

May 1982

SUSITNA ACCESS PLANNING
RE-EVALUATION OF ACRES' RECOMMENDED PLAN

In February 1982, Acres American made a recommendation to the Alaska Power Authority on an access plan for the proposed Susitna hydroelectric project. This recommended plan, shown on the attached map, appeared in Acres' Feasibility Report released in March.

At public and resource agency hearings in April, two main concerns were expressed regarding the recommended access plan. The first concern was the construction of a "pioneer" road in advance of receiving a FERC license for construction. The second concern was the potential impacts of the access route on the Gold Creek area and the Indian River remote parcels.

Based on these concerns, the Alaska Power Authority directed Acres to re-evaluate their recommended access plan. Acres has begun their re-evaluation and will present their findings to the Power Authority Board of Directors on June 25 in Anchorage.

The main objectives of the re-evaluation are to determine: 1) the best plan without the constraint of schedule; 2) the best plan to limit access; and 3) the best plans that allow earliest construction with and without the pioneer road.

At the June Board meeting, Acres will compare five plans (shown on map). These plans are:

1. Original route recommended by Acres in March 1982
2. New road alternative from Hurricane to the Portage Creek area on the north side of the Susitna River
3. All rail from Gold Creek to Devil Canyon and Watana
4. Rail from Gold Creek to Devil Canyon with road on the south side of the Susitna River to Watana
5. Road from the Denali Highway south to the dam sites

We hope to be able to provide more information on the access re-evaluation before the June 25 meeting of the Power Authority's Board of Directors. If you would like to make comments concerning access, the June 25 Board meeting in Anchorage is the time to do so.

ALTERNATE ACCESS PLAN

