

## Senator Lyman F. Hoffman

## Senate Finance Committee Member

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## District S

Akiachak Akiak Akutan Aleknagik Aniak Anvik Atka Atmauthluak Attu Station Bethel Chefornak Chignik Chignik Lagoon Chignik Lake Chuathbaluk Clark's Point Cold Bay Crooked Creek Dillingham Dutch Harbor Egegik Ekwok False Pass Flat Goodnews Bay Grayling Holy Cross Igiugig Iliamna Ivanof Bay Kasigluk King Cove King Salmon Kipnuk Kokhanok Koliganek Kongiganak Kwethluk Kwigillingok Lake Minchumina Levelock Lime Village Lower Kalskag Manokotak Marshall McGrath Mekoryuk Mertarvik Naknek Napakiak Napaskiak Nelson Lagoon Newhalen New Stuyahok Newtok Nightmute Nikolai Nilokski Nondalton Nunapitchuk Pedro Bay Perryville Pilot Point Platinum Pope-Vannoy Landing Port Alsworth Port Heiden Portage Creek Quinhagak Red Devil Russian Mission Saint George Island Saint Paul Island Sand Point Shageluk South Naknek Stony River Takotna Togiak Toksook Bay

Tuntutuliak Tununak Twin Hills

Ugashik

Unalaska Upper Kalskag

## SB 91 Nuyakuk River, Hydroelectric Site

SB 91 adds the operation of a hydroelectric site at Nuyakuk River to the Wood-Tikchick Management plan stating that it "is not considered an incompatible use in the Wood-Tikchick State Park".

Nushagak Electric & Telephone Cooperative (NETC) has advanced this project through public outreach, desktop feasibility research using existing data, and onsite work that is permissible under the current statutory and management plan restrictions. SB 91 allows further onsite studies to advance the project evaluation process.

There are two potential hydroelectric sites currently in the Park enabling statutes, Grant Lake and Elva Lake. SB 91 adds Nuyakuk to that list.

The Nuyakuk site is preferable for several reasons;

- Low impact, this is a diversion project with no dam and no significant change in the natural course of the river
- <u>Production</u>, the project has the potential to provide 100% of the current electric needs for several communities
- <u>Location</u>, this site is close to the Park boundaries and would have a very small footprint in the Park

The Nuyakuk Hydroelectric Project is a regional infrastructure development that will bring both low cost, renewable energy and broadband telecommunications to at least six communities throughout northern Bristol Bay. This design would divert water from above the falls, flow the diversion through an underground 1500' penstock (pipe), through a powerhouse and back into the river in a tale race below the falls. The powerhouse would have a very low visual impact.

The overall cost of this 30-megawatt regional hydroelectric project, including transmission facilities and communications fiber, is estimated at \$140 million. This would be first hydroelectric project in SW Alaska with regional service. In addition to Dillingham, the communities served include Aleknagik, Koliganek, New Stuyahok, Ekwok and Levelock. The potential also exists for service to additional communities.

This project has enjoyed the support of local stakeholders, public administration and park management in the efforts to date. SB 91 is necessary to further project evaluation and permitting.