



August 30, 2023

VIA E-FILING

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E.
Washington, DC 20426

RE: Joint Agency and Public Meeting / Virtual Site Visit - Summary
Solomon Gulch Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2742-039)

Dear Secretary Bose:

Pursuant to 18 CFR 16.8(b)(3)(i)(B), Copper Valley Electric Association (CVEA), licensee for the Solomon Gulch Hydroelectric Project (Project)(FERC No. 2742), provided notice to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission or FERC), and stakeholders, of the Joint Meeting for the Project by email on July 11, 2023, and by letter filed with the Commission on July 28, 2023. In addition, a public notice of the Joint Meeting was published on July 27, 2023, in the *Copper River Record*, a daily newspaper in the Copper River Census Area of Alaska, followed by radio announcements on *KVAK Radio E-News* the week of July 31, 2023, in the Chugach Census Area of Alaska, pursuant to 18 CFR 16.8(i)(1). Proof of publication was provided in the July 28, 2023 filing.

The hybrid Joint Meeting was held virtually on August 15, 2023, from 9:30 AM to 12:15 PM, at the Valdez Civic Center, in accordance with 18 CFR 16.8(b)(3)(i)(A) and 18 CFR 16.8(b)(3)(ii). There were eleven attendees in person and five virtual attendees. A non-virtual, in-person only Site Visit of Project facilities followed the meeting from 1:30 to 4:00 PM.

Enclosed, pursuant to 18 CFR 16.8(b)(4), is a meeting summary (Attachment A). The meeting summary includes a list of the meeting attendees, the meeting agenda, a Project information sheet, a set of Project maps, and the PowerPoint presentation. A transcript of the Joint Meeting (Attachment B) is also included.

If you require additional information, please contact Coreen Palacios at CPalacios@cvea.org or 907-822-8301.

Sincerely,

Travis Million, Chief Executive Officer
Copper Valley Electric Association

Attachment A: Joint Agency and Public meeting Summary: Attendee List, Final Agenda, Project information sheet, Project maps, and PowerPoint Presentation

Attachment B: Joint Agency and Public Meeting Transcript
cc: Fatima Oswald, Kleinschmidt

Attachment A

Joint Agency and Public Meeting Summary:

- **Attendee List**
- **Final Agenda**
- **Solomon Gulch Information Sheet**
- **Map Book**
- **PowerPoint Presentation**

Solomon Gulch Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2742)

Joint Agency and Public Meeting Attendee List

August 15, 2023

Full Name	Organization	Email
In Person and Site Visit Attendees		
1. Fatima Oswald	Kleinschmidt Associates	Fatima.Oswald@Kleinschmidtgroup.com
2. Betsy McGregor	Kleinschmidt Associates	Betsy.Mcgregor@Kleinschmidtgroup.com
3. Finlay Anderson	Kleinschmidt Associates	Finlay.Anderson@Kleinschmidtgroup.com
4. Coreen Palacios	Copper Valley Electric Association (CVEA)	CPalacios@cvea.org
5. Steve Williams	Copper Valley Electric Association (CVEA)	SWilliams@cvea.org
6. Travis Million	Copper Valley Electric Association (CVEA)	TMillion@cvea.org
7. Mike Wells	Valdez (VEDA)	Mike.Wells@valdezfisheries.com
8. Kate Huber	City of Valdez (COV)	khuber@valdezak.gov
9. Carol Mahara	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	carol_mahara@fws.gov
10. Leah Ellis	Alaska Department of Fish and Game	leah.ellis@alaska.gov
11. Wayne McKinzey	Copper Valley Electric Association (CVEA)	WMcKinzey@cvea.org
Virtual Attendees		
12. Wendy Davis	ABR, Inc.—Environmental Research & Services	wdavis@abrinc.com
13. Rebecca McGuire	ABR, Inc.—Environmental Research & Services	rmcguire@abrinc.com
14. Laura Pevan	Chickaloon Tribe	lapevan@chickaloon-nsn.gov
15. Terry Schick	ABR, Inc.—Environmental Research & Services	tschick@abrinc.com
16. Lindsay Simmons	Northern Land Use Research Alaska	lja@northernlanduse.com

Solomon Gulch Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2742)

Joint Agency and Public Meeting Final Agenda

August 15, 2023

- Introductions and Meeting Guidelines / Purpose – 9:30 a.m.
- FERC Relicensing Process Overview
- Non-capacity License Amendment
- Questions
- Pre-Application Document (PAD) Review:
 - Project Overview
 - Project Facilities (with photos)
 - Project Operations
 - Proposed Project Boundary
- Questions & BREAK
 - Project Resources Review
 - Proposed Studies
- Questions
- Relicensing Next Steps
- Process and Schedule
- Questions – 12:15 p.m.
- *LUNCH / SITE VISIT*

Solomon Gulch Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2742) – Info Sheet

- Copper Valley Electrical Association (CVEA) owns, operates and is relicensing the 12 MW Solomon Gulch Hydroelectric Project (Project) (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) No. 2742), located on Solomon Lake near Valdez, Alaska.
- The Project’s original license was issued on June 21, 1978 and expires on May 31, 2028.
- CVEA will file its Application for New License on or before May 31, 2026.
- Traditional Licensing Process (TLP) was approved by FERC on June 23, 2023.
- CVEA is not proposing to change the Project’s existing mode of operation or change existing Project facilities that have provided a reliable source of energy to local customers.
- The Project is a typical high-head project located upstream of a natural anadromous fish barrier.
- The current Project Boundary includes:
 - Solomon Gulch Reservoir (also known as Solomon Lake) and surrounding lands;
 - the dam, saddle dike, spillway, penstocks, powerhouse and associated appurtenant facilities;
 - 1.68 miles of 24.9-kV transmission line extending from the powerhouse switchyard to the Petro Star Switch Building at the Petro Star Valdez Refinery; and
 - 108.16 miles of transmission line, extending from the Petro Star Switch Building to the Meals Substation (where it increases to 138 kV), to a substation adjacent to Pump Station 11 near Glennallen, Alaska.
 - Land ownership within the current Project Boundary is a mix of federal, state, municipal, and privately-owned lands.
- Proposed Studies:
 - Water Temperature Monitoring Study
 - Vegetation Characterization Study
 - Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Study
 - Rare and Sensitive Plant Study
 - Invasive Plant Study
 - Recreation Evaluation Study
 - Cultural Resources Study
- On October 31, 2022, CVEA submitted a non-capacity license amendment proposing to remove from the Project Boundary the 108.16-mile transmission line that extends from the Petro Star Switch Building to the substation adjacent to Pump Station 11 near Glennallen. It is separate from the Project Relicensing process.
- Relicensing website: <https://www.cvea.org/about/project-reports/solomon-gulch-relicensing.html>
- Solomon Gulch Hydropower Info Video: <https://www.facebook.com/Copper-Valley-Electric-Association-157279357645493/videos/how-hydropower-happens-at-solomon-gulch/220755096070036/>

Solomon Gulch Hydroelectric Project – Relicensing Schedule

ACTIVITY	DATE / OTHER
License Expiration:	May 31, 2028
Licensing Process:	Traditional Licensing Process
PAD/NOI Filing:	April 28, 2023
Joint Agency Meeting:	August 15, 2023 in Valdez, AK
PAD Comments / Study Requests Due:	October 14, 2023
CVEA Issues Draft Study Plan	November 21, 2023
First Study Season	2024
Draft Study Report	Winter 2025
Second Study Season	2025
Draft License Application	December 30, 2025
Final License Application	May 31, 2026
License Expiration	May 31, 2028

FERC Comments/Filings

- Comments to be submitted formally to FERC
- For details, see: <https://www.ferc.gov/ferc-online/overview>
- All filings are publicly accessible in the FERC eLibrary.
- To subscribe to be notified when comments or documents are filed:
 - <https://ferconline.ferc.gov>, click “eSubscription”
 - FERC Project docket number is P-2742

