

STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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March 12, 1982

Mr. Charles Conway, Chairman
Board of Directors
Alaska Power Authority
334 West 5th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Mr. Conway:

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has reviewed the APA's January 26, 1982, request for the Department's position on the proposed Susitna Hydroelectric Project.

All indications are that it may be too early to make definite statements on the cost effectiveness, environmental and technical soundness of the project. Of course, our involvement is limited to evaluating the potential impacts on the fish and wildlife resources. In that regard we recognize that there is a general lack of knowledge available at the present time to predict the magnitude of impacts and prescribe feasible mitigation alternatives especially for fisheries. In light of that, we believe that any statements regarding the acceptability of the project with respect to energy benefits versus fish and wildlife losses would be premature. I am enclosing for your information, however, a letter of comments this Department sent to Jeff Weltzin of the Northern Environmental Center on January 19, 1982, in response to questions he had about the project and the fishery impact.

In addition, we believe it essential that we have the opportunity to review the Draft Feasibility Study and other pertinent reports not yet released before making a general evaluation of the proposed project. I am pleased to accept your invitation to attend and address the Alaska Power Authority Board of Directors on April 16, 1982, with advices the Department may have about the proposed Susitna Hydroelectric Project.

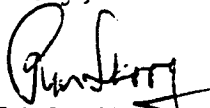
Mr. Charles Conway, Chairman

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Thank you for the opportunity which you have provided me to comment.

Sincerely,



Ronald O. Skoog
Commissioner

cc: K. Boyha - USFWS
A. Carson - ADNR
R. Morris - NMFS
R. Martin - ADEC
J. Rego - USBLM, ADO
R. Lamke - USGS