

**Communications Protocol
For Relicensing Consultation Activities
For the Cooper Lake Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2170)
June 2003**

The following protocol is intended to facilitate communication and cooperation among Chugach Electric Association, Inc. (Chugach), federal and state agencies, and other interested organizations and parties (collectively, Participants) during the preparation of Chugach's Application for New License for the Cooper Lake Hydroelectric Project (Project). The protocol will govern communications among all consultation Participants and provide public access to information regarding the consultation activities related to the relicensing of the Project. The protocol also applies to communications made by contractors or consultants on behalf of Chugach or any of the Participants. This protocol does not apply to communications solely between Participants, or to any party's internal communications.

I. Participation in the Relicensing Process

The relicensing process for the Project is open to the general public and interested parties are encouraged to participate. A contact list, compiled by Chugach, will be maintained to identify those agencies, organizations, individuals or groups that have been identified as interested parties or who have requested to be included as Participants. The contact list will be used to provide notice of any public meetings, as well as notice of the availability of information for public review. The contact list will be updated periodically by Chugach and non-participating parties will be asked to re-affirm their interest in participating in the process.

Chugach is using a traditional three-stage consultation process for the relicensing, enhanced with additional consultation. Chugach initiated informal consultation with potentially interested parties with an outreach effort in late 2001 and advertised and noticed public information meetings on the relicensing in March 2002. Additional informal consultation regarding the selection of specialty consultants to support Chugach's relicensing efforts occurred in early 2002. Chugach initiated formal consultation with issuance of the Initial Consultation Package (ICP) in early June 2002. Further consultation since issuance of the ICP has included: a joint agency and public meeting in early July; issuance in mid-August 2002 of a document providing further conceptual information regarding planned relicensing studies; participants' September 2002 written comments on the ICP and formal requests for relicensing studies; consultation with agency resource experts on technical details for study planning; issuance of draft 2003 study plans and supplemental information in late 2002/ early 2003; review and comment on the draft study plans by relicensing participants; and issuance of final 2003 study plans in May 2003.

II. Maintenance of the Public Reference File

Chugach has developed and will maintain a public reference file at Chugach's offices in Anchorage. The public reference file will include copies of all written correspondence (including e-mails), documentation of phone conversations, meeting notices, agendas and summaries, study plans, study reports, status reports, and other documents developed during consultation or

submitted for inclusion in the public reference file. All documents in the public reference file will be submitted to FERC as part of the formal relicensing record.

Chugach will also maintain a website (www.chugachelectric.com/relicensing) for access to key documents developed during the course of the relicensing consultation, such as the NOI, the ICP, meeting notices, meeting summaries, study plans and study reports. The current contact list will also be available on Chugach's website.

III. Meetings

Chugach shall be responsible for scheduling all consultation meetings involving Chugach and Participants. For the meeting specified in 18 CFR Section 16.8(b)(2)(i), Chugach will provide the required notice in appropriate local and other forums.

Chugach will solicit input on meeting agendas and objectives and will seek to locate meetings to facilitate Participant attendance to most effectively accomplish those objectives.

Chugach will endeavor to notify all Participants of meetings scheduled by Chugach at least 30 days prior to the meeting date. This notification may be made in writing, via fax, via email, or by telephone conversation. Under special circumstances, Chugach may hold a meeting with less than 30 days notice so long as all Participants are notified of the meeting, and all those interested in attending are able to do so, or can participate by conference call.

Chugach shall establish the meeting agenda and will endeavor to provide a written meeting agenda to all Participants at least two weeks prior to a scheduled meeting. Participants may submit comments on the agenda to Chugach up to one week before the scheduled meeting. Chugach will endeavor to incorporate any proposed changes to the agenda and will distribute a final agenda at the meeting. In addition, the agenda may be modified at the beginning of the meeting.

Chugach and all Participants will endeavor to make available all documents and other information necessary to prepare for a consultation meeting at least two weeks prior to the scheduled meeting. In the alternative, materials can be provided at the meeting.

IV. Documentation

All of the documentation requirements described below apply to substantive communications regarding the relicensing of the Project; communications related to procedural matters (e.g., responding to inquiries regarding meeting scheduling) are not subject to the same documentation requirements.

A. Meeting Summaries

Chugach will be primarily responsible for providing a written summary of the matters addressed at all meetings involving Chugach and Participants. A draft meeting summary will be distributed to all meeting attendees within 15 days of the meeting. Any corrections to the draft meeting

summary should be submitted to Chugach within 15 days. Chugach will finalize the meeting summary within 30 days after receiving corrections. If no corrections are submitted, the meeting summary will become final 30 days after the date of the meeting. Final meeting summaries will be posted on the relicensing website.

B. Oral Communications

Any oral communication (i.e., telephone conversations) between Chugach and any Participant regarding any substantive aspect of the Project relicensing shall be documented in writing by Chugach and included in the public reference file, with a copy provided to those participating in the oral communication.

C. Technical Documents

A variety of technical documents will be produced during the course of relicensing consultation, including the Initial Consultation Package (ICP), study plans, study reports, and draft license application. Whenever comments are solicited on documents, review periods will be established and communicated to Participants. Review periods will typically be 30 days, unless longer periods are required by FERC regulations (e.g., 90 day comment period on the draft application), although shorter periods may be established under special circumstances, with the concurrence of the affected Participants. Participants will endeavor to provide comments to Chugach within the timeframes specified for comment periods.

D. Written Correspondence

Any written correspondence (including e-mails) regarding the relicensing of the Project between Chugach and Participants will become part of the public reference file.

All written correspondence should be sent to Chugach at the following address:

Burke Wick
Cooper Lake Project Relicensing Manager
Chugach Electric Association, Inc.
5501 Minnesota Drive
P.O. Box 196300
Anchorage, AK 99519-6300
e-mail: burke_wick@chugachelectric.com

With a copy sent to:

Karen Demsey
Long View Associates, Inc.
3055 NE Everett Street
Portland, OR 97232
email: kdemsey@longviewassociates.com

VI. Distribution of Relicensing Documentation

Distribution of relicensing documents will be accomplished primarily by email, except by request to receive hard-copy mailings. If a participant does not provide Chugach with an email address, or if a participant has indicated a preference to receive hard-copy mailings, Chugach will send the participant paper documents through regular mail. A participant may also request to receive a paper copy of any specific relicensing document by contacting May Clark, Relicensing Secretary, by phone at 907-762-4547 or by email at relicensing@chugachelectric.com.

In addition to distribution to all relicensing participants, all relicensing documents will be posted on the relicensing website (www.chugachelectric.com/relicensing).

Distribution of relicensing documents (aside from brief letters, notices, etc.) will include a copy of the distribution list.

VII. Revisions to the Communications Protocol

This protocol may be revised at any time upon general agreement of Chugach and the Participants.

VIII. Duration of the Communication Protocol

This Communications Protocol will remain in effect until FERC notices that the Project license application is accepted for filing with FERC as set forth in 18 CFR 16.9(d)(1).