### Chakachamna Status Report

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House Special Committee on Energy March 11, 2010



# Chakachamna Hydropower Investigations

Department of Interior

Late 1940s Reconnaissance

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

1970s

Reconnaissance

Alaska Power Authority

Early 1980s

Pre-feasibility

TDX Power

2006

FERC permit

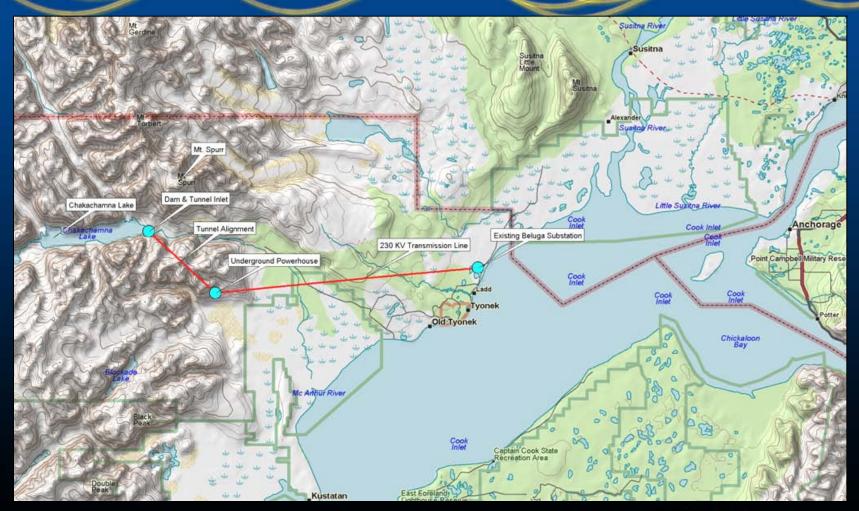


## Chakachamna Hydro Power

- High head lake tap 12 mile power tunnel
- No dam
- 330 MW creating 1.6 billion KWH annually
- Total cost of project in 2008 dollars = \$1.7 billion
- Project is 40 miles from Chugach T-line at Beluga



