

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE**  
**SENATE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ENERGY**

March 15, 2016

1:07 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Senator Click Bishop, Co-Chair  
Senator Peter Micciche, Co-Chair  
Senator Lyman Hoffman  
Senator Bert Stedman  
Senator Dennis Egan

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

All members present

**COMMITTEE CALENDAR**

**SENATE BILL NO. 192**

"An Act authorizing the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority to issue bonds to finance the infrastructure and construction costs of the Sweetheart Lake hydroelectric project; and relating to legislative approval for a loan from the power project fund to the Lynn Canal Transmission Corporation."

- HEARD & HELD

**SENATE BILL NO. 193**

"An Act extending the exemption from regulation by the Regulatory Commission of Alaska for certain facilities or plants generating energy from renewable energy resources."

- HEARD & HELD

**PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION**

BILL: SB 192

SHORT TITLE: AIDEA BONDS, LOANS, FUND; AEA LOAN

SPONSOR(S): SENATOR(S) MCGUIRE

02/22/16	(S)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
02/22/16	(S)	NRG, FIN
03/15/16	(S)	NRG AT 1:00 PM BUTROVICH 205

BILL: SB 193

SHORT TITLE: EXTEND EXEMPTION FOR SMALL POWER PLANTS  
SPONSOR(s): SENATOR(s) MCGUIRE

02/22/16 (S) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS  
02/22/16 (S) NRG, L&C  
03/15/16 (S) NRG AT 1:00 PM BUTROVICH 205

**WITNESS REGISTER**

JESSE LOGAN, Chief of Staff  
Senator McGuire  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Provided an overview of SB 192.

DUFF MITCHELL, Managing Director  
Juneau Hydropower, Inc.  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Provided an overview of the Juneau Hydropower projects addressed by SB 192.

MARY BECKER, Mayor  
City and Borough of Juneau  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified in support of SB 192.

PAUL GROSSI, lobbyist  
Alaska State Pipe Trades, Alaska Ironworkers, and Juneau Building Trades  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified in support of SB 192.

ROBERT GRIMM, President/CEO  
Alaska Power and Telephone Company  
Skagway, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified in support of SB 192.

MIKE CRAFT, President/CEO  
Delta Wind Farm  
Delta Junction, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified in support of SB 192.

RODNEY HESSON, Representative-Local 1547  
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), and Juneau Building Trades  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified in support of SB 192.

MAX MIELKE, Business Manager  
Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 262  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified in support of SB 192.

COREY BAXTER, Representative-Local 302  
International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE)  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified in support of SB 192.

WAYNE ZAGARLICK, Vice President and General Manager  
Coeur Alaska-Kensington Mine  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified in support of SB 192.

JOHN SPRINGSTEEN, Executive Director  
Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA)  
Anchorage, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified in support of SB 192.

GENE THERRIAULT, Team Leader  
Interior Energy Project  
Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA)  
Anchorage, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Announced his availability to answer questions regarding SB 192.

JESSE LOGAN, Chief of Staff  
Senator McGuire  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Provided an overview of SB 193.

DUFF MITCHELL, Executive Director  
Alaska Independent Power Producers Association (AIPPA), and  
Juneau Hydropower, Inc.  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified in support of SB 193.

MIKE CRAFT, President/CEO  
Delta Wind Farm  
Delta Junction, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified in support of SB 193.

JAN WILSON, Commissioner  
Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA)

Anchorage, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified that RCA has no position on SB 193.

KIRK PERISICH, Representative-Local 1281

Pacific Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters (PNWRCC)

Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified in support of SB 192.

## **ACTION NARRATIVE**

[1:07:09 PM](#)

**CO-CHAIR PETER MICCICHE** called the Senate Special Committee on Energy meeting to order at 1:07 p.m. Present at the call to order were Senators Egan, Co-Chair Bishop, and Co-Chair Micciche.

### **SB 192-AIDEA BONDS, LOANS, FUND; AEA LOAN**

[1:08:16 PM](#)

**CO-CHAIR MICCICHE** announced the consideration of SB 192.

**JESSE LOGAN**, Chief of Staff, Senator McGuire, Alaska State Legislature, Juneau, Alaska, stated that SB 192 does two things:

1. Provides bonding authority to Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA) to finance the Sweetheart Lake Hydroelectric Project (SLHP) up to \$120 million.
2. Authorizes Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) to issue a \$22 million loan through the Power Project Loan Fund (PPF) for necessary transmission lines.

