



NEWS RELEASE

Emily Ford
Public Outreach Liaison
Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project
907.771.3961

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 29, 2011

SUSITNA-WATANA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT FILES PRE-APPLICATION DOCUMENT WITH FERC State of Alaska enters formal pre-application phase of licensing process

Anchorage, Alaska--The Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) today filed a Pre-Application Document (PAD) with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), entering the formal licensing process for the Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project.

“This is an important day, not only for the Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project, but for long-term and stable electrical energy for generations of Alaskans,” said AEA Board Chairman Hugh Short. “This project is part of a larger energy picture that will serve the entire Railbelt while moving Alaska toward its renewable energy goals.”

The PAD is an early step in an expected six-year licensing and design process for the hydroelectric project. “A series of FERC deadlines and milestones are based on today’s filing date, continuing ample opportunities for public involvement,” Short continued.

The Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project is to be located on the Susitna River at river mile 84, above Devils Canyon, approximately halfway between Anchorage and Fairbanks. The licensed project would have a concrete gravity or rock-filled dam, approximately 700 feet tall, with a 39-mile-long reservoir. Optimization studies are ongoing and AEA is working with Railbelt utilities, Alaska Native entities, resource agencies and other stakeholders to develop the project in concert with the Railbelt Integrated Resources Plan. The project capacity is expected to be between 600 to 800 megawatts.

The PAD is available online on the project website Susitna-watanahydro.org or on FERC’s website Ferc.gov. Hard copies will be available at the project office at 441 W. 4th Avenue, Suite 1 and the following libraries: Z.J. Loussac Public Library in Anchorage; Wasilla Meta-Rose Public Library; Talkeetna Public Library; and the Noel Wien Public Library in Fairbanks. Public comments on the PAD are accepted until April 27, 2012.

The Alaska Energy Authority is a public corporation of the state whose mission is to reduce the cost of energy in Alaska. More information can be found at Akenergyauthority.org and Susitna-watanahydro.org.

###