Solomon Gulch Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2742) Maps

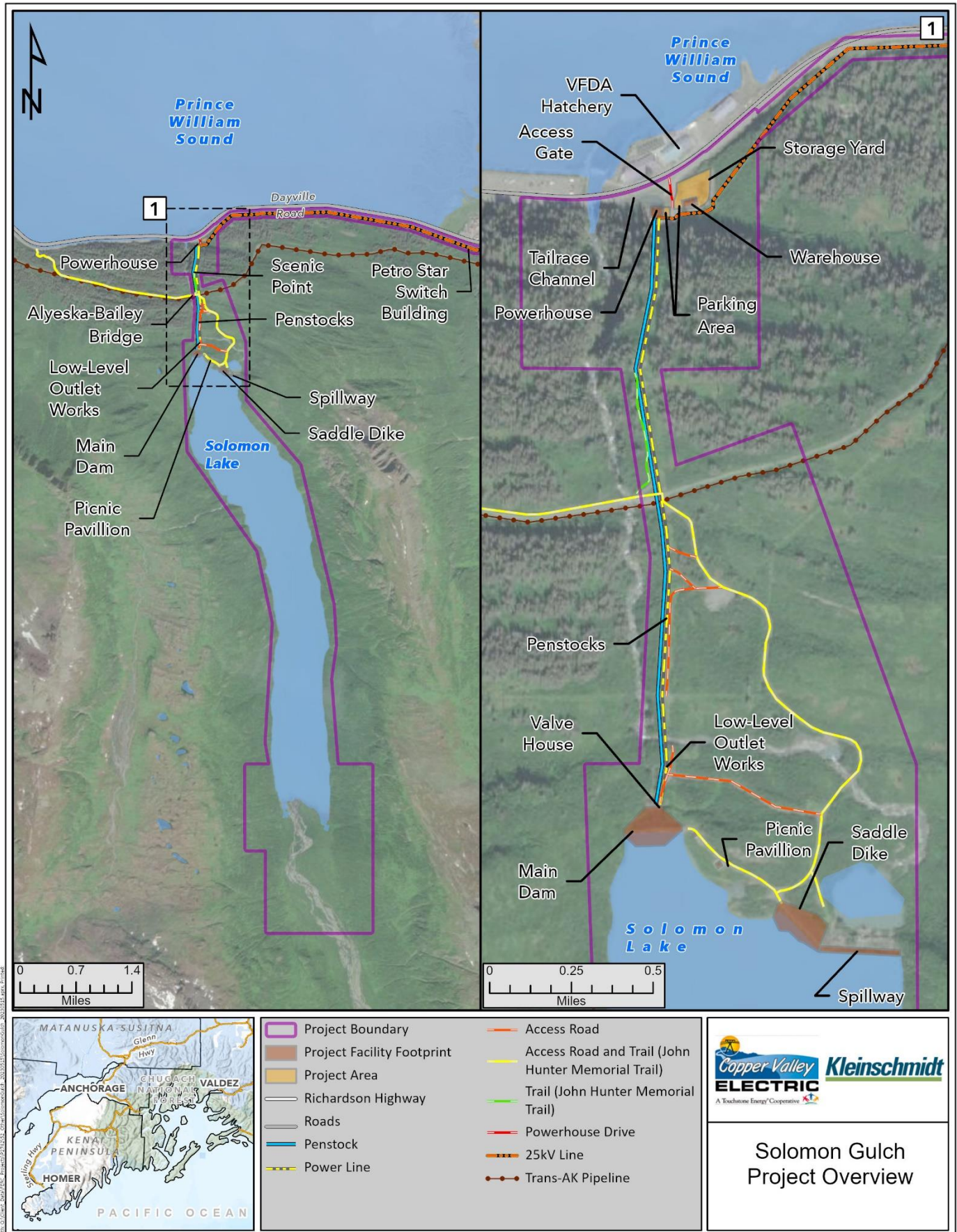


Figure 1 Solomon Gulch Hydroelectric Project Boundary and Overview

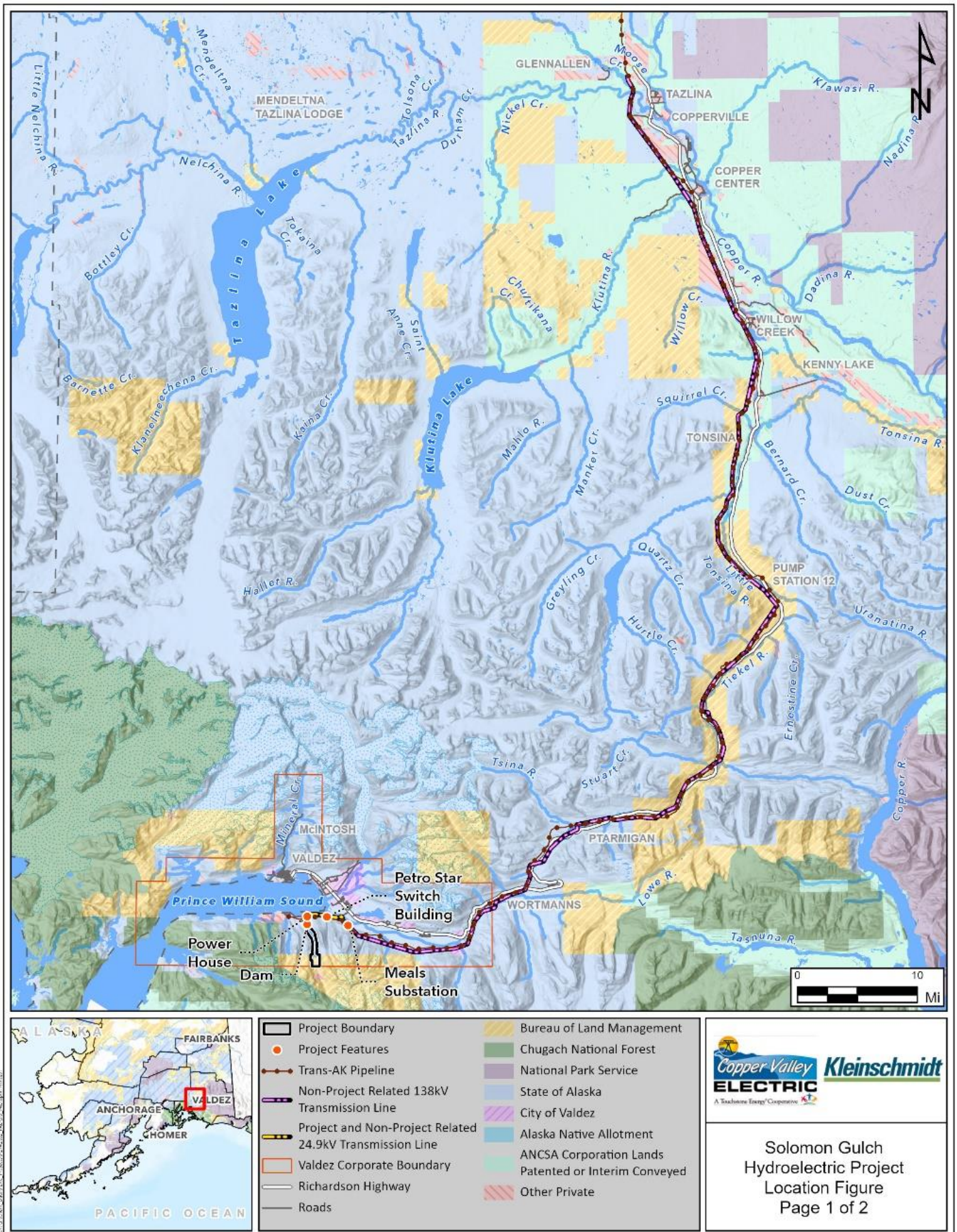
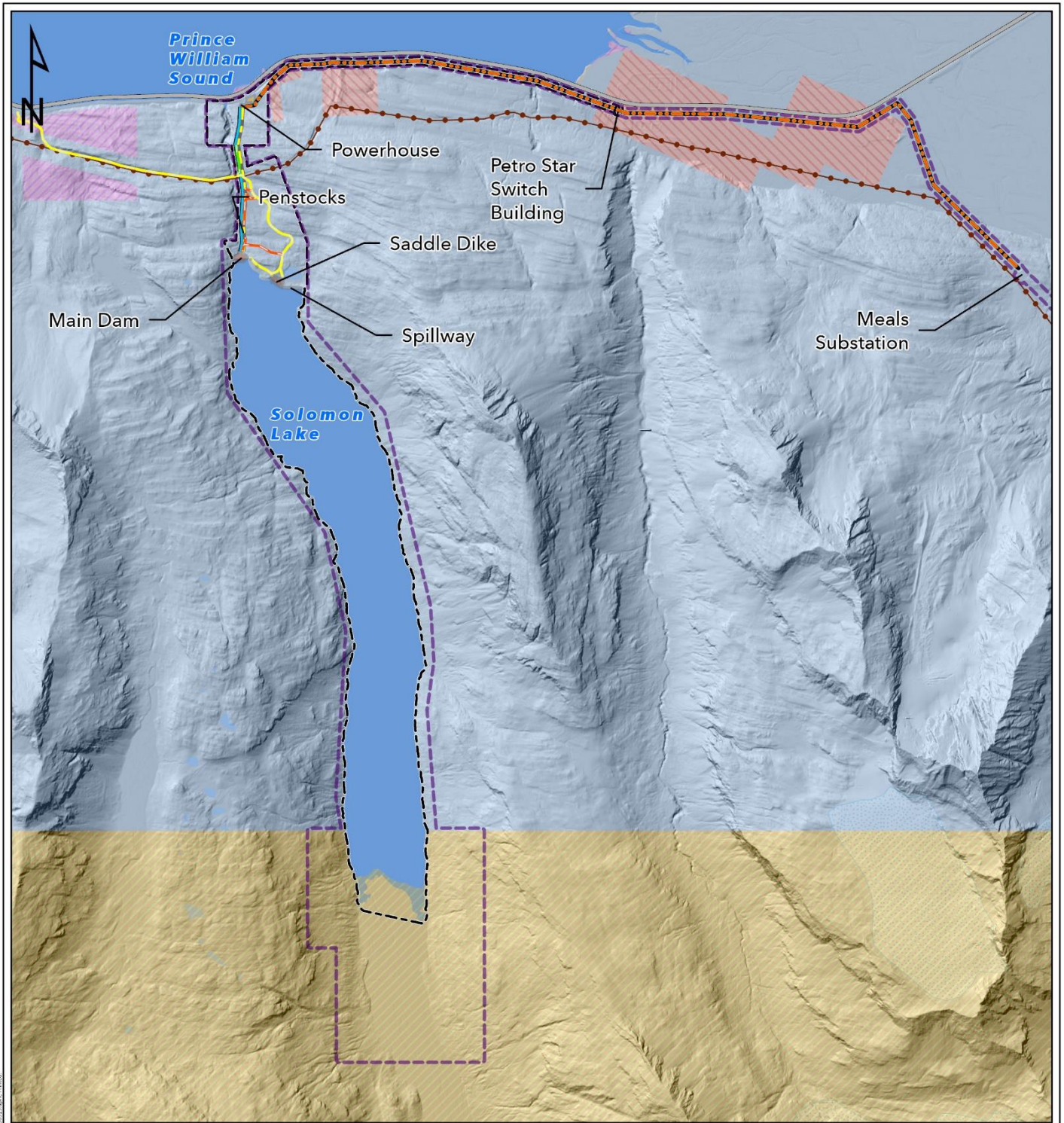


Figure 2 Solomon Gulch Hydroelectric Project Transmission Line



Project Boundary	Trans-AK Pipeline
Proposed Project Boundary (694' MSL)	Penstock
Access Road	Power Line
Access Road and Trail (John Hunter Memorial Trail)	25kV Line
Trail (John Hunter Memorial Trail)	Bureau of Land Management
	State of Alaska
	City of Valdez
	Other Private

Copper Valley Electric **Kleinschmidt**

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

Solomon Gulch Proposed Project Boundary

Figure 3 Solomon Gulch Proposed Project Boundary

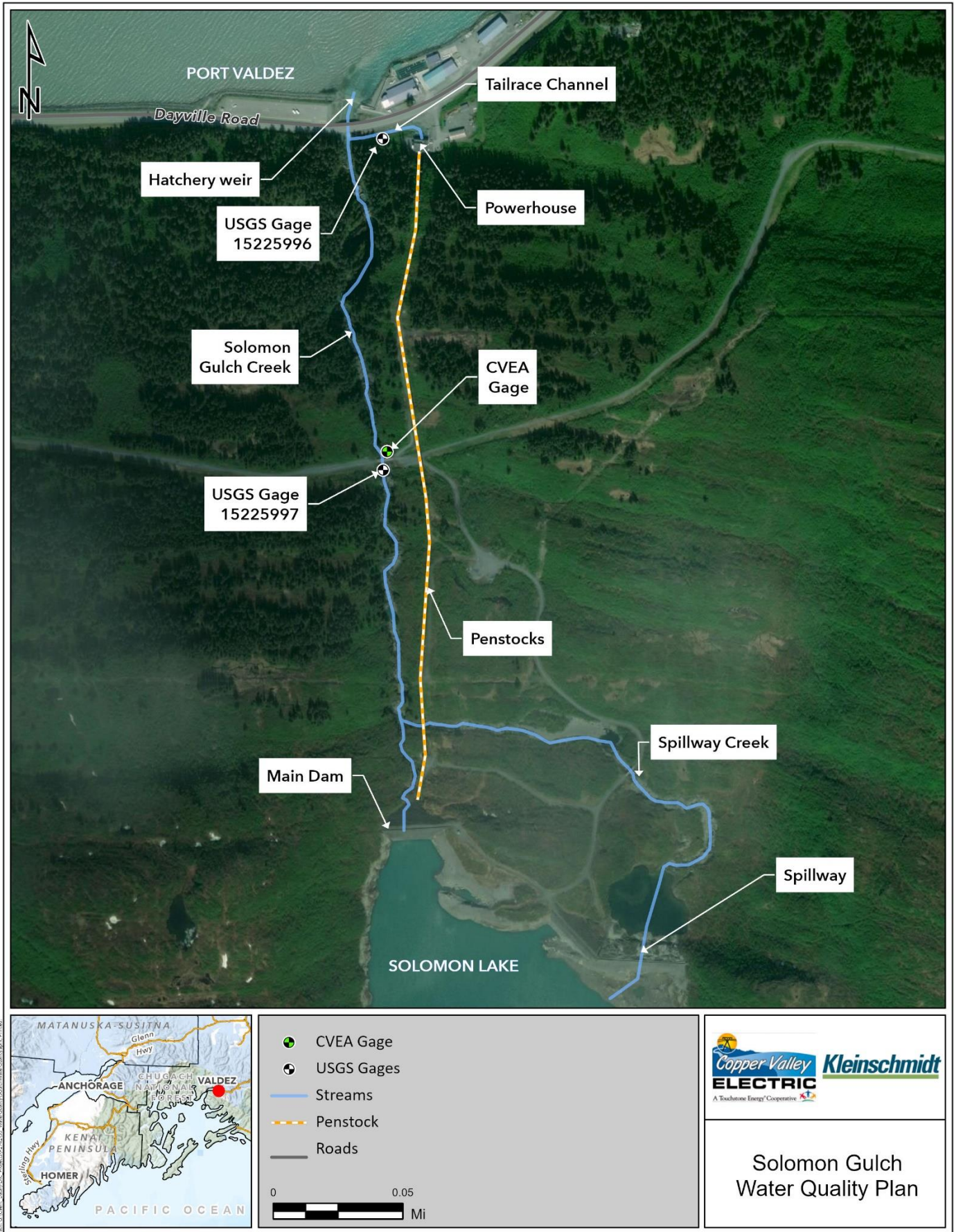
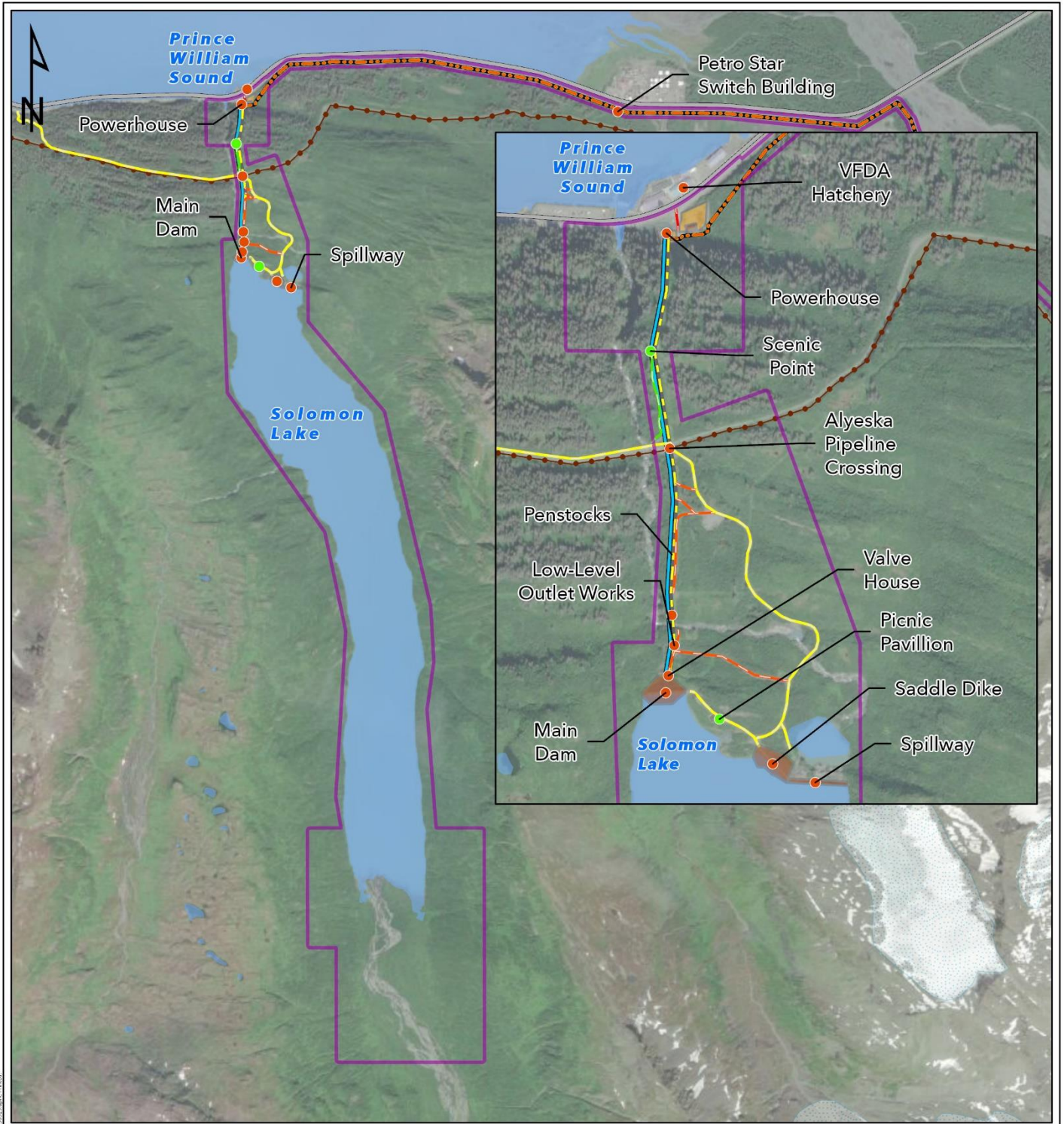