**MR. LOGAN** disclosed that SLHP was seeking alternative funding and asked that the committee consider removing the AEA portion from the bill in a future amendment or committee substitute.

He explained that SLHP would encompass the following:

- Provide a maximum capacity of 19.8 megawatts.
- Designed to fully supply power to the Kensington Mine with year-round power.
- Possibly supply additional power to Alaska Electric Light and Power Company (AEL&P).

**MR. LOGAN** provided an overview of SLHP's impact on the Kensington Mine and Southeast Alaska as follows:

- Major economic driver in the Juneau area.
- SLHP has the potential to lower the cost of the mine.
- SLHP has the potential to extend the life of the mine.
- SLHP could help the mine realize environmental benefits from switching from diesel to clean hydropower.
- SLHP would run a submarine transmission cable across Berners Bay in the Lynn Canal to the mine.
- Additional power from the mine could be sold to AEL&P and utilized for the Greens Creek Mine which currently buys from AEL&P and is under-supplied.

MR. LOGAN pointed out that with any AIDEA bonding authority, the state would not be obligated to pay. He added that SB 192 does not obligate AIDEA to issue bonds until suitability, feasibility, and due diligence analysis was conducted. He specified that SB 192 was necessary should AIDEA deem SLHP suitable for issuing bonds to provide loans. He added that the issuance of the bonds for sales provides an additional round of due diligence by the international bond market. He said the additional due diligence helps protect AIDEA's investment and ensure a solid return for AIDEA and the State of Alaska.

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SENATOR STEDMAN joined the committee.

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DUFF MITCHELL, Managing Director, Juneau Hydropower, Inc., Juneau, Alaska, stated that he would provide an overview as to why Juneau Hydropower has asked AIDEA for money. He said the intent for SLHP was to supply power to both Kensington Mine as well as the proposed Juneau District Heating Project (JDHP).

MR. MITCHELL provided details on SLHP as follows:

- 19.8 megawatts.
- Located at the very southern tip of the City and Borough of Juneau.
- Sweetheart Lake is approximately 5-1/2 miles long and 1/2 mile wide.
- Sweetheart Lake was initially studied in 1906 for hydropower.
- Sweetheart Lake currently has a power-site classification and a Federal Reserve designation for hydropower.

- Sweetheart Lake has been studied by the Alaska Power Authority, U.S. Geological Services, and others.
- SLHP construction would start in 2016 and be in production by 2018.
- Sweetheart Lake is 35 miles from Juneau, but only 8 miles from the AIDEA Snettisham line.
- SLHP is designed to provide firm-power during the winter months.
- SLHP will add about 25 percent new generation and capacity to Juneau.

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MR. MITCHELL stated that SLHP would support power for the Juneau District Heating Project (JDHP). He detailed that JDHP would use Alaska-based technology that has been developed in Juneau with the [Ted Stevens Marine Research Institute (TSMRI).] He noted that the Alaska Sealife Center in Seward uses another generation of the technology. He summarized that the technology would be brought full-circle around to provide district-heating in Juneau.

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SENATOR HOFFMAN joined the committee.

MR. MITCHELL detailed JDHP as follows:

- Designed to harvest heat from the Gastineau Channel.
- Emerson Climate Technologies (ECT), subsidiary of Emerson Company with \$22 billion in sales, has developed and patented the technology that produces 180 to 190 degree heat from seawater.
- ECT has deployed their technology-suite in Drammen, Norway since 2011.
- The technology is 300-percent efficient where one unit of electricity going in produces three kilowatts units of heat.
- JDHP would circulate heat around Juneau from 180 to 190 degrees through a pipe-distribution network that contains a non-volatile fluid.
- JDHP's pipe-distribution network would use directional drilling from basement-to-basement to minimize the installation's impact on city streets.
- JDHP could provide all of Juneau with low-cost heating.
- JDHP's technology can be transferred to other locations in Southeast Alaska.

CO-CHAIR MICCICHE asked if TSMRI was currently using the heating technology.

