

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20426**OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN**

February 22, 2013

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Murkowski:

Thank you for your January 31, 2013, letter regarding Juneau Hydropower, Inc.'s proposed Sweetheart Lake Hydroelectric Project (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Project No. 13563), in which you expressed support for the timely processing of this proposed project.

On September 4, 2012, Juneau Hydropower filed a Draft License Application (DLA) with the Commission. Since then Juneau Hydropower has held two meetings with Commission staff and Federal and State agencies to discuss refinements to the study plans and additional environmental data that it needs to collect to prepare a Final License Application. Commission staff is committed to working with Juneau Hydropower and Federal and State agencies to complete the study plans for this project.

Once Juneau Hydropower has submitted a final application, Commission staff will review the application, and, if the application is adequate and contains the information needed to conduct an environmental analysis, staff will issue a notice requesting comments, recommendations, and terms and conditions for the license. These will be fully considered in the Commission's environmental analysis and timely action will be taken on the application.

I hope this information is helpful. If I can be of further assistance in this or any other Commission matter, please let me know. As is our practice, your letter and this response will be made a part of the public record for this docket, which serves to alert the Commission to the concerns of interested individuals and groups.

Sincerely,



Jon Wellinghoff
Chairman

2013-00009

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