Figure 4 Map of Solomon Gulch Creek and USGS Stream Gages at Alyeska Bailey Bridge (15225997) and Downstream of the Hydroelectric Plant Tailrace (15225996)



Project Boundary	Powerhouse Drive
Richardson Highway	Trans-AK Pipeline
Roads	Project Facility Footprint
Access Road	Project Area
Access Road and Trail (John Hunter Memorial Trail)	Penstock
Trail (John Hunter Memorial Trail)	Power Line
	25kV Line



**Solomon Gulch
Project Recreation**

Figure 5 The John Hunter Memorial Trail

An aerial photograph of a dam and reservoir in a mountain valley. The dam is a long, low structure with water cascading over it in several places. The reservoir is a large body of turquoise water. The surrounding landscape is lush green forest, and in the background, there are snow-capped mountains under a clear sky.

Solomon Gulch Hydroelectric Project

FERC No. 2742

Copper Valley Electric Association

Joint Meeting
August 15, 2023

Introductions

Solomon Gulch Relicensing Team

Copper Valley Electric Association (CVEA) - Licensee

- Wayne McKinzey, Chief Operating Officer
- Coreen Palacios, Regulatory & Compliance Specialist
- Travis Million, Chief Executive Officer
- Steve Williams, Power Generation Manager

Relicensing Consulting Support

- Finlay Anderson, Kleinschmidt Associates (Relicensing Project Director)
 - Fatima Oswald, Kleinschmidt Associates (Relicensing Manager, Social Sciences Lead)
 - Betsy McGregor, Kleinschmidt Associates (Science Lead)
 - ABR, Environmental Research & Services, Terrestrial Studies
 - Northern Land Use Research Alaska (NLURA), Cultural Studies
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Meeting Guidelines

- Meeting is hybrid (in-person and virtual options)
 - Meeting will be recorded
 - For those on the Phone:
 - Please remain on mute when not speaking
 - Please Raise Hand feature or Speak during Q/A sessions
 - All: Please state your full name when speaking for the record
 - Multiple Q/A opportunities throughout the presentation/Site Visit
 - Handouts provided
-

Agenda

- Introductions and Meeting Guidelines / Purpose – 9:30 a.m.
 - FERC Relicensing Process Overview
 - Non-capacity License Amendment
 - Questions
 - Pre-Application Document (PAD) Review:
 - Project Overview
 - Project Facilities (with photos)
 - Project Operations
 - Proposed Project Boundary
 - Questions & BREAK
 - Project Resources Review
 - Proposed Studies
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 - Relicensing Next Steps
 - Process and Schedule
 - Questions – 12:15 p.m.
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-

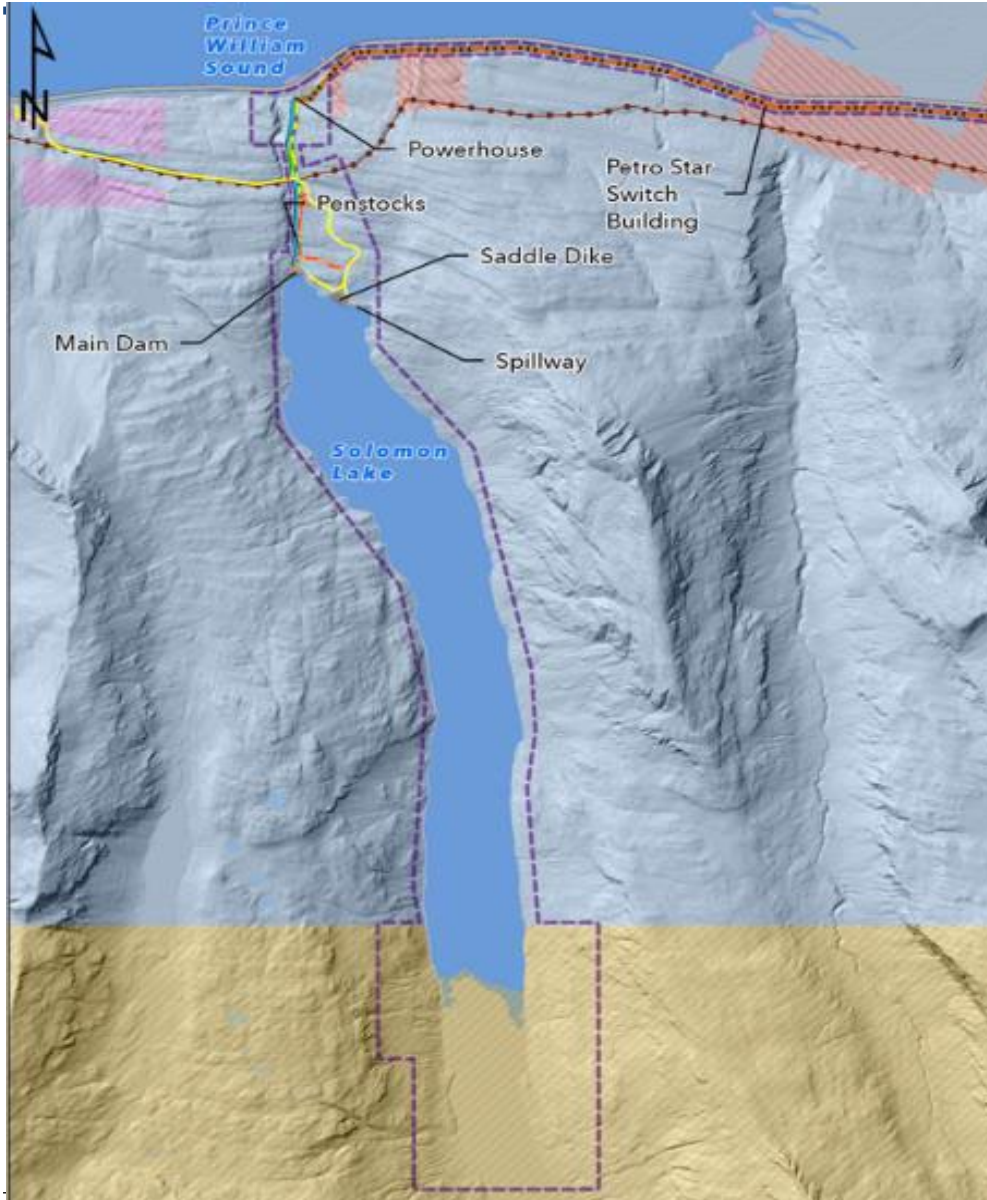
Meeting Purpose

Joint Meeting and Site Visit Purpose

The purpose of the public meeting and site visit is to:

- (1) Initiate issues scoping pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA);
 - (2) Review and discuss existing conditions and resource management objectives;
 - (3) Review and discuss existing information and make preliminary identification of information and study needs;
 - (4) Review, discuss, and finalize the process plan and schedule for pre-filing activity that maximizes coordination of Federal, state, and tribal permitting and certification processes, including:
 - section 7 ESA consultation and
 - section 401, Clean Water Act (water quality certification or waiver) consultation
-

Project Overview



Solomon Gulch Hydroelectric Project (P-2742)

- Original license issued June 21, 1978, for a term of 50 years
- License expires on May 31, 2028
- Constructed in 1982
- 12 MW
- Owned and operated by CVEA
- 4,000 meters in Valdez and Copper River area
- No changes to current facilities or operations
- Proposed Project Boundary change
- Separate, concurrent Transmission Line Removal amendment

Video



www.cvea.org

www.facebook.com/Copper-Valley-Electric-Association-157279357645493/videos/how-hydropower-happens-at-solomon-gulch/220755096070036/

Relicensing Website: <https://www.cvea.org/about/project-reports/solomon-gulch-relicensing.html>

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)

Relicensing Process Overview

Relicensing Process Overview

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Relicensing Process Overview

- FERC licensed projects must be relicensed periodically
 - Process is essentially a 5 to 5.5 year process
 - starts with issuance of NOI/PAD
 - Solomon Gulch will be using the Traditional Licensing Process (TLP)
 - FERC approved the TLP on June 23, 2023
 - TLP preferred choice:
 - Suited for simple/uncomplicated relicensings,
 - provides flexibility in overall schedule,
 - engages stakeholders participation in the various phases.
-

Relicensing Process Overview

TLP – Three Stage Process

1. TLP First Stage

- CVEA issued NOI/PAD, requested TLP use, newspaper notice (April 28, 2023)
 - FERC approves use of the TLP within 60 days of the NOI filing (June 23, 2023)
 - **Applicant conducts Joint Meeting (agency/public meeting) and Site Visit within 30 to 60 days of the TLP Approval/Notice of Commencement (August 15, 2023)**
 - Resource agencies, tribes, and relicensing participants provide written comments and study requests no later than 60 days following the meeting (October 14, 2023)
 - CVEA reviews study requests and further plans resource studies
-

Relicensing Process Overview

TLP – Three Stage Process

2. TLP Second Stage

- CVEA conducts “reasonable and necessary” resource studies, usually 1-2 field seasons from spring to fall:
 - First year studies – 2024;
 - Second year studies (if needed) – 2025
 - CVEA provides Draft License Application (DLA) to relicensing participants (Dec 30, 2025)
 - Relicensing participants comment on DLA no later than 90 days after receipt of DLA (Mar 30, 2026)
-