MR. MITCHELL answered yes. He detailed that TSMRI broke ground and "Treaded where nobody else had treaded before." He said the Seward SeaLife Center added on to the technology-suite that TSMRI started. He summarized as follows:

We are really proud that this is an Alaska-based technology that we are bringing around full-circle and it's neat to see Alaskans developing this technology.

CO-CHAIR BISHOP asked if JDHP would use seawater.

MR. MITCHELL answered that JDHP would take seawater out of the channel at a depth of 100 feet.

CO-CHAIR BISHOP asked if the piping used for JDHP would be stainless steel or incorporate a corrosion inhibitor.

MR. MITCHELL explained that JDHP would use a pipeline-pig for internal cleaning. He added that filter systems would keep the "big stuff" from coming in. He noted that the system would draw seawater at low velocity so a vacuum was not created. He detailed that the seawater would be brought in for the heat pump system and circulated back out. He specified that the seawater's heat would be transferred to freshwater that would be circulated through the pipe-distribution network to buildings.

CO-CHAIR MICCICHE remarked that the system Mr. Mitchell described was similar to a reverse of the refrigerant process.

SENATOR HOFFMAN asked what would happen to salmon and other ocean sea life swimming near the system's intake.

MR. MITCHELL explained that TSMRI and the SeaLife Center use filters to stop all of the fish and octopus from coming in, but microscopic things like barnacles are not stopped.

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MR. MITCHELL presented a video to the committee on JDHP. He divulged that John Cooper and his team from TSMRI received a federal renewable energy award from the White House for the cost savings from their work on the seawater heat pump system.

CO-CHAIR BISHOP asked what the seawater intake pipe was made out of.

MR. MITCHELL replied that the pipe was metal with some high density polyethylene (HDP) parts within it.

CO-CHAIR MICCICHE noted that the introduction to the video touted an anti-hydrocarbon message.

MR. MITCHELL replied that the heating system did not use hydrocarbons and saved money.

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CO-CHAIR MICCICHE asked how the heat taken from the seawater was condensed.

MR. MITCHELL answered that the heat pump technology condenses the heat. He noted that the technology has been around for over 100 years. He specified that the heat pump would take about 4 or 5 degrees out of the saltwater and return it back to the ocean.

SENATOR HOFFMAN asked how far north the heat pump technology could be utilized.

MR. MITCHELL replied that the technology was dependent on the water temperature, not the latitude. He noted that the seawater heat pump system was used in Drammen, Norway, which was located 118 miles [latitudinally] north of Juneau.

SENATOR HOFFMAN asked if the heat-pump technology has to use seawater.

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MR. MITCHELL answered no. He explained that the heat pump technology can use any water source.

He summarized that Juneau Hydropower's projects would lower Juneau's electricity costs. He pointed out that the Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA) recently passed regulations specifying that any purchases by a local utility must be just-and-reasonable where the local utility cannot discriminate against the qualifying facility as long as consumers are not adversely effected. He added that the power transmission from JDHP would add additional revenue for both the AIDEA Snettisham and AEL&P. He remarked that SLHP is not getting its power transmission for free, a fee would be paid that ultimately may pressure rates to go down. He set forth that the SLHP business

model improves competitiveness and noted that "Firm hydropower always beats diesel."

SENATOR EGAN noted that he was told that the power transmission outbound from Lena Cove to Kensington Mine would have to be upgraded. He asked who would pay for the upgrade from Lena Cove on out.

MR. MITCHELL replied that the upgrade would be Juneau Hydropower through the Lynn Canal Transmission Corporation.

SENATOR EGAN asked him to verify that Juneau Hydropower would take care of the cost for the whole thing.

MR. MITCHELL answered yes. He specified that the upgrade's cost ultimately would be paid for by customers like Kensington Mine, but the cost would be prorated over 30 years to keep rates as low as possible.

He reiterated that Juneau's heating costs would go down with JDHP. He remarked that he has nothing against fossil fuels, but noted that JDHP would advantage of a local resource as well as helping Juneau deal with fossil-fuel price volatility. He asserted that adding another fuel or heating source into Juneau was just competition in a free market that ultimately drives prices down.

