessary for a license application. The report demonstrates that the project is technically feasible.
- The benefit cost and economic impact analysis concluded that if constructed, the project would generate billions of dollars in energy savings for the Railbelt and would provide a significant long term benefit to the economy.
- AEA investigated various financing models, some of which resulted in an estimated \$0.066/kWh 50-year average real price in 2014 dollars.
- AEA is approximately two thirds of the way through the Integrated Licensing Process. Had the project not been shut down following FERC's issuance of the updated SPD in June 2017, next steps for the project would have been implementation of the second study season, preparation of final reports and a license application.

The Susitna-Watana Hydro study effort has provided volumes of information and data about the Susitna basin, the indigenous cultures, fisheries, wildlife, and landscape. This vast, high quality data is of significant value to other resource development efforts and management of fish and wildlife resources. The information has been catalogued and stored online through AEA, ARLIS and GINA, and is publicly available.

Alaska Energy Authority is proud of the work done to date to advance the Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project. This effort yielded significant benefit in terms of the volume of knowledge produced and shared, and in terms of better understanding the potential of this resource to provide stable, low-cost power to Alaskans over the 100-year life of the project should it ever be restarted.

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