Relicensing Process Overview

TLP – Three Stage Process

3. TLP Third Stage

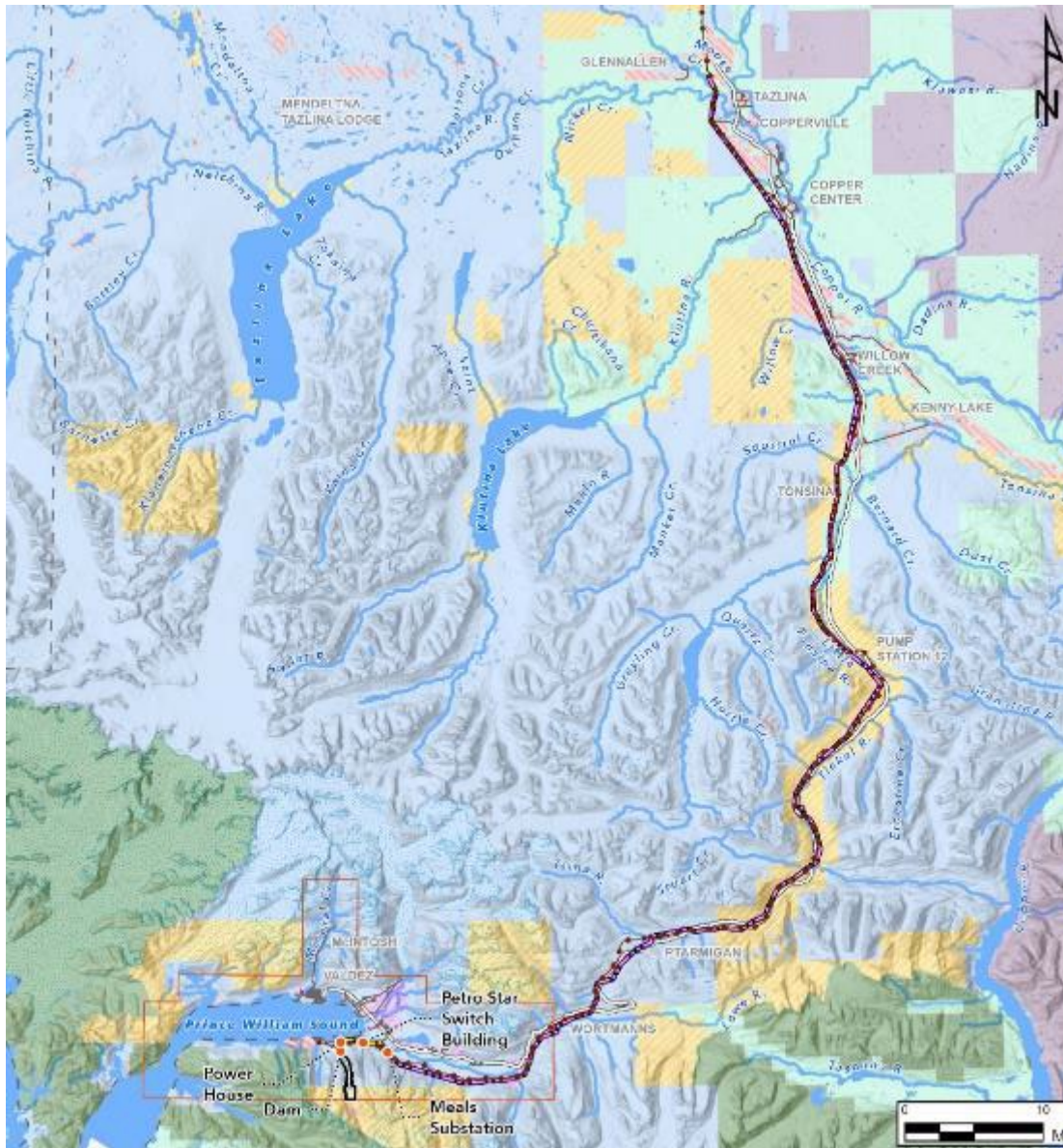
- Applicant files Final License Application (FLA) with FERC (May 31, 2026), no later than 2 years prior to license expiration (May 31, 2028)
 - FERC reviews application
 - FERC conducts NEPA Scoping
 - FERC prepares NEPA document (EA or EIS) and provides NEPA for public comment
 - FERC issues new Project license
-

Relicensing Process Overview

TLP Schedule – Key Milestones

<u>Milestone</u>	<u>Date</u>
File NOI/PAD and Request TLP	4/28/2023
FERC Issues Authorization to Use TLP	6/23/2023
<i>Stage 1</i>	
Joint Meeting	8/15/2023
Comments on PAD/Study request	10/14/2023
<i>Stage 2</i>	
Conduct Studies (“reasonable and necessary”)	2024
Conduct 2nd Year Studies (if needed)	2025
Draft License Application (DLA)	12/30/2025
Comments on DLA	3/30/2026
<i>Stage 3</i>	
File Final License Application	5/31/2026
License Expiration	5/31/2028

Concurrent Application for Non-Capacity License Amendment (slide 1)



- Amendment Application: October 31, 2022
- Action: Remove 108.16-mile-long transmission line extending from the Petro Star Switch Building north to Glennallen from FERC Project Boundary
- No longer meets the definition of primary transmission per FPA Section 3(11)
- Petro Star Switch Building is now a point of interconnection and distribution of several other sources of CVEA power:
 - Allison Creek Hydro Project
 - Co-generation Plant
 - Valdez Diesel Plant
- Consulted with ADNR, ADFW, NMFS, FWS, and AK SHPO
 - Developed Inadvertent Discovery Plan for NHPA, Section 106 compliance

Concurrent Application for Non-Capacity License Amendment: (slide 2)

CVEA Amendment Application: October 31, 2022

FERC Response: June 8, 2023 – Asked CVEA to:

- Request non-federal NHPA Section 106 designation
- Provide communication summary, with the Alaska SHPO, Tribes, and other entities regarding land removal from the project boundary
- Provide info that sites would not be adversely affected OR develop a MOA for mitigation of adverse effects of taking these sites out of federal jurisdiction

CVEA Response: July 7, 2023 – CVEA requested:

- Non-federal NHPA Section 106 designation
- 60-day extension to provide comprehensive approach to any potential effects of removing the transmission line from federal jurisdiction

FERC Response: August 8, 2023

- FERC designated CVEA as the Section 106, non-federal representative for consultation NHPA
 - CVEA can now perform tasks in support of FERC's compliance with section 106 of the NHPA
- However, FERC remains ultimately responsible for findings/determinations made pursuant to Section 106

Next Steps - Preparation of:

- Identifying Consulting Parties; Initiation Letter for Consulting Parties,
 - Finding of Effect Letter for FERC, AK SHPO, and Consulting Parties, and
 - Draft MOA (including already-developed IDP) and consultation.
-

Agenda Items Covered:



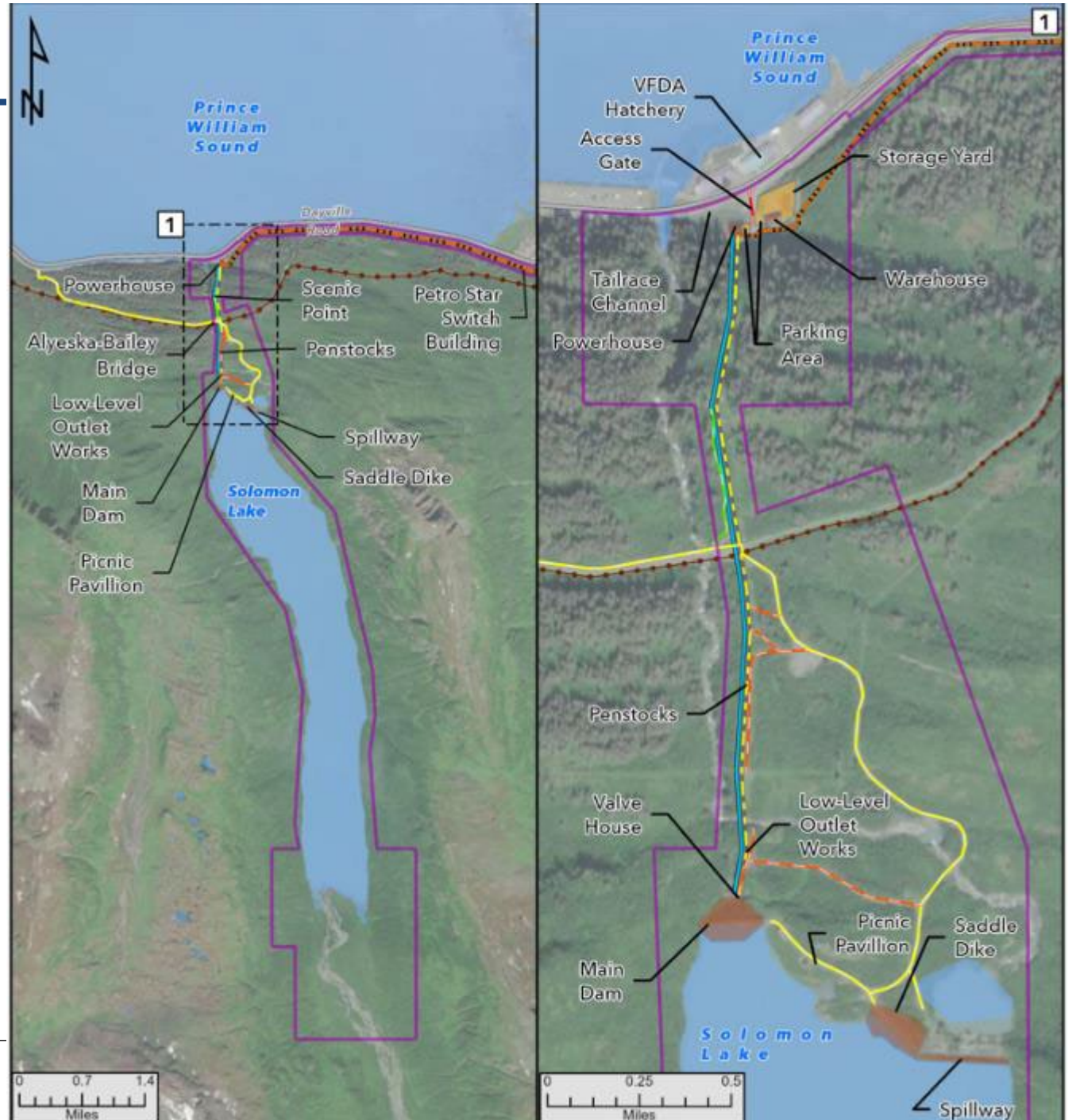
- Introductions and Meeting Guidelines / Purpose
- FERC Relicensing Process Overview
- Non-capacity License Amendment

Questions/Comments?

Pre-Application Document (PAD) Review

Project Overview

- Solomon Lake
- Spillway
- Spillway Basin
- Saddle Dike
- Main Dam
- Picnic Pavilion
- Valve House
- Low-Level Outlet Works
- Penstocks
- Powerhouse
- Tailrace Channel
- Transmission Line



Project Facilities – Solomon Lake



Solomon Lake

- Drainage Area: 19.7 mi²
- Glacially fed
- Normal pool elevation: 615 ft to 685 ft msl
- Maximum surface area: 660 ac
- Maximum storage volume: 31,560 ac-ft
- Maximum depth at full pool: 100 ft

Project Facilities – Three Embankment Dams



Spillway

- Concrete ogee weir with low concrete splitters
- Length: 450 ft
- Nominal crest elevation: 685 ft
- Spillway Creek: 0.4 mi

Saddle Dike

- Fill height: 55 ft
- Crest length: 365 ft



Main Embankment Dam and Valve House

- Compacted rockfill structure
- Height: 115 ft
- 5-ft high concrete parapet wall
- Crest length: 386 ft
- Crest elevation: 695 ft msl

