



December 14, 2012

The Honorable Kimberly D. Bose  
Secretary  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street, N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20426

**Re: Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project, Project No. 14241-000**

**Submission of Revised Study Plan**

Dear Secretary Bose:

Pursuant to the regulations of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission), 18 C.F.R. § 5.13(a), the Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) submits for filing the Revised Study Plan (RSP) for the original license application for the Susitna-Watana Project No. 14241 (Project).

AEA has worked diligently with participants in the licensing process to develop a comprehensive study plan for the proposed Project. Beyond the standard requirements of the Commission's Integrated Licensing Process (ILP) regulations, AEA's collaborative efforts have included:

- Implementing an early consultation outreach program and initiating baseline environmental information gathering prior to developing a preliminary list of studies for the Pre-Application Document.
- Organizing resource-based Technical Workgroups (TWGs) and holding numerous meetings with licensing participants beginning in early 2012.
- Publishing draft study requests in May 2012 to assist the participants in preparing formal study requests conforming to the requirements of 18 C.F.R. § 5.9.
- Providing funding to assist federal resource agencies' participation in the study plan development process.
- Consulting extensively with participants following submittal of AEA's Proposed Study Plan (PSP), including several series of TWG meetings in August, September, and October.
- Publishing an interim draft RSP to aid participants in their comments on the PSP and requesting the Commission to extend the comment deadline 30 days to November 14, 2012.

AEA greatly appreciates the significant commitment of time and resources of Commission Staff, federal and state resource agencies, Alaska Native entities, and other licensing participants in contributing to the development of the enclosed RSP. As a result of these efforts, AEA is pleased to report that the RSP resolves the majority of study-related issues in the ILP. The RSP is a comprehensive document which includes 58 individual study plans, organized into resource sections and by topic within each section. In the minority of instances where AEA has determined not to adopt a proposed study plan or study plan component, the RSP explains the basis for AEA's decision, in accordance with the Commission's ILP regulations and Commission Staff's direction.

As requested by Commission Staff, the RSP also includes a detailed master schedule that includes the estimated start and completion dates for all field studies, the plan for quarterly progress reporting in 2013 and 2014, and the timetable for filing the Initial Study Report and Updated Study Report. Under separate cover, AEA is providing a "crosswalk" table between the RSP and the original study requests submitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service, which has been prepared at the request of Commission Staff and these agencies.

Following AEA's filing of the RSP, licensing participants have until January 18, 2013 to file comments with the Commission on the RSP. AEA will carefully review those comments and reach out to the appropriate participants, if it appears that any outstanding differences can be resolved efficiently and reasonably before the Commission issues its Study Plan Determination scheduled for February 1, 2013.

AEA is filing the RSP with the Commission electronically. Participants may access the RSP on the Commission's website (<http://www.ferc.gov>) by going to the "eLibrary" link and entering the docket number, P-14241. AEA is also making the RSP available for download on the Project website ([www.susitna-watanahydro.org](http://www.susitna-watanahydro.org)).

In addition to this electronic filing with the Commission, a paper copy of the RSP is available to the public for inspection and reproduction during regular business hours at AEA's Anchorage office.

If you have any questions related to this matter or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at [wdyok@aidea.org](mailto:wdyok@aidea.org) or (907) 771-3955.

Sincerely,



Wayne Dyok  
Project Manager  
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Enclosure

cc: Attached Distribution List (w/o Enclosure)

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