He pointed out that SLHP would benefit Juneau with a \$125 million private capital investment that would create 85 construction jobs and 35 indirect jobs. He added that JDHP would create another \$25 million investment with additional construction and indirect jobs. He said the Lynn Canal transmission upgrades would also provide benefits from a \$22 million investment of private capital. He summarized that the projects he noted would provide economic development in Juneau during a period of decline in the state.

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CO-CHAIR MICCICHE asked why the number of SLHP's construction jobs were so low.

MR. MITCHELL explained that the 85 construction jobs would be for a 2-year project. He noted that the dam at Sweetheart Lake was only 111-feet high and 278-feet across, but the project's tunnel and some other things created the jobs. He added that the dam-construction stage could be done in one-construction season.

MR. MITCHELL set forth that Juneau Hydropower's team was looking forward to making their proposal happen and having AIDEA participate in its financing. He specified that Juneau Hydropower was not looking at AIDEA to fully take on the projects' full load, equity and private capital investment was part of the plan. He summarized that Juneau Hydropower was excited to bring the technology forward and provide Alaskan leadership to make the projects happen with the local community, its players, and its local-labor force.

CO-CHAIR BISHOP asked how much has been invested in the Juneau hydro-project to date.

MR. MITCHELL answered that approximately \$4 million in hard-dollars in addition to soft-dollars have been invested.

CO-CHAIR MICCICHE opened public testimony.

[1:31:51 PM](#)

MARY BECKER, Mayor, City and Borough of Juneau, Juneau, Alaska, disclosed that the City and Borough of Juneau Assembly unanimously voted for a letter of support for SLHP and JDHP.

[1:32:59 PM](#)

PAUL GROSSI, lobbyist; Alaska State Pipe Trades, Alaska Ironworkers, and Juneau Building Trades; Juneau, Alaska, stated that the unions support the projects because of the added jobs and positive impact on Juneau's economy. He estimated that the three projects would create 100 construction jobs with 5 to 10 permanent fulltime positions. He pointed out that Juneau has a skilled construction force that will have leave the state if there are no jobs. He specified that SB 192 was permissive language that does not require AIDEA to loan money until additional analysis determines viability. He opined that \$120 million in loans from AIDEA could allow the agency and the state to make as much as \$120 million. He set forth that SB 192 would allow a value-added industry to happen. He remarked that the project will not happen if said AIDEA determines that the project is not viable.

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ROBERT GRIMM, Alaska Power and Telephone Company, Skagway, Alaska, said the proposed project was innovative and worth the effort. He concurred with Mr. Grossi that SB 192 was just permissive language and AIDEA still had a lot of due diligence to conduct.

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MIKE CRAFT, President/CEO, Delta Wind Farm, Delta Junction, Alaska, stated that he supported the project. He disclosed that he has been involved with renewable energy development in Alaska for the last eight years and admitted that the battle has been tough to bring projects forward. He pointed out that the state wanted 50 percent of energy sources to be renewable with the intent to attract private-sector capital. He said Alaska's independent power producers heard the state's message to find renewable resources to take advantage of. He opined that Mr. Mitchell's project had a lot of attributes to it with respect to economic development, public benefit, and jobs.

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RODNEY HESSON, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 1547 and Juneau Building Trades, Juneau, Alaska, stated that the project was good because jobs would be created and the succession plan for a trained workforce can continue.

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MAX MIELKE, Business Manager, Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 262, Juneau, Alaska, stated that he represented 100 members in Southeast Alaska. He said his union has 15 apprentices in its program with the intent to keep the program going. He revealed that all of the building and construction trades in Southeast Alaska has 950 members with 80 apprentices. He set forth that SB 192 was about jobs and the project was very important to its members.

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COREY BAXTER, Representative-Local 302, International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE), Juneau, Alaska, said the union supported SHLP. He set forth that SHLP was a project that would impact and benefit Juneau and Southeast Alaska by creating direct and indirect family-wages jobs.

CO-CHAIR BISHOP asked if IUOE supported the use of apprentices for SHLP.

MR. BAXTER answered yes.

CO-CHAIR BISHOP stated that he wanted to make sure that the contractor utilized apprentices in the project.