Project Facilities – Penstocks

Two Penstocks

- Concrete-encased steel
- Diameter: 48 in
- Length: ~3,785 ft



Low-Level Outlet Works

- Constructed in 2011



Project Facilities – Powerhouse and Transmission



Powerhouse

- 2 Francis-type turbines
- Total rated capacity: 12 MW

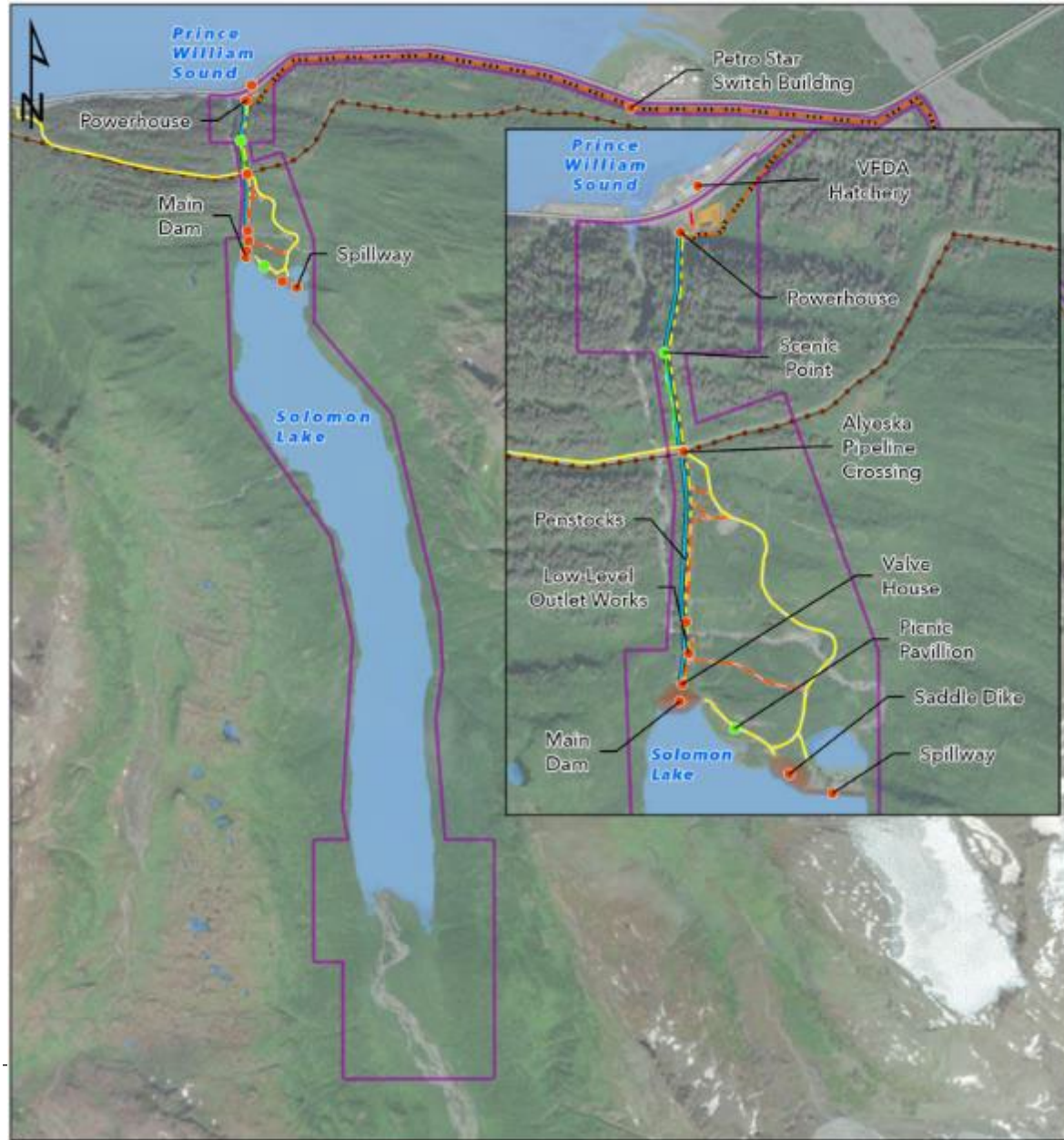


Transmission

- Powerhouse to Petro Star Switch Building
- Length: 1.68 mi
- 24.9-kV



Project Recreation Facilities



John Hunter Memorial Trail

- Length: 3.8 mi
- Picnic Pavilion



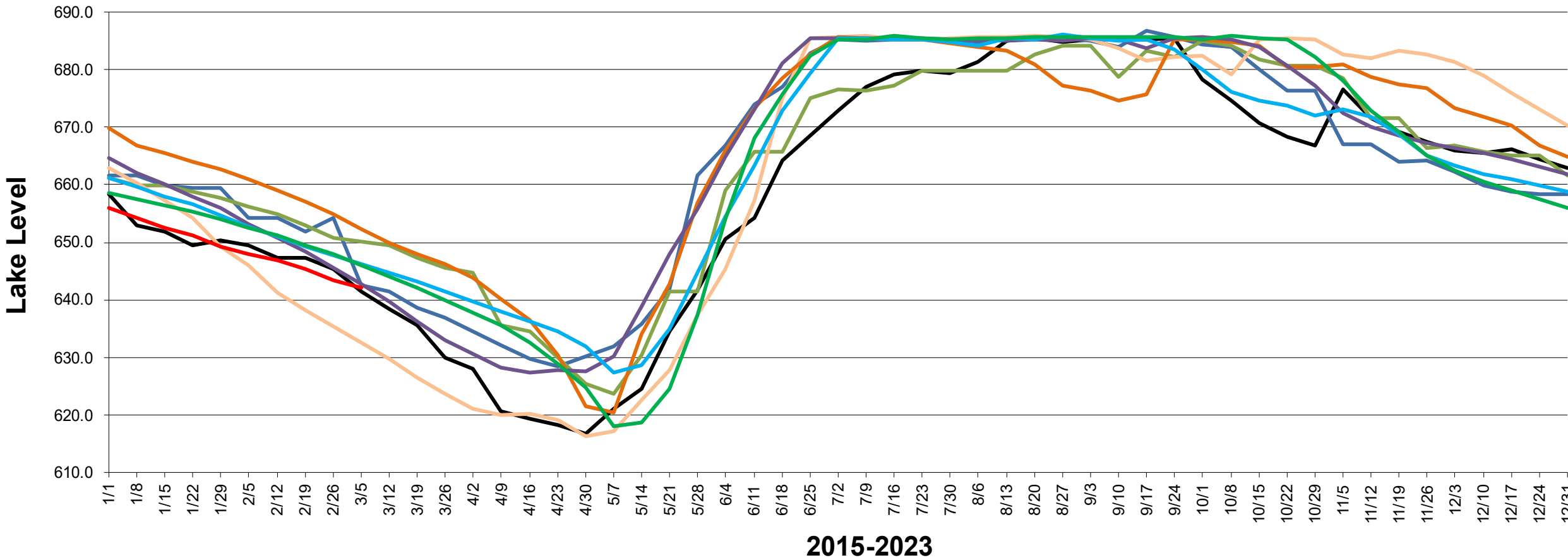
Project Operations

- Average annual generation: 42,618 MWh
 - Minimum flow requirements:
 - 2 cfs Solomon Gulch Creek
 - 2 cfs at head of tailrace channel
 - May to June – Reservoir fills from melting snow
 - Late June/Early July to September – Reservoir spills during summer months
 - Spilled water flows through Spillway Creek and into Solomon Gulch Creek about 700 feet downstream of the main dam.
 - Downstream of Spillway Creek, Solomon Gulch Creek receives well over the minimum 2 cfs during the summer months.
 - Mid October to April – Reservoir drawn down ~70 ft
-

Solomon Lake Levels

Solomon Gulch Hydro Lake Levels

Weekly As of 3/05/23



Annual Generation / Average Generation by month

Annual Generation (MWh)

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	AVERAGE ANNUAL
37,364	42,661	53,665	36,891	41,659	42,618

Average Generation by month 2017-2021(MWh)

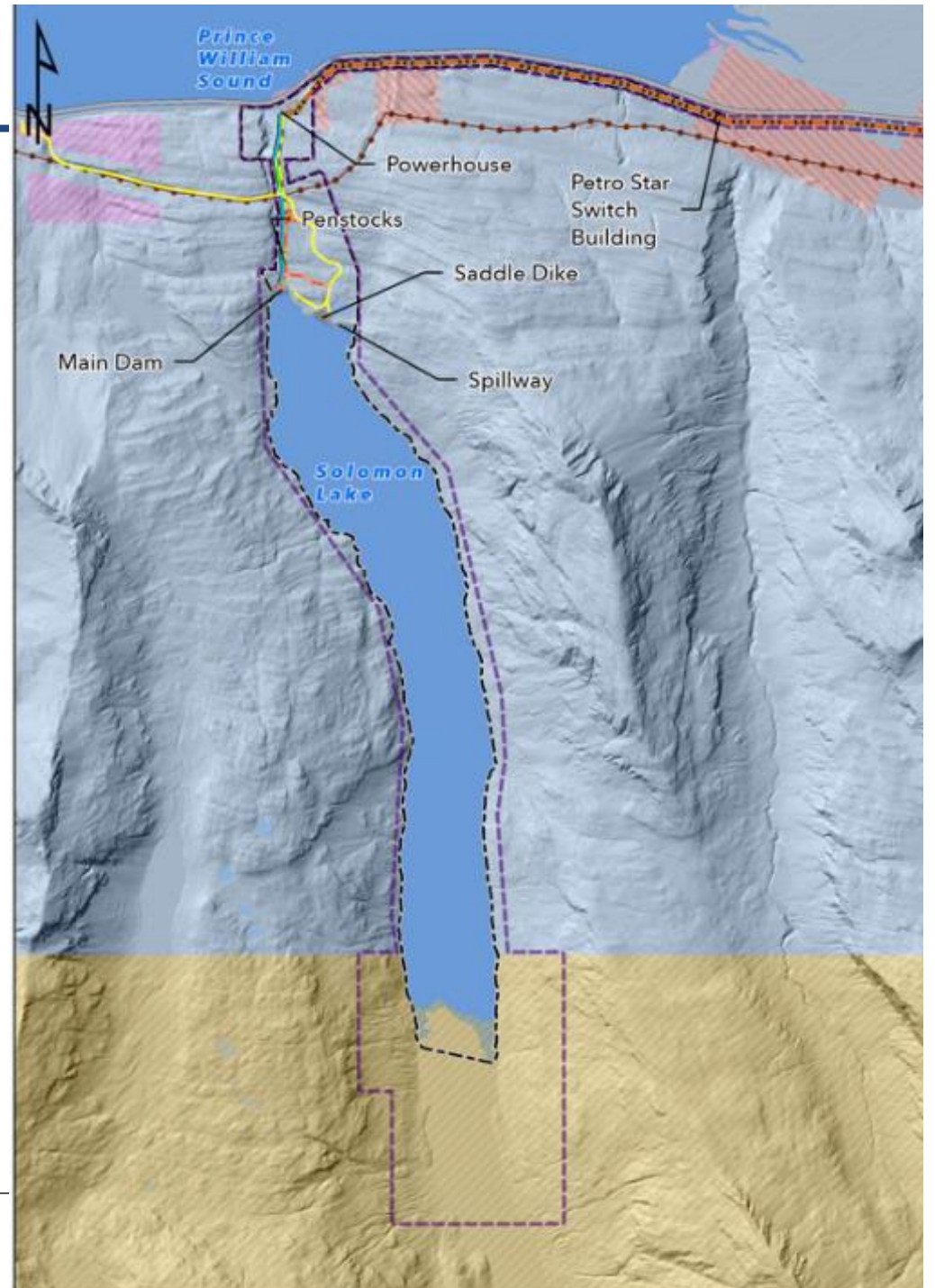
JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
2,013	2,071	2,119	1,816	3,167	3,408	4,695	5,771	4,532	5,031	4,208	3,080

Proposed Project Boundary

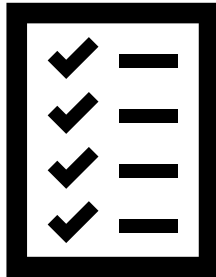
- No proposed updates to Project Operations or Facilities
- Current Project Boundary around reservoir extends beyond lands necessary for Project maintenance and operation (purple dashed line)
- Proposed Project Boundary around reservoir extends to Probable Max Flood (PMF) elevation of 694 ft msl (black dashed line)

Yellow – BLM Land

Gray – State, DNR Managed Land



Agenda Items Covered:



- Pre-Application Document (PAD) Review
 - Project Overview
 - Project Facilities (with photos)
 - Project Operations
- Proposed Project Boundary

Questions/Comments?
& BREAK

Environmental Review & NEPA Approach

CVEA is not proposing to change the Project's existing mode of operation or change existing Project facilities.

- License proposal will:
 - Update Project description and describe proposed operations
 - Describe existing conditions
 - Discuss resource management objectives
 - Identify any project effects
 - FERC's NEPA approach compares proposed action against the baseline condition, where the baseline is the current operations and facilities under the existing license
 - Propose appropriate measures to address management objectives and/or project effects
-

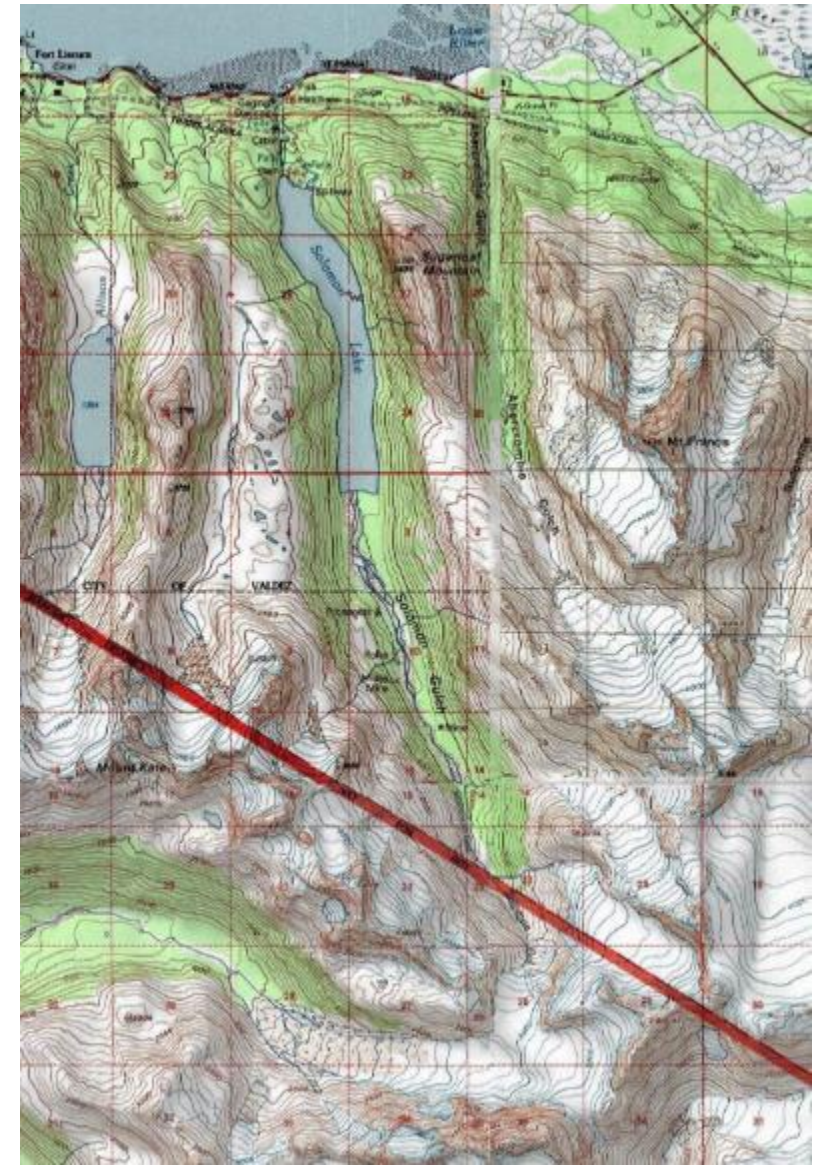
Environmental Resources Review

Project Environmental Resources, in the Pre-Application Document:

- Geology and Soils
 - Water
 - Fish and Aquatic
 - Wildlife and Botanical
 - Floodplains, Wetlands, Riparian and Littoral Habitat
 - Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species
 - Recreation, Land Use and Aesthetics
 - Cultural and Tribal
 - Socioeconomic
-

Geology and Soils Resources

- Solomon Gulch is a steep-walled north-south trending basin located within the heavily glaciated Chugach Mountains
- Underlying bedrock consists of schist, gneiss, and amphibolite with volcanic rocks of the Valdez Group
- Glaciers retreated in the recent geologic past, about 5,000 years ago
- Soils young, shallow, unconsolidated deposits with little chemical alteration
- Fertility in the soils is low and contain little organic matter
- Upper valley
 - Glacial moraines and irregular dumps of glacial-derived material
 - Talus and alluvial fans dropping from the steep valley walls
- Solomon Lake Valley
 - nearly flat valley, thick layer of alluvium
 - primarily sand and gravel with silt becoming increasingly abundant down-valley



Geology and Soils Resources

No studies are being proposed specific to geologic or soil resources.

