

STATE OF ALASKA

THE LEGISLATURE

1979

Source

Legislative
Resolve No.

HJR 24

7



Relating to studies of hydroelectric potential in rural Alaska.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS electric rates in rural areas of Alaska where diesel generation is required are abnormally high for many reasons, including

- (1) the high cost of diesel fuel compounded by the very high cost of delivery to rural locations;
- (2) costs of installing tankage and inventory of fuel for a full year which is often required because of transportation difficulties;
- (3) lower thermal efficiencies of small diesel plants;
- (4) high costs of repair because of the requirement of air transportation over substantial distances to many locations; and

WHEREAS the United States Army Corps of Engineers has funds available and future funds programmed to perform studies of small hydroelectric projects in small communities under the federal Small Hydroelectric Plants program; and

WHEREAS utilization of hydroelectric power can largely alleviate the special conditions existing in rural Alaska leading to abnormally high costs of electricity; and

WHEREAS sites which may be highly feasible for hydroelectric projects exist in rural Alaska, including the westcentral region, and reconnaissance studies would allow accurate determination of the hydroelectric potential; and

WHEREAS the reconnaissance studies are necessary in order that hydroelectric power may be developed to replace or at least supplement the expensive and wasteful reliance on diesel power;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the United States Army Corp of Engineers assign the highest possible priority to use of the funds available under the Small Hydroelectric Plants program or other funds which may be available for reconnaissance studies in rural Alaska, including the westcentral region, to define and assess potential hydroelectric sites.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to Lt. General John W. Morris, Chief of Engineers, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers; to Colonel George R. Robertson, Alaska District, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U. S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.