

1 October 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):  
Update on relicensing studies planning; Notice of Fall Workshop**

In response to our Initial Consultation Package (ICP) and August 13 document entitled Preliminary Study Concepts and 2002 Data Collection Methods, Chugach received formal comment letters and study requests from many of our relicensing participants. (These comment letters are posted on the Cooper Lake Project relicensing Web site at [www.chugachelectric.com/relicensing](http://www.chugachelectric.com/relicensing)). We would like to thank all those who submitted comments for the substantial effort shown in preparing these letters and the timeliness of their responses. As we have noted previously, the timely submission of these comments and study requests has been key in allowing Chugach to move forward with planning for relicensing studies to be conducted in 2003.

In response to the ICP comments and relicensing study requests, Chugach anticipates continuing the study planning effort as follows:

- Near-term development of supplemental information. Some of the comments and requests received were not study requests per se, but warrant response with additional information. For example, some requests for further information on Project operations can be addressed relatively quickly by providing data that already exists or through analysis of existing Project data. Other such requests involve development of a high quality Project boundary map, which is currently underway and anticipated to be completed in the next several weeks. To address these comments and information requests, Chugach will be preparing a supplemental information packet for distribution to participants later this fall.
- Development of draft study plans. For those studies for which there is general agreement amongst Chugach and the commenting parties, Chugach is in the process of developing detailed study plans for 2003. These studies include some that were proposed in the August 13 Study Concepts document as well as others that were requested in the ICP comment letters. The approach and technical details incorporated into these study plans will reflect guidance from Chugach's technical experts, information provided in agency study requests included in the comment letters and, as needed, follow up with agency experts. Issuance of the draft study plans for these studies to relicensing participants is targeted for early November.

- Continued discussions on some relicensing studies. As noted by agencies in some of the comment letters, other relicensing studies need further discussion among Chugach and agencies before it would be appropriate for Chugach to move forward with development of study plans. The technical experts on Chugach's relicensing studies team will be contacting agency resource experts directly during the next several weeks to clarify and confirm the approach and/or technical aspects of some of these studies. (One aspect of these discussions may include a technical workshop on instream flow study methodologies appropriate for the Cooper Creek analysis; such a workshop was suggested by the Forest Service in its comment letter of September 9, 2002.) As soon as the necessary clarification and agreement is achieved, draft study plans will be prepared and issued for review.

In addition, based on its initial review of the comment letters, Chugach anticipates that further discussions with relicensing participants may be needed to resolve more fundamental questions regarding a relatively few study requests. Chugach will contact appropriate participants to schedule these discussions.

Draft study plans for the studies in this latter category will be developed on a somewhat later timetable than those targeted for issuance in early November; however, we expect no difficulties in completing all final study plans well in advance of the 2003 study season.

We would also like to take this opportunity to confirm plans for a workshop later this fall to discuss results of 2002 data collection efforts, to review draft study plans for 2003, and to continue discussions regarding planning for additional relicensing studies in 2003 and 2004. This workshop will be held on Tuesday, December 3, 2002, at the Kenai Princess Lodge in Cooper Landing. *Please RSVP as follows if you plan on attending this workshop:*

***Please RSVP by November 15 to:***

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

We look forward to continuing our consultation with agencies and other relicensing participants regarding relicensing studies for the Cooper Lake Project. Chugach sincerely appreciates the efforts of the relicensing participants in helping to foster the constructive and cooperative nature of these discussions to date.

Sincerely,

CHUGACH ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom Lovas".

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