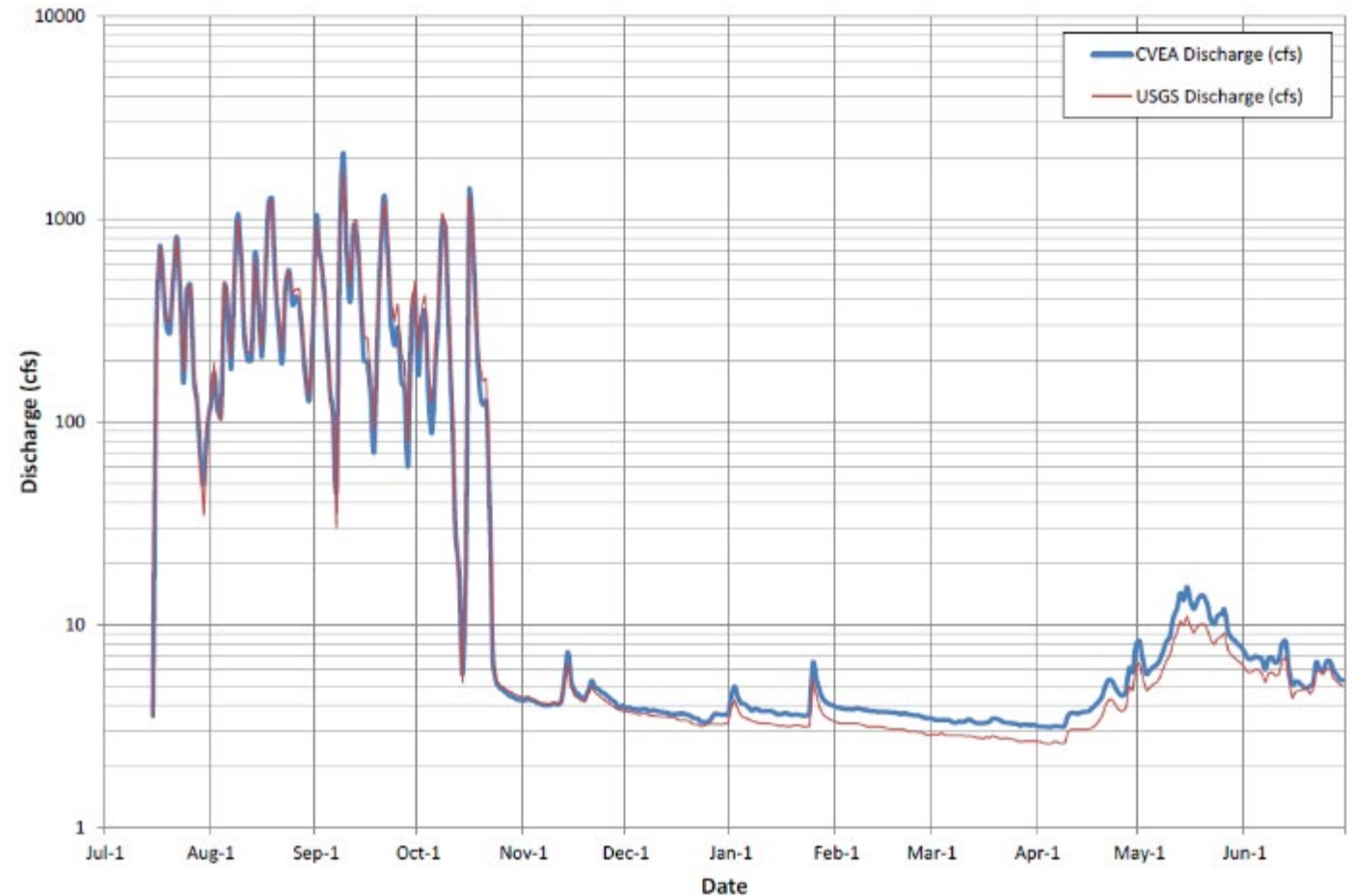
- The Solomon Gulch Project will continue to be operated with limited impoundment fluctuations.
- No areas of mass-wasting or erosion concern have been identified during recent reservoir rim surveys.
 - Solomon Lake side slopes stable, densely vegetated with alder and scrub willow, low-growing alpine vegetation at higher slopes
- Minimal potential for erosion in the Project impoundment or other impacts to geologic and soil resources.



Water Resources

- **Basin:** 19.7 square miles; short and steep
- Two periods of high runoff
 - late June and July - snowmelt
 - late summer/early fall - peak rains & glacier melt
- **Glacial headwaters:** 3,000 - 4,000 ft elev
 - ~ 4 mi to Solomon Lake inlet
- **Solomon Lake:** ~ 3 mi long at full pool
 - Shallow inlet up to max depth of 100 ft
 - 300 ac - 660 ac
- **Solomon Gulch Creek:** ~3,800 ft long
 - Deeply incised and very steep (16% ave)
- **Spillway Creek:** 0.4 mi long
 - Enters SG Ck ~ 700 ft DS of dam
- **Tailrace Channel:** 300 ft long

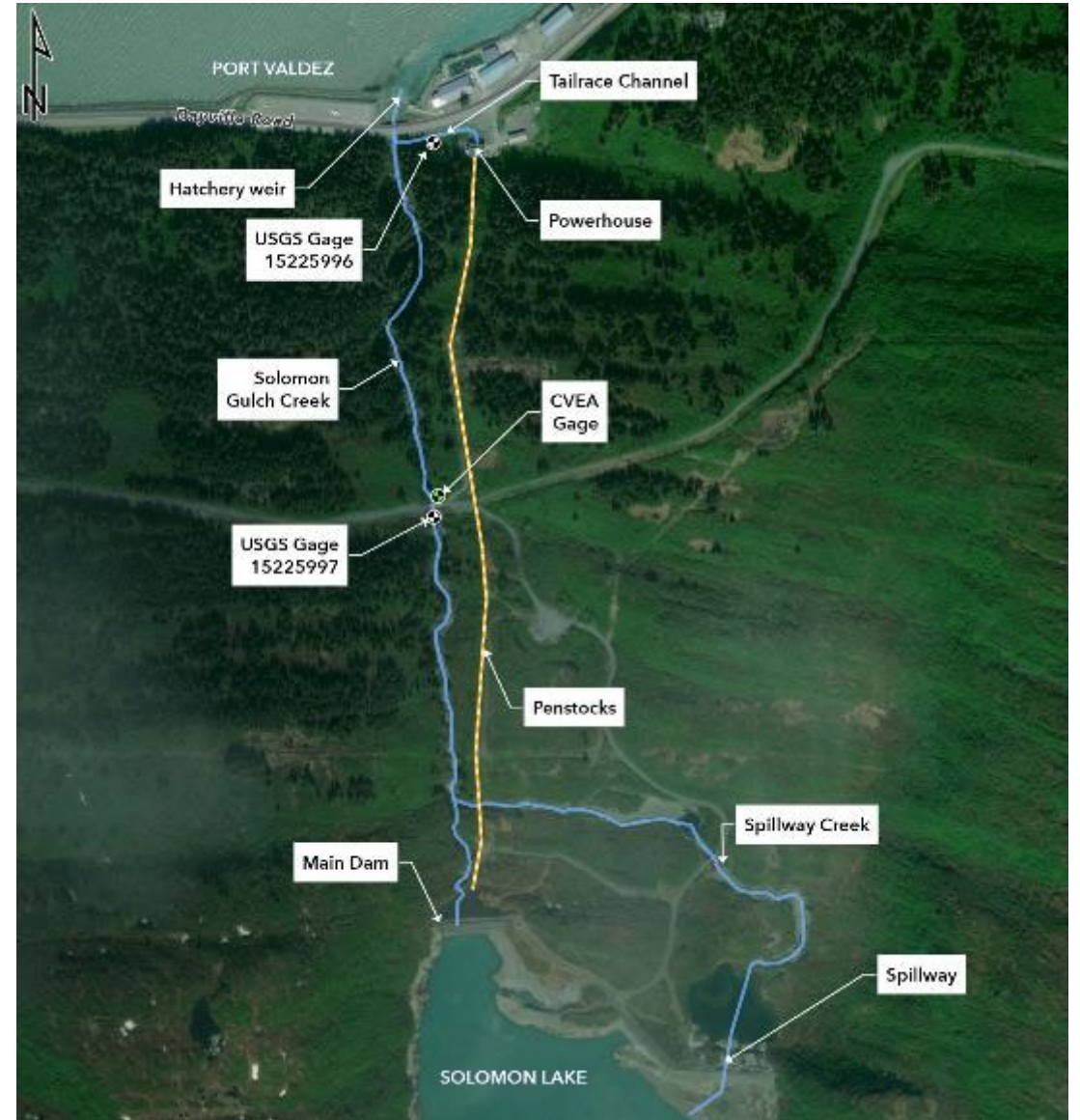
- USGS Gage 15225996 Solomon Tailrace
- USGS Gage 15225997 TOF (replaced with CVEA RSS Gage)



Mean Daily Discharge (cfs) of the CVEA RSS Gaging Station vs USGS Gaging Station 15225997 7/15/22 – 6/30/23 (Stream Gage Compliance Point)

Proposed Water Temperature Monitoring Study

- **Goals**
 - Characterize water temperature in Solomon Gulch Creek
 - Characterize water temperature in the Project tailrace
- **Continuous Water Temperature Monitoring Locations**
 - CVEA gage on Solomon Gulch Creek
 - Project tailrace
- **June through October at 30-min intervals**
 - Data standards outlined in Mauger et al. (2015)
- **Analysis and Reporting**
 - Daily minimum, maximum, and mean temperature
 - 7-day average of the daily maximum (7-DADMax)
 - consistent with ADEC 2022 proposed revisions to AK WQ Standards
 - Data will be evaluated with respect to state water quality criteria and any exceedances will be summarized

