

August 13, 2002

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):
“Preliminary Study Concepts and 2002 Data Collection Methods” document**

Enclosed for your review is Chugach’s “Preliminary Study Concepts and 2002 Data Collection Methods for Relicensing of the Cooper Lake Project (FERC No. 2170).” This document has been prepared in response to requests by relicensing participants at the July 9–10 joint agency/public meeting and site visit for further information regarding Chugach’s current proposals for relicensing studies and plans for near-term (2002) baseline data collection activities. Chugach hopes the information in this document will be helpful to agencies and other relicensing participants as they prepare comment letters on the Initial Consultation Package and accompanying requests for relicensing studies.

We look forward to receiving your comment letters / study requests by the close of the 60-day comment period on September 9 and to further discussions regarding formal draft study plans that Chugach plans to issue in October. As explained in the enclosed document, the draft study plans for the 2003 studies will be developed based on information from the 2002 reconnaissance / baseline data collection, participant input from the September 9 comment letters, and recommendations from Chugach’s resource experts and relicensing team. Relicensing participants will have the opportunity to review and comment on the draft study plans and to discuss them with Chugach at a workshop planned for November.

Thank you for taking the time to review Chugach’s proposed study concepts and methodologies.

Sincerely,



Thomas A. Lovas
Manager, System Development and Corporate Planning
Cooper Lake Relicensing Project Manager

Enclosures