[1:47:14 PM](#)

WAYNE ZAGARLICK, Vice President and General Manager, Coeur Alaska-Kensington Mine, Juneau, Alaska, disclosed that Coeur

Alaska was the owner and operator of the Kensington Mine. He detailed that the mine employed 340 employees and provided employment opportunities for 30 contractors. He revealed that labor was the mine's largest operating expense, followed by the cost for electricity from diesel fuel. He admitted that providing sustainable employment for Juneau's local economy was dependent on the mine managing and reducing its costs. He stated that competitively priced hydroelectricity could be a significant contributor towards the mine's sustainable viability. He opined that Alaska's economy has greatly benefited from its significant energy supply through its vast oil and natural resources. He set forth that Southeast Alaska's hydroelectric resource had extensive potential for generation and exportation. He stated that SLHP was a true step towards diversification.

CO-CHAIR BISHOP asked how long the mine's life might be extended by the lowered operating costs from SLHP.

MR. ZAGARLICK replied that quantifying the mine's life was difficult. He admitted that metal prices played a big role in a mine's viability. He said reducing operating costs made extending the mine's life more likely.

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JOHN SPRINGSTEEN, Executive Director, AIDEA, Anchorage, Alaska, stated that the preliminary review has indicated that the project may be suitable for AIDEA to issue bonds for. He said AIDEA would still need to go through its feasibility and due diligence analysis. He specified that SB 192 would allow AIDEA to issue bonds in excess of its \$25 million limit without prior legislative approval.

[1:51:35 PM](#)

GENE THERRIAULT, Team Leader, Interior Energy Project, Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA), Anchorage, Alaska, stated that he was available to address questions regarding a possible Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) loan for \$22 million through the Power Project Loan Fund (PPF) for necessary transmission lines. He noted that had been part of the Power Project Loan Committee at AEA. He pointed out that Jesse Logan's testimony indicated that dropping the AEA section from the bill would make the issue moot.

CO-CHAIR MICCICHE announced he would hold SB 192 in committee.

**SB 193-EXTEND EXEMPTION FOR SMALL POWER PLANTS**

1:53:28 PM

CO-CHAIR MICCICHE announced the consideration of SB 193.

1:53:38 PM

JESSE LOGAN, Chief of Staff, Senator McGuire, Alaska State Legislature, Juneau, Alaska, Provided an overview of SB 193 as follows:

SB 193 seeks to extend the regulatory exemption for power plants that utilize renewable resources under 65 megawatts. The original exemption "sunsetted" January 1 and we are looking to extend that to January 1, 2025.

The electrical demand of the relatively small and dispersed population of Alaska is generally served by regulated utilities. RCA is charged with clarifying utilities, regulating rates, resolving disputes, and protecting customers; however, Alaska has also seen an increase in private sector investment in the development of renewable energy systems across the state and I think the last bill helps exemplify that.

Previously, Alaska has exempted small power producers from regulations if they sell power on a wholesale basis to regulated utilities who then distribute power to local customers. The system of exemption lowers the barrier cost of entry and reduces the regulatory overreach and regulatory cost borne by the state and it helps small-power producers that develop brand-new financing for renewable systems. This exemption expired on January 1. Regulation can increase the cost of a project and pose barriers to investment, but also increases the cost of government through the RCA.

SB 193 continues to put Alaska on the middle-ground between a thoroughly deregulated market and a highly regulated market that we have currently in Alaska for most utilities. This arrangement maintains RCA oversight on the Power Purchasing Agreements (PPA) and thereby continues to provide a layer of protection for rate payers.

One of the most valuable projects to come to fruition from the previous exemption is CIRI's Fire Island Wind Project just outside of Anchorage. The negotiated

offtake agreement and private-risk investment dollars have now provided long-term flat priced renewable wind power to Chugach Electric Association for the last 2 years and have another 22 years to go on their PPA.

This bill helps to maintain an open-door to Alaska's electrical market and encourages private sector investment in renewable energy and energy infrastructure across the state in general, which during this time of fiscal downturn is probably much needed. It is the belief of the sponsor that it is important to extend the sunset so that other independent projects can also have regulatory certainty and continue to develop Alaska's energy potential and at no cost to the state.

CO-CHAIR BISHOP asked what fits under the definition of renewable energy under SB 193.

