

April 23, 2002

Chris Degernes  
Kenai Area Park Supt.  
Alaska Dept of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 1247  
Soldotna, AK 99669

(LETTER SENT TO THE  
ATTACHED LIST)

**Re: Cooper Lake Project Relicensing — Meeting on Scoping of 2002 Baseline Data Collection Efforts for Environmental Studies**

Cooper Lake Project Relicensing Participants:

Chugach is pleased to announce that it has retained HDR Alaska, Inc., to conduct the environmental studies for relicensing of the Cooper Lake Hydroelectric Project. The HDR team will be led by Mark Dalton, Sally Morsell, and Don Galligam (HDR), along with John Morsell (Northern Ecological Services), Dwayne Adams (Land Design North), and Michael Yarborough (Cultural Resource Consultants). Chugach appreciates the input it received from agency representatives to help us identify important criteria for selecting the environmental studies contractor for this relicensing, including recognized expertise and strong experience with natural resource studies in Alaska. HDR is currently reviewing available information on the Project area and will be working with Chugach to identify information needs and develop a proposed approach for baseline-type data collection in 2002.

Chugach is proposing to hold a meeting with agencies and other interested parties during the week of May 13 to discuss ideas for proposed data-collection efforts for 2002 and to get input on the types of information that are important and appropriate to begin developing this year. Chugach's hope for this meeting (envisioned as a workshop-type discussion) is to get input from interested participants so that the appropriate baseline-type environmental information can be identified for collection this year. The intent of this year's field work will be to collect data to characterize existing conditions, with the idea that this information will be used as the basis for developing and conducting more in-depth studies to assess potential Project impacts beginning in 2003. Specific data-collection plans will be developed following the mid-May meeting and will be available for review by interested parties. The target is to begin field efforts in June.

Given the available time before the deadline for filing the final application to relicense the Project, and based on feedback from agencies and other stakeholders regarding the need allow as much time as possible to conduct relicensing studies, Chugach is pursuing the proposed schedule for initiating field effort this year in recognition of the importance of taking advantage of the 2002 field season. The deadline for filing the final application to relicense the Project is in April 2005, which limits the number of field seasons available before preparation of the license application must begin. By initiating data collection aimed at characterizing existing conditions in 2002, the foundation will be laid

for making full use of available time in 2003 and 2004 for conducting studies to address potential Project-related impacts.

Chugach and its lead relicensing consultant, Long View Associates, are currently in the process of contacting agency representatives to check on availability to meet during the week of May 13. Once a date and time that best accommodates collective schedules has been identified, a formal meeting invitation will be distributed.

We would also like to announce that the Cooper Lake Project relicensing web site is now posted and operational. The web site can be accessed through Chugach's main web page — [www.chugachelectric.com](http://www.chugachelectric.com) — and selecting the link to Cooper Lake relicensing under the "Energy Info" heading. Content for this web site is still under development, but current postings include a general description of the Project and the relicensing process; a copy of the Notice of Intent to relicense the Project, filed with FERC on February 25, 2002; and the meeting summaries, attendance lists, and presentation from the March 19 and 20, 2002, public meetings on the relicensing process. The final date and time selected for the mid-May meetings on 2002 data collection will also be posted on the web site (under "Events") as soon as the schedule is firmed up.

We look forward to meeting with many of you soon to begin planning for initial data-collection efforts.

Sincerely,

*Tom Lovas*

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

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