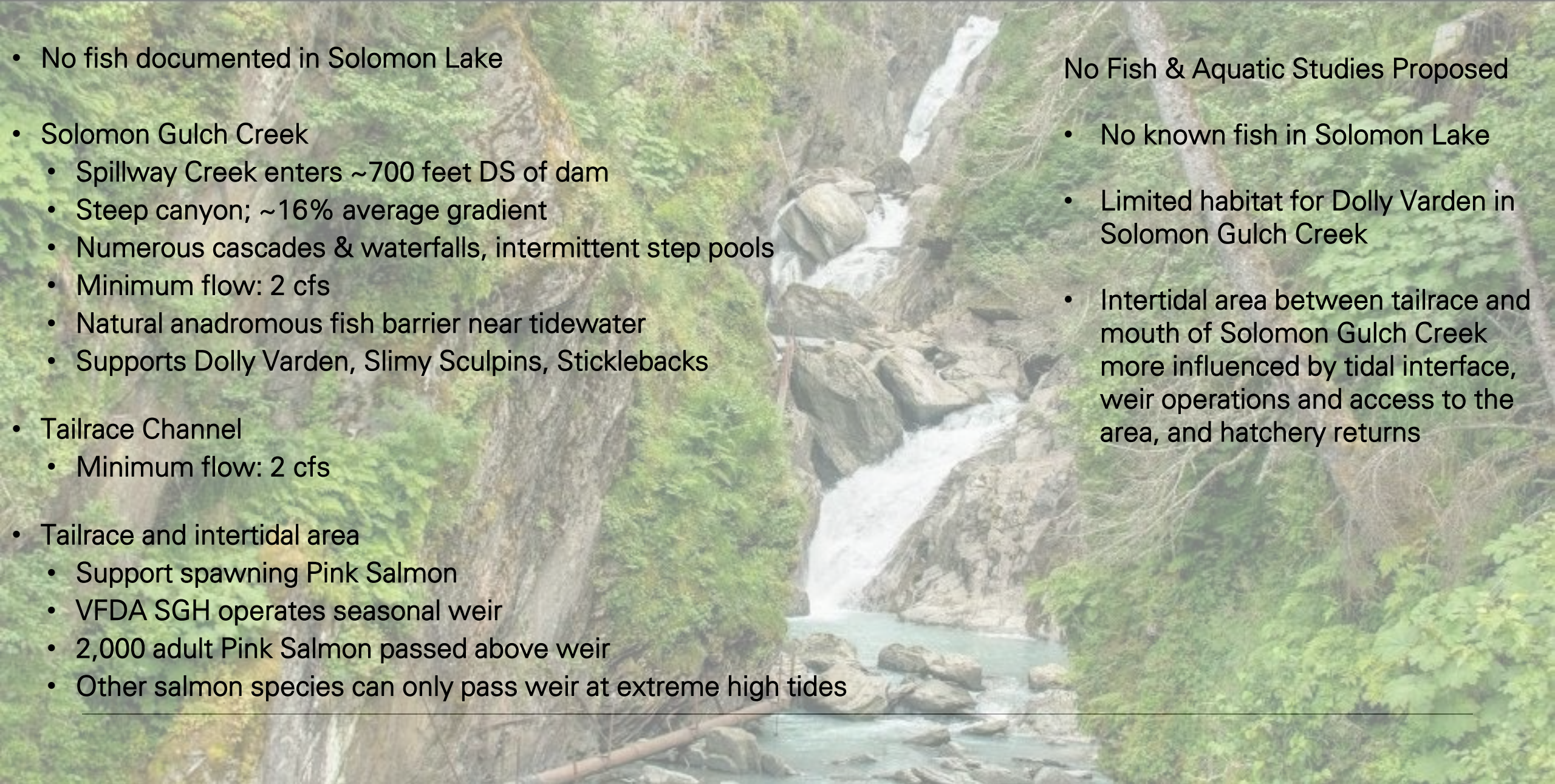


Fish & Aquatic Resources

- No fish documented in Solomon Lake
- Solomon Gulch Creek
 - Spillway Creek enters ~700 feet DS of dam
 - Steep canyon; ~16% average gradient
 - Numerous cascades & waterfalls, intermittent step pools
 - Minimum flow: 2 cfs
 - Natural anadromous fish barrier near tidewater
 - Supports Dolly Varden, Slimy Sculpins, Sticklebacks
- Tailrace Channel
 - Minimum flow: 2 cfs
- Tailrace and intertidal area
 - Support spawning Pink Salmon
 - VFDA SGH operates seasonal weir
 - 2,000 adult Pink Salmon passed above weir
 - Other salmon species can only pass weir at extreme high tides

No Fish & Aquatic Studies Proposed

- No known fish in Solomon Lake
- Limited habitat for Dolly Varden in Solomon Gulch Creek
- Intertidal area between tailrace and mouth of Solomon Gulch Creek more influenced by tidal interface, weir operations and access to the area, and hatchery returns



VFDA Solomon Gulch Hatchery



Constructed in 1982 to support commercial, sport, and subsistence fisheries

Production

- 250 million Pink Salmon fry
- 1.8 million Coho Salmon smolts released from saltwater net pens

SGH is not part of Solomon Gulch Hydro Project

SGH Water Supply

- Most provided by CVEA from powerplant through two 300-ft long pipes
- Falls Creek Diversion (4 cfs junior water rights)



Wildlife, Botanical, and Wetlands Resources

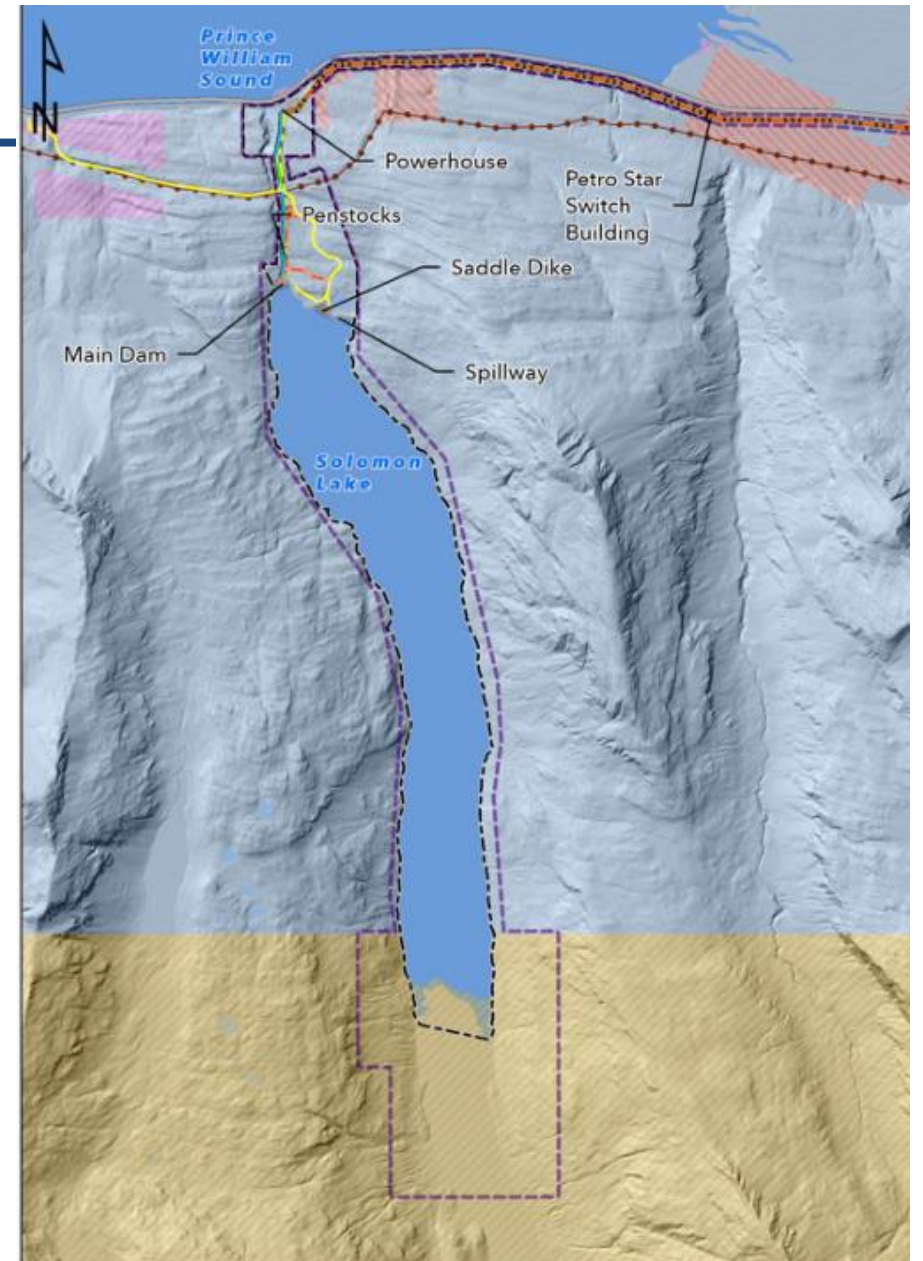


- Six physiographic zones
 - Alpine, Subalpine, Upland,
 - Riverine, Lacustrine, Coastal
- 81 acres freshwater forest/shrub wetlands
- 0.2 acres freshwater emergent wetlands
- Presence of invasive or rare plants unknown

- 32 species of mammals
- >87 species of birds
- No known amphibians
- No reptiles
- No threatened or endangered species

Proposed Terrestrial Studies

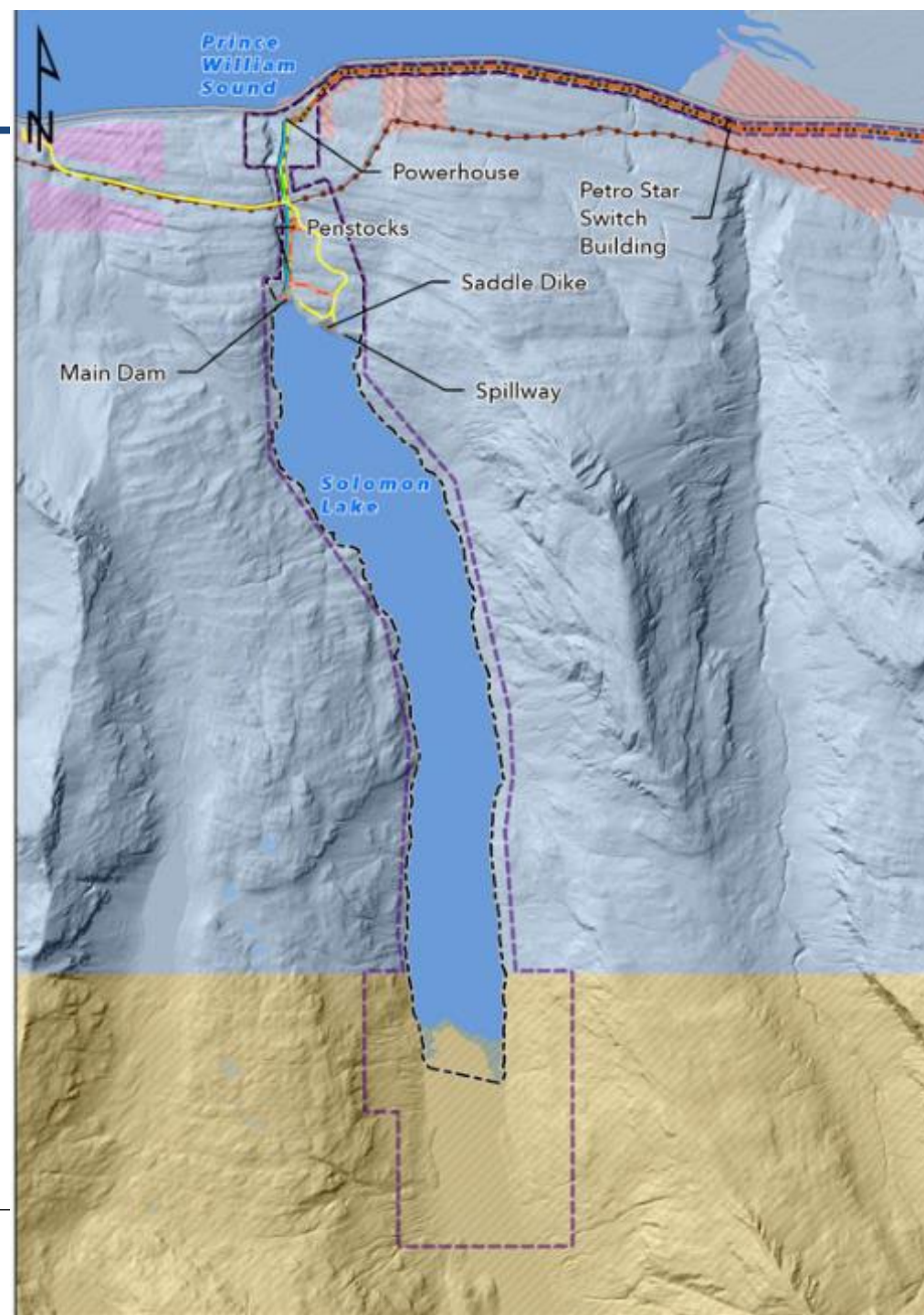
- **Vegetation Characterization Study**
 - Map vegetation types to the Level IV of the Alaska Vegetation Classification (Vioreck et al. 1992)
 - Map wetland types (NWI classification system; FGDC 2013)
 - Map rare and sensitive plant habitat types
 - Map wildlife habitat types based on vegetation type and important landscape features (physiography, surface form, microtopography, and disturbance type)
- **Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Study**
 - Develop a list of cultural, ecological, or conservation concern species known or expected to occur
 - Assemble habitat-use information of mapped habitats
 - peer-reviewed scientific literature; unpublished research reports; wildlife management, inventory, and harvest reports; wildlife survey data for nearby areas (e.g., Allison Creek)
 - Categorically rank habitat values (negligible, low, moderate, and high value) for each wildlife species for each habitat type mapped



