



ALASKA POWER ASSOCIATION

R E S O L U T I O N

A Resolution Recommending the Elimination of Impediments to the Development of Hydroelectric Power Projects within National Forests (11-15)

Government at all levels, electric utilities, and our consumers are embracing development of renewable energy sources for the production of electricity. Renewable energy sources have environmental, economic and social benefits that are well documented. Hydroelectric energy is among the cleanest of all renewable resources and the most cost effective during the long, low-maintenance lives of the projects.

Alaska is blessed with an abundance of hydro resources from its lakes and streams that can be built with minimal environmental impact. Most new hydro development in Alaska replaces costly, finite and less environmentally benign fossil generation fuels, specifically diesel, coal and natural gas.

Special use permits necessary for federal approval of hydro projects within Roadless Rule designated areas of national forests must be individually signed by the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). In addition to Roadless Rule designation permits, national forest land use plans must be amended to accommodate hydro projects located in designated "back country" areas of a national forest.

Prior rights-of-way, easements and other authorizations issued or managed by the United States Forest Service may need to be modified to not impede the development of otherwise acceptable projects. The foregoing cumbersome federal actions add a year or more to the hydro project approval process at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), seriously jeopardizing the three-year timeframe within which applicants are bound to perfect their FERC permits.

Alaska Power Association urges Alaska's Congressional delegation and their fellow members of Congress, the Governor's Office, the Obama Administration and federal agencies such as USDA and FERC to work collaboratively and expeditiously to eliminate the burdensome and, in some cases, fatal impediments to hydro development caused by the need for the Secretary of Agriculture's personal signature on Roadless Rule designation special use permits and mandatory forest plan amendments, where national forest lands are involved.

APA further urges the highest level of support from the above-mentioned lawmakers and agencies for ensuring that the US Forest Service works cooperatively with project proponents and others to eliminate unnecessary impediments to project development created by prior use authorizations.

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