

**Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project  
(FERC No. 14241)**

**Subsistence Resources  
Study Plan Section 14.5**

**Part D: Supplemental Information to  
June 2014 Initial Study Report**

Prepared for

Alaska Energy Authority



**SUSITNA-WATANA HYDRO**

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

Prepared by

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Section 1 (Part A) of the June 2014 ISR for this Subsistence Resources Study (Study Plan 14.5) details the development of this study from the Revised Study Plan (RSP) in 2012, through the end of the 2013 study season. Section 7 of the ISR (Part C), filed in June 2014, sets forth AEA's plan and schedule, at that time, for completing this study and meeting the objectives of the RSP.

As detailed in Section 2.2 of the ISR Part D Overview, various circumstances have required AEA to extend the original timeframe for completing the Commission-approved Study Plan. However, AEA has made meaningful progress with this Study 14.5 since the filing of the ISR in June 2014. As detailed below, AEA's recent activities for Study 14.5 have consisted of the following:

- Participated in the July 21, 2014 Cook Inlet Regional Working Group meeting.
- On October 22, 2014, AEA held an ISR meeting to discuss the results and status of the Subsistence Resources Study.
- The study team completed community baseline household harvest surveys for Tyonek, Glennallen, Copperville, Gulkana, Lake Louise, Paxson, Tazlina, Tonsina, Mendeltna, Nelchina, and Tolsona.
- The study team completed the 2014 Study Implementation Report in November 2015.

The primary purpose of this Part D Supplemental Information to the ISR is to report on the implementation of the Study Plan from the filing of the ISR in June 2014, through the filing of this ISR Part D. In light of this additional implementation, this Part D also identifies AEA's plans for completing Study 14.5 in a manner that meets the objectives of the Commission-approved Study Plan.

## 2. BACKGROUND

### 2.1. Purpose of Study

The goal of this study is to demonstrate whether and, if so, the extent to which communities harvest and use subsistence resources within or near the Project area, use Project area lands to access other lands for subsistence harvest and use, and/or harvest and use resources that migrate through the Project area and are later harvested in other areas.

The study objectives are established in RSP Section 14.5.1:

- Document whether and, if so, the extent to which communities within the Susitna River watershed, as well as communities outside the Susitna River watershed that have subsistence use areas in the watershed, use areas that are within the Project area for subsistence harvests.

- Document whether and, if so, the extent to which communities within the Susitna River watershed, as well as communities outside the Susitna River watershed that have subsistence use areas in the watershed, use Project area lands to access other lands or waters for subsistence harvest.
- Document whether and, if so, the extent to which communities within the Susitna River watershed, as well as communities outside the Susitna River watershed that have subsistence use areas in the watershed, use resources that migrate through the Project area and are harvested in other areas.
- Collect and document traditional and local knowledge of communities within the Susitna River watershed, or who have subsistence use areas within the watershed, to assist in assessing the potential impacts of construction and operation of the proposed Project on subsistence harvest and use. This information will be directly shared with the program leads for other resources, as appropriate.
- Evaluate Project development plans to identify likely sources of potential impacts on identified subsistence uses.
- Provide the necessary information needed to support preparation of an ANILCA 810 evaluation.

## 2.2. Study Components

The study consists of the following components:

- Compilation of existing subsistence data.
- Household harvest surveys.
- Household surveys in state-designated nonsubsistence areas.
- Subsistence mapping interviews.
- Traditional and local knowledge interviews.

## 3. STATUS, HIGHLIGHTED RESULTS, AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The following tasks were completed in 2013 and reported in Part A of the ISR for Study 14.5:

- Completed community baseline household harvest surveys for Talkeetna, Trapper Creek, Chase, Cantwell, Susitna/Alexander Creek, Skwentna, Kenny Lake, Gakona, McCarthy, and Chitina.
- Completed traditional knowledge interviews with the communities of Cantwell, Chitina, Copper Center, Eklutna, Gakona, Gulkana, and Tyonek.
- Completed the compilation of existing subsistence data available for study area.

