



December 22, 2014

Ms. Kimberly Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street NE
Washington, DC 20426

RE: COMMENTS FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS, TERMS AND CONDITIONS, AND PRESCRIPTIONS FOR SWEETHEART LAKE HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT. FERC PROJECT NUMBER P-13563-003

Dear Secretary Bose:

On November 17, 2014 the Federal Energy and Regulatory Commission issued a NOTICE OF INTENT TO PREPARE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND SOLICITING COMMENTS, AND FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS, TERMS AND CONDITIONS, AND PRESCRIPTIONS. The Alaska Energy Authority would like to take this opportunity to respond with the following comments supporting the development of the Sweetheart Lake Hydroelectric Project by Juneau Hydropower Inc.

The Alaska Energy Authority is a wholly owned corporation of the State of Alaska with a statutory charge to reduce the cost of energy through implementation of state energy policy.

Alaska law was amended in 2010 to clarify state policy regarding the production and use of energy. This action resulted in the enactment of Alaska Statute 44.99.115 establishing a Declaration of State Energy Policy and creating the ambitious goal to derive fifty percent of the state's annual electric power needs from renewable and alternative sources by the year 2025. The Sweetheart Lake Hydroelectric Project would contribute to Alaska meeting this aggressive renewable energy generation goal.

Additionally, the Declaration of State Energy Policy encourages participation by private investors in the development of energy projects with the following language:

"...it is the policy of the state to

(2) encourage economic development by

(A) promoting the development of renewable energy resources, including geothermal, wind, solar, *hydroelectric*, hydrokinetic, tidal, and biomass energy, for use by Alaskans;

and

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(D) creating and maintaining a state fiscal regime and permitting and regulatory processes that encourages *private sector* development of the state's energy resources.”¹ *{Emphasis added}*

Juneau Hydropower, Inc. is a private State of Alaska corporation located in Juneau, Alaska that is a member of a growing class of private sector entrepreneurs and businesses investing in Alaska to develop energy resources.

The Alaska Energy Authority supports advancement of the Sweetheart Lake Hydroelectric Project as it comports with many of the purposes contained in the Alaska Declaration of State Energy Policy. The project assists in meeting the state renewable energy goal; represents private investment in Alaska's renewable energy sector; and is a hydroelectric project promoted under the state policy. The Alaska Energy Authority encourages the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to timely manage the Environmental Impact Statement process in order to allow development, construction and operation of the Sweetheart Lake Hydroelectric Project.

Sincerely,



Gene Therriault
Director of Energy Policy and Outreach
Alaska Energy Authority
813 West Northern Lights Blvd.
Anchorage, AK 99503

(907) 771-3000

¹ HB 306 passed by the 26th Alaska Legislature in 2010.
<http://www.legis.state.ak.us/PDF/26/Bills/HB0306Z.PDF>

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