## Chakachamna Project Location



## Chakachamna Aerial View



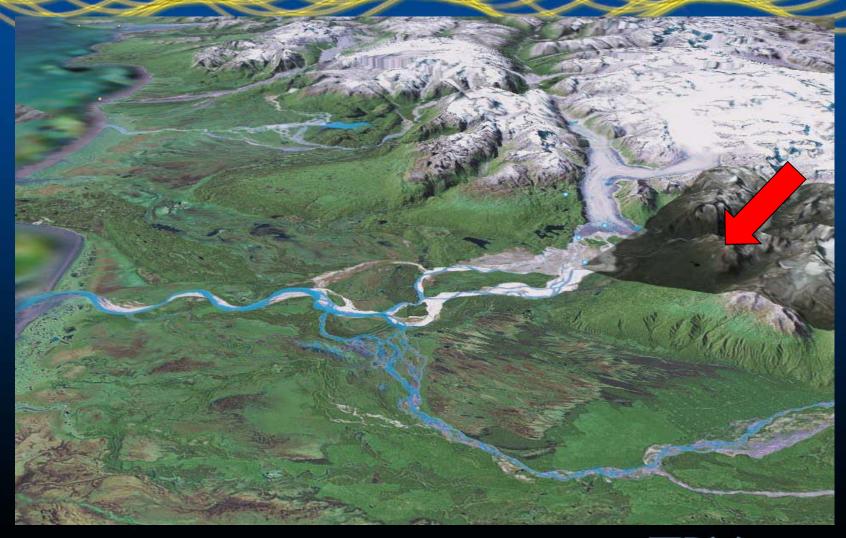


## Chakachamna Lake

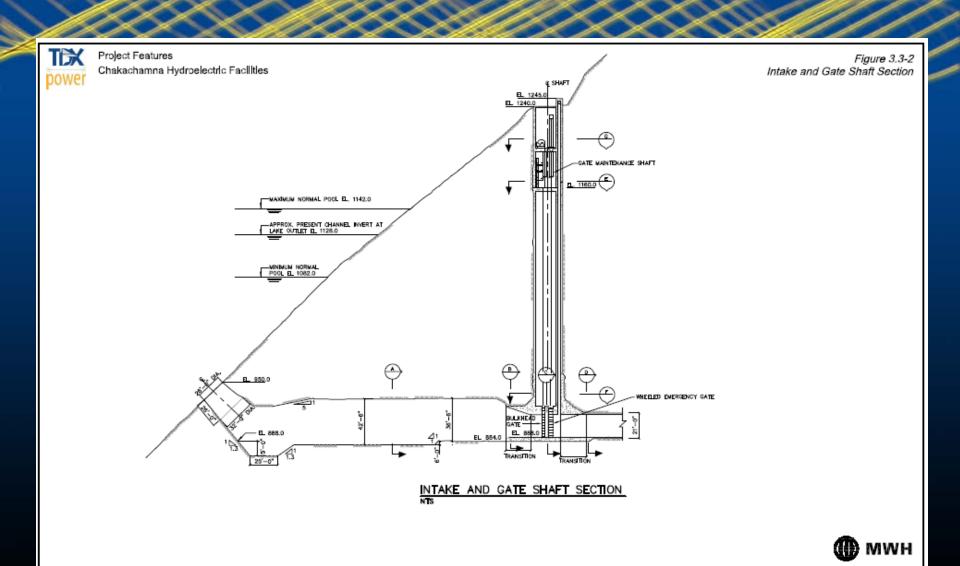




#### McArthur River Valley Power Plant Site

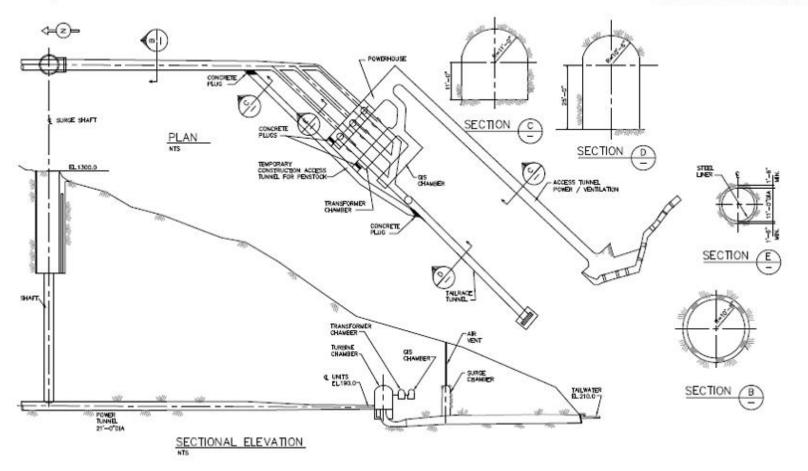






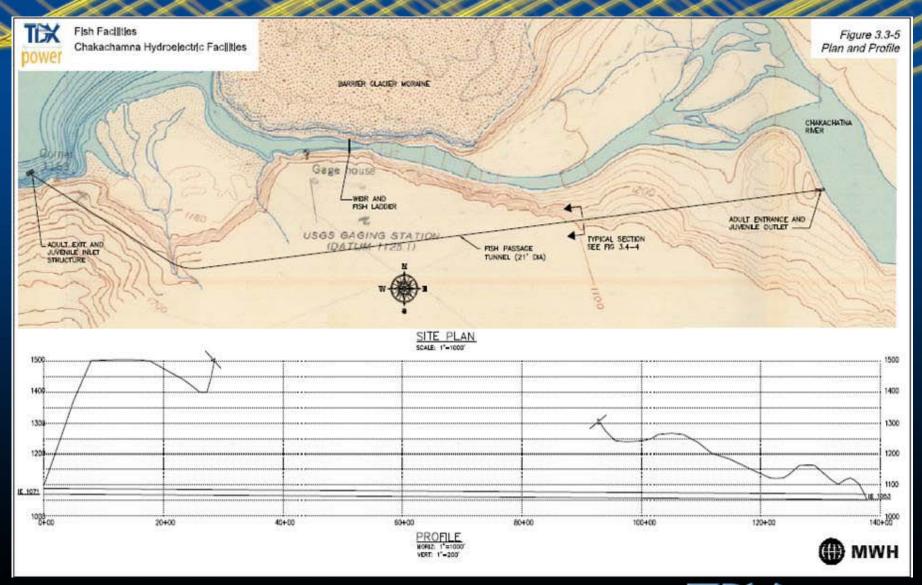


Project Features Chakachamna Hydroelectric Facilities Figure 3.3-4
Powerhouse Plan and Sections



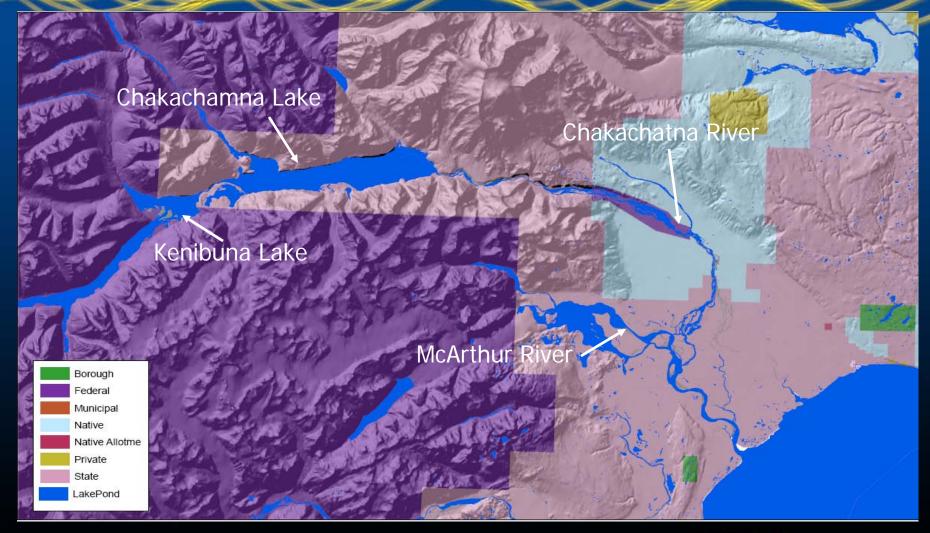








#### Project Area Landownership





## CHAKACHAMNA FISHERIES

- 5 species of salmon use the basin
- Sockeye the main salmon species
- Dolly Varden ubiquitous in the streams
- Lake trout observed in lake
- Not a large anadromous fishery but worthy of protecting
- Fish passage at lake outlet required
- Possible temperature enhancement to river



