



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 27, 2011

ALASKA ENERGY AUTHORITY ENTERS PRELIMINARY PERMITTING PROCESS FOR SUSITNA-WATANA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

(Anchorage)– The Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) filed a Preliminary Permit Application with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for the Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project.

The Preliminary Permit Application gives a priority to AEA’s license application under the Federal Power Act, while AEA continues to study the site and prepare to apply for a license.

“The Alaska Energy Authority is in the preliminary stages of permitting and licensing for the Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project,” said Sara Fisher-Goad, executive director for AEA.

AEA will file a Preliminary Application Document (PAD) with the FERC on Dec. 29, 2011. The PAD identifies project details, resources and anticipated impacts, and establishes a framework for the licensing process. “The PAD starts the clock on a series of milestones and required deadlines,” said Fisher-Goad. “AEA had initially planned on filing the PAD in November, but adjusted the schedule to allow more time to engage with State and Federal agencies before starting the formal licensing process.”

Senate Bill 42, introduced by Governor Parnell, unanimously passed the Legislature and was signed into law on July 13, 2011. SB 42 authorizes AEA to pursue the Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project that will allow the state to meet its renewable electric energy goal of 50 percent by 2025. The Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project will be located about half-way between Anchorage and Fairbanks, creating an approximate 700-foot dam with a proposed power generation capacity of 600 MW.

The [Alaska Energy Authority](http://www.akenergyauthority.org) is a public corporation of the state whose mission is to reduce the cost of energy in Alaska. More information can be found at <http://www.akenergyauthority.org> and <http://susitna-watanahydro.org>.

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