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# Susitna Hydroelectric Project

## LICENSING PROCESS

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is charged with the responsibility of fostering the comprehensive development of the Nation's waterways consistent with public safety. The Susitna River is a public resource; therefore, the Commission must ensure that any hydroelectric development on the Susitna River is in the best interest of the public.

When the Susitna Hydroelectric Project license application is filed by the Alaska Power Authority (APA), the application is first reviewed by staff to ensure that it contains all the information necessary for the Commission to assess the project. When the application is deemed acceptable for processing by the Director, Office of Electric Power Regulation, the Commission initiates a public and agency comment period. Public notice in the Federal Register and in Alaskan newspapers will invite the public to comment on and participate in the licensing process. Federal, State, and local agencies are provided copies of the application and are asked to provide comments in their respective areas of expertise.

Concurrent with the public comment period, Commission staff experts initiate a three-pronged evaluation of the Susitna Project. Electrical engineers and economists will evaluate the adequacy of electrical load forecasts for Alaska and the need for Susitna Project power. Geologists and civil engineers will evaluate the integrity of project structures. A team of environmental scientists will prepare an environmental impact statement assessing the project's potential impacts on the Alaskan ecosystem. Upon completion of these analyses, the staff positions on need for power, project integrity, and environmental impacts may be subjected to the scrutiny of hearings before an administrative law judge. At these hearings, intervenors in the Susitna proceeding have the opportunity to support staff's analysis or present opposing positions. At the conclusion of the hearing, the administrative law judge prepares an opinion on the issues.

After the administrative law judge has rendered an initial decision, the five Commissioners will make the final decision on whether or not to issue the license for the Susitna Project and what conditions to attach to the license, if issued. If a hearing has been held, the Office of Opinions and Review, with guidance from the Commissioners, will prepare the license document. The Commissioners will review the entire record for the Susitna Project. In order for the APA to receive a license for the Susitna Project, the record must convince a majority of the Commissioners that the project is needed, that the structures will be safe, and that the environmental impacts of construction and operation will be adequately mitigated.

# Alaska State Legislature



## Speaker of the House of Representatives


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Official Business

### MEMORANDUM

April 6, 1983

To: Rep. John Ringstad  
Co-Chairman House Resources

From: Rep. Joe Hayes   
Speaker

RE: HB 120,121,122

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I am expecting information relating to the Susitna legislation to be available on Friday. At this time, I would ask that only testimony be taken on this legislation and that these bills not be moved from the committee. It is my understanding this legislation will be before the committee again at that time. I am also delaying further testimony from my office on these bills until Friday when I hope to present you and the committee with a recommended course of action.

I believe further information will also be available on other pending hydro legislation such as the appropriation for Susitna, and would request that the bill remain in committee until at least such time as the information is available. I believe this will be by the end of the week.

Thanks.