## Cook Inlet Sockeye 2007 Fish Runs

<u>System</u>	<u>Run</u>
Crescent River	109,000
Fish Creek	37,000
Kasilof River	1,247,000
Kenai River	2,411,000
Susitna River	487,000
Minor Systems	644,000
*Chakachamna (1982)	78,000



## CHAKACHAMNA WILDLIFE

- 56 species of birds
- 16 species of mammals
- Moose, wolves, lynx, bear, wolverine, other fur bearers
- None on the endangered species list
- Less impact than other hydro projects of similar size

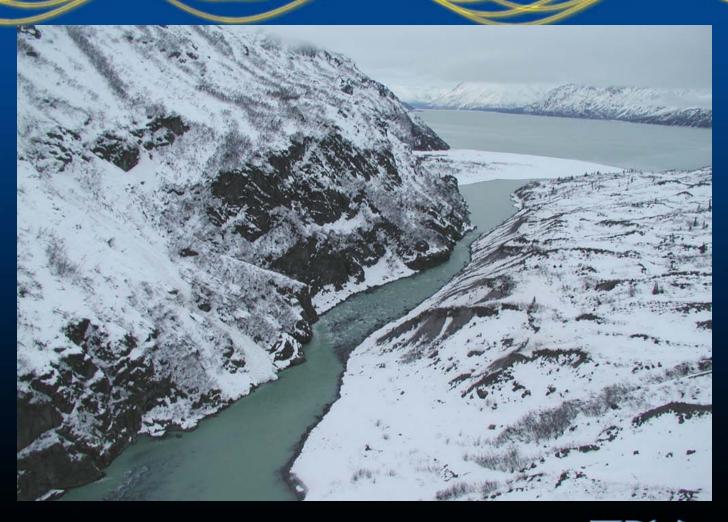


#### Geotechnical Considerations

- Seismic Castle Mountain Fault
- Volcanic Mount Spurr (1992 & 1953 eruptions)
- Glacial Barrier, Blockade, McArthur,
   Shamrock

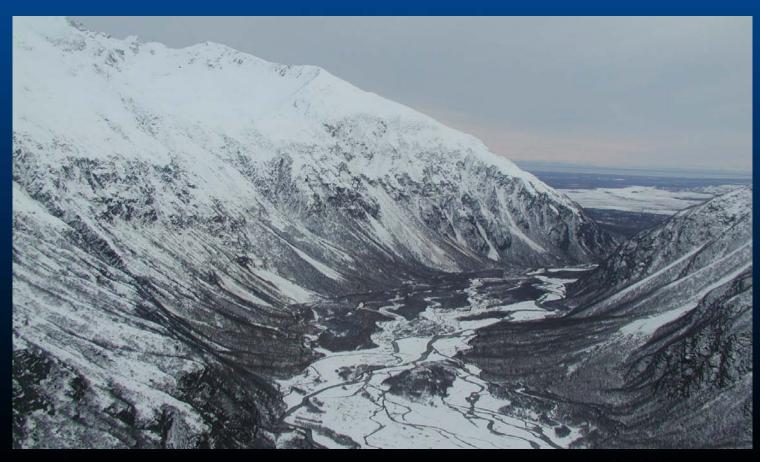


# CHAKACHAMNA LAKE OUTLET





## McARTHUR RIVER POWERHOUSE SITE





#### Development Costs

- 2010 Field Season -- \$5 million
- 5 year permitting -- \$30 million
- Construction (2008\$) -- \$1.7 Billion



#### Cost of Power

TDX Power financial model = 9 cents/kwh

(assumes 100% debt at 5% interest rate, \$10 million annual O&M, insurance, debt coverage etc.)

■ AEA model for large hydro = 6-8 cents/kwh

(some differences from TDX Power model include lower O&M, lower debt coverage, no inflation etc.)



#### Schedule

Preliminary permit investigations

36 months

FERC licensing

18-36 months

Project construction

54 months

Power on line

2019



#### 2010 Field Season

- Sockeye spawning in drawdown zone
- Adult salmon access to Chakachamna Lake
- Timing of juvenile salmon outmigration
- Maintenance of downstream groundwater dependent habitats
- Flow maintenance in tributaries south of Noaukta
- Maintenance of vegetation and wildlife habitats
- Geotechnical investigations
- Project optimization & cost estimate