MR. LOGAN answered that in statute there was a full list that included: wind power, solar, geothermal, hydro-electric. He assumed that heat-pump transfer would be listed, but he did not know the entire list.

CO-CHAIR BISHOP asked if the federal government had decided that hydropower was renewable.

MR. LOGAN revealed that U.S. Senator Murkowski was working on the renewable listing for hydropower.

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DUFF MITCHELL, Executive Director, Alaska Independent Power Producers Association (AIPPA), Juneau Hydropower, Inc., Juneau, Alaska, detailed that AIPPA represents a wide range of independent power producers that could be called non-utilities. He set forth that SB 193 extends the exemption of small power producers to the federal government's lower level and removes some state-overreach in RCA regulations. He opined that regulation was costly in terms of time, money, and project delays if the exemption was not extended. He summarized that SB 193 allows independent power producers to continue the exemption at the federal standard. He added that SB 193 would keep the "open for business" sign and encourage private capital in Alaska's renewable energy. He noted that SB 193 had no fiscal impact to the state, avoided added work for the RCA, and lessened the barrier for smaller independent power producers to enter the market.

SENATOR EGAN asked Mr. Mitchell to address the Alaska Power Association's claim that the 65 megawatt size restriction within the exemption was too high.

MR. MITCHELL revealed that the federal size restriction was actually 80 megawatts. He remarked that Alaska's 65 megawatt size restriction was a unique case where the federal regulation was less than the state's regulation. He summarized that SB 193 simply asks that the 65 megawatt restriction match the previous bill.

CO-CHAIR MICCICHE opened public testimony.

[2:00:49 PM](#)

MIKE CRAFT, President/CEO, Delta Wind Farm, Delta Junction, Alaska, stated that he supported the extension proposed in SB 193. He asserted that developing renewable energy projects was difficult and adding the uncertainty in obtaining a certificate of public convenience or getting permission of a utility or anybody else in Alaska would be a barrier. He revealed that being exempt allowed the Delta Wind Farm to bring \$54 million worth of development capital to the Delta Junction area in the upcoming 2 years. He remarked that the federal exemption was 80 megawatts and the majority of renewable energy projects will be well under 65 megawatts.

CO-CHAIR MICCICHE asked Commissioner Wilson from the RCA if SB 193 had any potential negative impacts to ratepayers in the long run.

JAN WILSON, Commissioner, Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA), Anchorage, Alaska, replied that RCA had no position on SB 193. She added that a public meeting and vote by the commission would be required for the RCA to take an official position on SB 193.

CO-CHAIR MICCICHE asked in what ways ratepayers might be negatively affected by the bill's extension for small power plants.

MS. WILSON answered that her personal position as a commissioner was that ratepayers would not be affected. She asserted that her personal position was not the position of the RCA.

CO-CHAIR MICCICHE asked her to confirm that the RCA could not provide the committee with advice on key issues regarding SB 193.

MS. WILSON specified that the RCA would require an inquiry to the RCA's chairman in order to have a public meeting for the commission to discuss the bill and take a position.

CO-CHAIR MICCICHE asked Ms. Wilson to suggest a state agency that might be more helpful to the committee.

MS. WILSON replied that the RCA has five commissioners with differing opinions. She reiterated that the RCA has not discussed SB 193 in order to provide a position. She stated that the RCA would be happy to address SB 193 and get back to the committee.

CO-CHAIR MICCICHE announced that SB 193 would be held in committee.

He set forth that he personally supported both SB 192 and SB 193. He asserted that without projects that move the state forward, the state begins to die. He addressed SB 192 and recommended that testimony should also stress why the projects are important rather than strictly focusing on jobs. He specified that explaining why capital infrastructure was so important was a good way to reach out and communicate with Alaskans.

He recognized a testifier who voiced his support for SB 192.

KIRK PERISICH, Representative, Pacific Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters (PNWRCC) Local 1281, Juneau, Alaska, noted that he also represented millwrights and pile drivers. He explained that the projects in SB 192 would provide short term and long term jobs. He added that the "Alaska Hire" provision would assure that the majority of labor money would stay in the state.

[2:07:14 PM](#)

There being no further business to come before the committee, Co-Chair Micciche adjourned the Senate Special Committee on Energy at 2:07 p.m.