

MEETING SUMMARY
COOPER LAKE PROJECT RELICENSING
SETTLEMENT WORKING GROUP – TECHNICAL WORKING SESSION
MARCH 10–11, 2005 (CHUGACH TRAINING ROOM)

Attendance:

Dave Blanchet	USDA Forest Service (USFS)
Phil Brna	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
Karen Demsey	Long View Associates (LVA)
Jim Ferguson	Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG)
Suzanne Fisler	Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Parks division (ADNR-Parks)
Bill Hauser	Alaska Flyfishers
Jan Konigsberg	Natural Heritage Institute
Steve Padula	LVA
Larry Peltz	NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
Gary Prokosch	ADNR, Water Resources division (ADNR-Water)
Bill Stockwell	Fish for Cooper Creek Coalition
Cassie Thomas	National Park Service Rivers and Trails Program (NPS)
Brenda Trefon	Kenaitze Indian Tribe
Burke Wick	Chugach Electric Association (Chugach)

Planned Agenda:

Day 1:

- Discuss March 8 draft Agreement in Principle (AIP)
- Discuss draft Stetson creek study plan outline

Day 2:

- Roll-call of Parties regarding AIP
- Schedule review:
 - Production of final AIP
 - Timeframe for acquiring signatures
 - Identify potential dates for future meetings

Handouts Provided:

The following documents were distributed prior to or at the meeting for the SWG's consideration:

- Discussion Draft: *Agreement in Principle, Cooper Lake Hydroelectric Project Relicensing, March __, 2005*. Draft dated March 8, 2005; prepared jointly by SWG parties.
- Discussion Draft: *Attachment D – Stetson Creek Diversion Study Plan Addendum*. Dated March 8, 2005.

Meeting Summary:

The SWG reviewed and discussed the March 8 draft AIP on March 10. Caucus sessions were held and modifications to the draft AIP were proposed. At the end of the day on March 10, Chugach was tasked with making redlined revisions to the draft AIP before the next day's meeting to reflect the modifications discussed on March 10.

On March 11, the SWG reconvened and reviewed the revised draft AIP line by line and agreed on final language. A roll-call was taken, and all parties present indicated they supported the AIP as it now read, contingent upon final approval by upper management of all parties. Chugach was tasked with revising the AIP to reflect the final changes and distributing the revised AIP (with final redline) before the following week. The SWG agreed that any substantive concerns with the AIP from any organization would be communicated to Chugach ASAP, and no later than noon on the following Wednesday (March 16). Assuming there were no substantive concerns, Chugach would then distribute the final AIP for signature on Friday March 18 (along with instructions for returning the signature pages). The deadline for returning signed signature pages was set for March 31; Chugach explained that the final, signed AIP needed to be in hand by then to allow Chugach to complete the Final License Application (targeted to be mailed to FERC on April 15).

The SWG then discussed future meetings and selected four sets of dates for future meetings. The next meeting was scheduled for May 19–20; the intervening hiatus in SWG meetings was for Chugach to finish and file the Final License Application.

Action Items:

- Chugach/LVA to distribute final draft AIP and redline (showing changes made to March 8 draft) to SWG before Monday, March 14.
- SWG members to notify Burke Wick no later than noon on Wednesday, March 16 if their organizations have any substantive concerns with the March 11 AIP.
- Chugach/LVA to distribute FINAL AIP and instructions for providing signature pages on Friday, March 18.
- All parties to sign and return signature pages by March 31.

Next SWG/TWG Meeting:

Date: May 19–20, 2005

Location: Training Room, Chugach headquarters

Proposed agenda (preliminary):

- Review proposed outline of Settlement Agreement and draft license articles
- Discuss whether/how SWG wants to interact with parties who did not sign the AIP but wish to continue to be involved in settlement negotiations.

Calendar Overview:

[*Note:* The following dates are currently being held for settlement negotiations related meetings, including technical working group sessions, Settlement Working Group meetings, and/or caucus sessions as needed. Specific dates and agendas to be confirmed.]

- June 22–23 SWG/TWG/Legal meetings (TBD)
- July 26–27 SWG/TWG/Legal meetings (TBD)
- August 10–11 SWG/TWG/Legal meetings (TBD)