The study team has completed the following activities for Study 14.5 since the June 2014 filing of the ISR:

- Participated in the July 21, 2014 Cook Inlet Regional Working Group meeting.
- Participated in the October 22, 2014 ISR meetings to discuss the results and status of the Subsistence Resources Study.
- Completed community baseline household harvest surveys for Tyonek, Glennallen, Copperville, Gulkana, Lake Louise, Paxson, Tazlina, Tonsina, Mendeltna, Nelchina, and Tolsona.
- Published results from 2013 and 2014 household harvest surveys.

#### 4. SUMMARY OF STUDY 14.5 DOCUMENTS

Since filing of the RSP in 2012, AEA and FERC have prepared several documents pertaining to this study. To aid review by FERC staff and licensing participants, each of these documents is listed below. Each of these documents is accessible on AEA's Project licensing website (<http://www.susitna-watanahydro.org/type/documents/>) by clicking on the entry in the "Link" column in the table. In addition, these documents are available on FERC's eLibrary system (<http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/elibrary.asp>), in Docket No. P-14241.

Title	Date	Description	Link
14.5. Subsistence Resources Study (Revised Study Plan)	12/14/2012	This document presents the plan this study, including goals, objectives, the study area, and proposed study methods for the subsistence study.	<a href="#">RSP for Study 14.5</a>
FERC Study Plan Determination for Study 14.5	12/1/2014	This document presents FERC approval of Study 14.5, which approved AEA's Revised Study Plan with recommended adjustments.	<a href="#">FERC SPD for Study 14.5</a>
Draft Initial Study Report for Study 14.5	2/3/2014	This draft of the ISR summarized the study methods and variances during the 2013 study season, and presented preliminary data collected for Study 14.5. This draft ISR was later republished as Part A of the final ISR.	<a href="#">Draft ISR for Study 14.5</a>
Initial Study Report for Study 14.5	6/3/2014	This document is the Initial Study Report (Parts A, B and C) for Study 14.5. Part A republishes the Draft ISR. Part B identifies supplemental information and errata in Part A. Part C presents study modifications and plans for completing the study.	<a href="#">ISR Part A for Study 14.5</a> <a href="#">ISR Part B for Study 14.5</a> <a href="#">ISR Part B for Study 14.5</a>
Initial Study Report Meetings, October 22, 2014 (Parts A and B)	11/14/2015	Transcripts and AEA's agenda and PowerPoint presentations for the ISR meeting concerning the Project Subsistence Resource Study.	<a href="#">Materials from ISR Meeting</a> <a href="#">Transcript from ISR Meeting</a>

Title	Date	Description	Link
Subsistence Resources Study (14.5) – 2014 Study Implementation Report	11/4/2015	Study Implementation Report: a summary of field results in 2013-2014	<a href="#">2014 SIR for Study 14.5</a>
The Harvest and Use of Wild Resources in Selected Communities of the Copper River Basin and East Glenn Highway, Alaska, 2013 – Subsistence Report	11/4/2015	This report provides updated information about the harvests of fish, wildlife, and wild plant resources by certain communities in Alaska.	<a href="#">Nov. 2015 Subsistence Report</a>

## 5. NEW STUDY DOCUMENTATION SUPPLEMENTING THE ISR

The following table identifies and describes additional reports and other documents that update, refine, or otherwise supplement certain sections of the ISR pertaining to this Study 14.5, during AEA’s continued implementation of the Study Plan since the ISR was filed in June 2014.

