

April 30, 2003

The Honorable Magalie R. Salas  
Secretary  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Avenue NE  
Washington, DC 20426

**Re: Cooper Lake Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2170):  
Final 2003 study plans and response to comments on draft study plans;  
Agenda for May 15, 2003, Spring Workshop**

Dear Cooper Lake Project Relicensing Participants:

Enclosed are Chugach Electric Association's final study plans for Cooper Lake Project relicensing studies to be conducted in 2003. The final study plans reflect changes that were made to address comments received on the draft study plans, which were issued between November 15, 2002, and January 17, 2003. Final study plans included in this mailing are:

- Hydrology Study
- Stream Flow and Water Quality Study
- Cooper Creek Aquatic Habitat Analysis
- Cooper Creek Fish Resources Study
- Cooper Creek Instream Flow Study
- Cooper Lake Fish Resources Study
- Cooper Lake Macroinvertebrates Study
- Preliminary Evaluation of Entrainment in Cooper Lake
- Porcupine Creek Fish Resources Study
- Evaluation of False Attraction of Fish to the Project Powerhouse Outfall
- Evaluation of Effects of Project Operation on Kenai River Fish Habitat
- Terrestrial Vegetation Study
- Sensitive and Exotic Plant Survey
- Terrestrial Wildlife Study
- Cooper Lake and Cooper Creek Water Birds Study
- Recreation and Visual Resources User Survey
- Cooper Creek Recreational Whitewater Potential, Preliminary Evaluation
- Road and Access Route Condition Survey
- Cultural Resources Study

The final study plans will also be posted on the Cooper Lake Project relicensing website, at [www.chugachelectric.com/relicensing](http://www.chugachelectric.com/relicensing).

Also included in this mailing is a document providing an overview of Chugach's responses to participants' comments on the draft study plans and responding to additional information and study requests that were provided with the study plan comments. We greatly appreciate the time and effort that was contributed by participants in preparing their comments on the relicensing study program and individual draft study plans, and we hope participants find the changes made to the study plans to accurately reflect the technical comments received. We also hope the overall summary document clearly presents Chugach's rationale for its responses to policy-level (non-technical) issues.

As announced in a previous letter, Chugach will be holding a workshop to provide an overview of the final plans for the 2003 relicensing studies and to present preliminary results from some of the ongoing engineering studies being conducted for the relicensing. The workshop will be held on **May 15, 2003**, from 9:00 A.M. to 3:30 P.M., at the Millennium Hotel in Anchorage (located at 4800 Spenard Road, near the airport).

The agenda for the May 15 workshop is attached. If you will be attending the workshop, please RSVP as follows, if you have not already done so:

***Please RSVP by May 8 to:***

***Ms. May Clark, Chugach Relicensing Secretary  
907-762-4547 or [may\\_clark@chugachelectric.com](mailto:may_clark@chugachelectric.com)***

Again, we thank you for your continued participation in the Cooper Lake Project relicensing, and look forward to seeing you at the workshop.

Sincerely,

CHUGACH ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.



Burke Wick, PE  
Plant O&M Supervisor  
Cooper Lake Relicensing Project Manager

Enclosures

# Cooper Lake Hydroelectric Project Relicensing (FERC No. 2170)

## Spring Workshop 2003 — Overview of Final Plans for 2003 Relicensing Studies, and Presentation of Preliminary Engineering Study Results

Thursday, May 15, 2003, 9:00 A.M. – 3:30 P.M.

Millennium Hotel

4800 Spenard Road, Anchorage

### Proposed Agenda

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9:00–9:15 A.M.

Welcome/Introductions

*Phil Steyer (Chugach)*

9:15–9:30 A.M.

Review of agenda and basic format for meeting

*Steve Padula (Long View Associates)*

9:30 A.M.– 10:30 A.M.

Facilities / Operations / Engineering:

*Howard Lee (MWH)*

- Overview of final study plan for Hydrology Study
- Presentation of preliminary engineering study results:
  - Hydrology data compilation
  - Probable maximum flood (PMF) re-evaluation and spill frequency analysis
  - Operations modeling (Cooper Lake and Kenai Lake / Kenai River)
  - Analysis of potential Stetson Creek diversion
  - Results of dam modification studies

< Break >

10:45 A.M.– 2:30 P.M.

Overview of Final Environmental Study Plans

Fish/Aquatic Resources

*John Morsell (Northern Ecological Services)*

10:45 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

< Lunch >

Terrestrial Resources

*Sally Morsell, Anne Leggett (HDR Alaska)*

1:00–1:30 P.M.

Recreation/Visual Resources

*Dwayne Adams (Land Design North)*

1:30–1:45 P.M.

Cooper Creek Whitewater Boating Potential

1:45–2:00 P.M.

*Doug Whittaker (Confluence Research and Consulting)*

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Cultural Resources

2:00–2:15 P.M.

*Mike Yarborough (Cultural Resource Consultants)*

Roads / Access Route Survey

2:15–2:30 P.M.

*Sally Morsell (HDR Alaska)*

< Break >

2:45 – 3:00 P.M.

Review of 2003 field schedule:

*Sally Morsell (HDR Alaska)*

- Confirm timing and components of 2003 field season activities
- Discuss opportunities to attend field activities

3:00 – 3:30 P.M.

Wrap-up:

*Steve Padula (Long View Associates)*

- Update on relicensing schedule
- Discussion / Q&A

3:30 P.M.

Adjourn