ISR Reference	Description
Part A, Section 4	<p>This Section is updated and supplemented by the Study Implementation Report Section 4, describing 2013-2014 Study Plan implementation.</p> <p>This Section also is supplemented by the following technical papers, which describe study plan implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Holen, Davin, Sarah M. Hazell and Garrett Zimpelman (eds.). 2015. The Harvest and Use of Wild Resources in Selected Communities of the Copper River Basin and East Glenn Highway, Alaska, 2013. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence Technical Paper No. 405. Juneau, Alaska. <a href="http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/techpap/TP405.pdf">http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/techpap/TP405.pdf</a></li> <li>Jones, Bronwyn, Davin Holen and David S. Koester. 2015. The Harvest and Use of Wild Resources in Tyonek, Alaska, 2013. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence Technical Paper No. 404. Juneau, Alaska. <a href="http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/techpap/TP404.pdf">http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/techpap/TP404.pdf</a></li> </ul>
Part A, Section 5	<p>This Section is updated and supplemented by the Study Implementation Report Section 5, describing the results of 2013-2014 Study Plan implementation.</p> <p>This section also is supplemented by the following technical papers, which describe study results for household harvest surveys:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Holen, Davin, Sarah M. Hazell, James M. Van Lanen, Joshua T. Ream, Sean P.A. Dejardins, Bronwyn Jones, and Garrett Zimpelman. 2014. The Harvest and Use of Wild Resources in Cantwell, Chase, Talkeetna, Trapper Creek, Alexander/Susitna, and Skwentna, Alaska, 2012. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence Technical Paper No. 385. Juneau, Alaska. <a href="http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/techpap/TP%20385.pdf">http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/techpap/TP%20385.pdf</a></li> <li>Holen, Davin, Sarah M. Hazell and Garrett Zimpelman (eds.). 2015. The Harvest and Use of Wild Resources in Selected Communities of the Copper River Basin and East Glenn Highway, Alaska, 2013. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence Technical Paper No. 405. Juneau, Alaska. <a href="http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/techpap/TP405.pdf">http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/techpap/TP405.pdf</a></li> <li>Jones, Bronwyn, Davin Holen and David S. Koester. 2015. The Harvest and Use of Wild Resources in Tyonek, Alaska, 2013. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence Technical Paper No. 404. Juneau, Alaska.</li> </ul>

ISR Reference	Description
	<p data-bbox="613 243 1068 275"><a href="http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/techpap/TP404.pdf">http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/techpap/TP404.pdf</a></p> <ul data-bbox="570 285 1437 430" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="570 285 1437 430">• La Vine, Robbin and Garrett Zimpelman. 2014. Subsistence Harvests and Uses of Wild Resources in Kenny Lake/Willow Creek, Gakona, McCarthy, and Chitina, Alaska, 2012. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence Technical Paper No. 394. Juneau, Alaska. <a href="http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/techpap/TP394.pdf">http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/techpap/TP394.pdf</a></li> </ul>

## 6. VARIANCES

### 6.1. 2013 Study Season

The following variance is reported in the June 2014 ISR:

- AEA added the Knik Tribe to the list of communities identified for traditional and local knowledge workshops.

### 6.2. 2014 Study Season

As noted in Section 4 of the Study Implementation Report, AEA encountered no variances when implementing this study in 2014.

## 7. STUDY PLAN MODIFICATIONS

### 7.1. Modifications Identified in ISR

Section 7 of the ISR (Part C) details a modification for this study following the 2013 study season. This modification is generally summarized as follows:

- AEA continued to implement the variance from 2013 to include the Knik Tribe in traditional and local knowledge interviews.

### 7.2. Modifications Identified since the June 2014 ISR

As detailed in the Study Implementation Report, AEA plans no additional modifications of the methods for this study.

## 8. STEPS TO COMPLETE THE STUDY

In light of the variances and modifications described above, the steps necessary for AEA to complete this study are summarized below. As necessary and appropriate, these steps have been updated from those appearing in Section 7 of the ISR (Part C).

- Conduct traditional Knowledge Workshops with the communities of Knik and Chickaloon.

- Conduct Subsistence Mapping Interviews.