Study Area: Project Boundary with 250-ft buffer zone

Proposed Terrestrial Studies

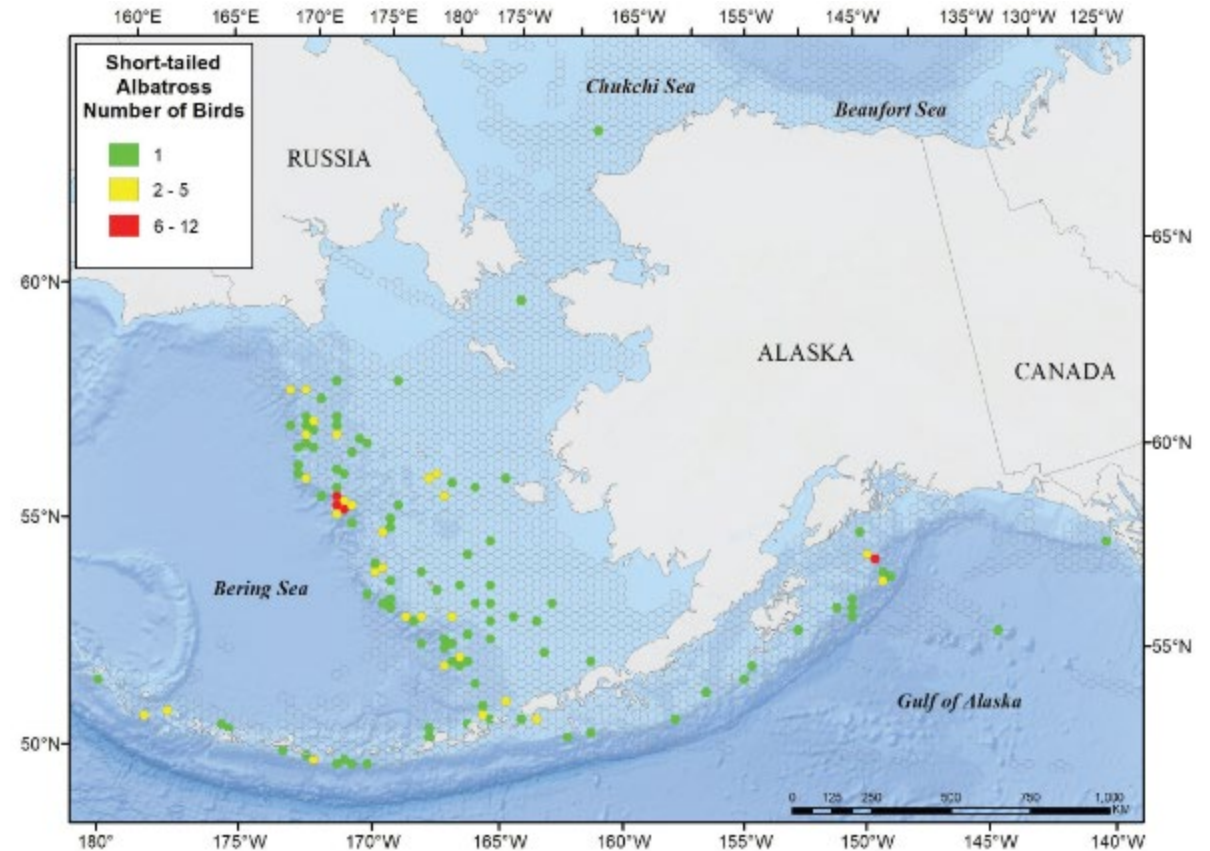
- **Rare and Sensitive Plant Study**
 - Identify species that potentially occur
 - Develop a habitat-stratified field survey plan using the fine-scale mapping of rare and sensitive plant habitats prepared in the Vegetation Characterization Study
 - Conduct search in the Project area following a random meander sampling method (USFS 2015)
 - Document the locations and estimate population sizes
 - Study area is Project area with a 250-ft wide buffer
- **Invasive Plant Study**
 - Identify species that potentially occur
 - Conduct a search for non-native and invasive plant species
 - Document the locations and estimate population sizes
 - Study area will focus on disturbed habitats within the Project area and adjacent areas, such as the access road



Rare, Threatened & Endangered Species

- No rare, threatened or endangered fish or wildlife species known in the Project area
- Project operations will not impact RTE species
- No studies are proposed

- IPaC search: Short-tailed Albatross in Project vicinity
 - ESA-listed: Endangered 2009
 - Not found in Prince William Sound



Source: USFWS 2020 5-Year Review: Summary and Evaluation

Recreation Resources – John Hunter Memorial Trail

Recreational facilities in the vicinity of the Solomon Gulch Project along the southern side of Port Valdez include:

- Allison Point Campground
- Dayville Road Bike Path
- Dayville Road scenic pull-outs and parking
- Solomon Gulch Hatchery
- John Hunter Memorial Trail
 - Length: 3.8 mi
 - Picnic Pavilion



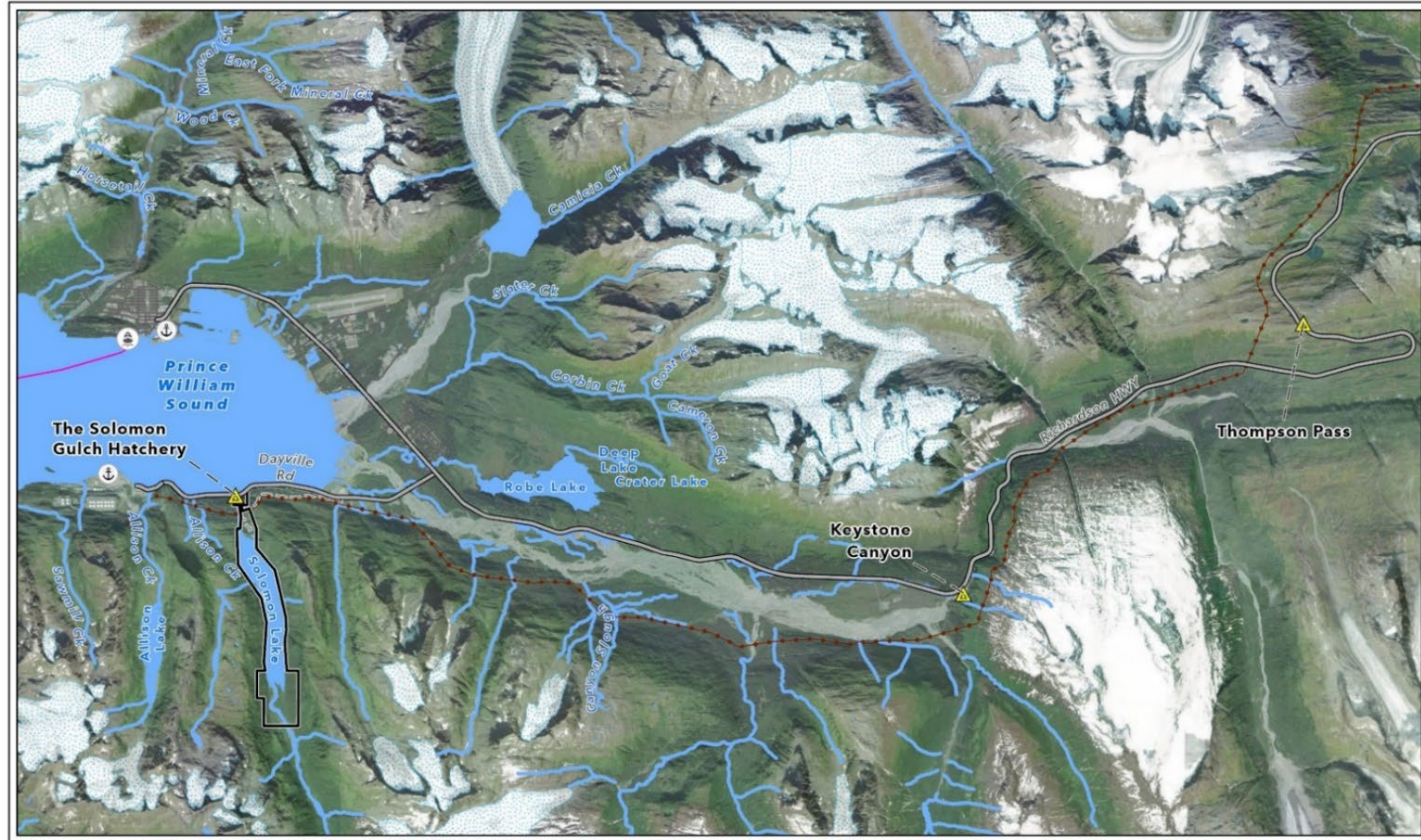
Source: Alaska Guide Co. 2022

A View of Solomon Lake from the John Hunter Memorial Trail

Land Use and Aesthetic Resources

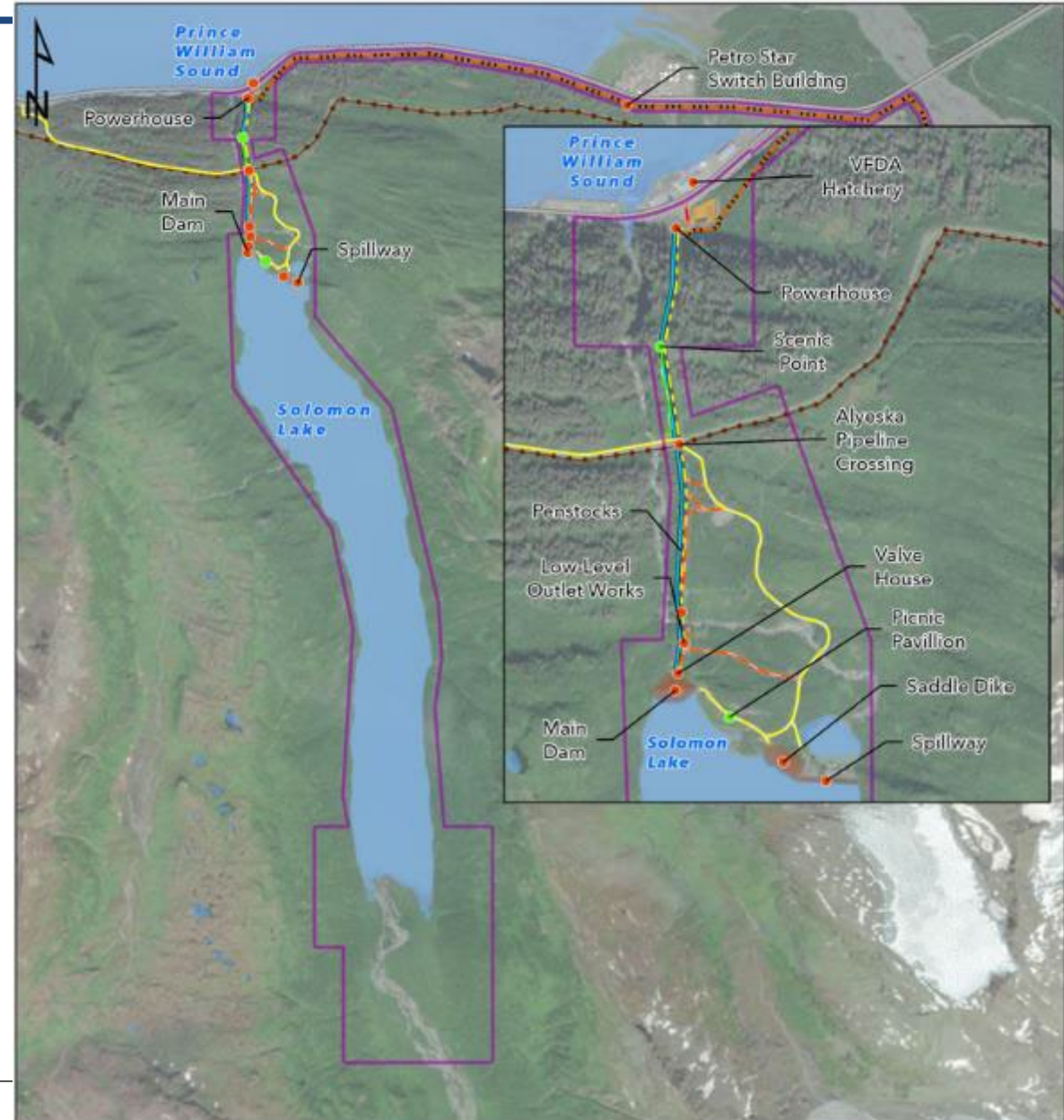
Land Use:

- Reservoir is surrounded by undeveloped state and federal lands.
- Nearby scenic attractions:
 - Sugarloaf Mountain
 - VFDA Hatchery
 - The picturesque Alaska Marine Highway
 - Keystone Canyon
 - Thompson Pass



Proposed Recreation Evaluation Study

- Project recreational facilities consist of the John Hunter Memorial Trail and picnic pavilion
- Objectives
 - Evaluate condition of the trail and facilities/amenities
 - Estimate recreation use of the trail by day type (i.e., weekday, weekend or peak weekend) and activity
 - Gather visitor feedback regarding perception and experience
 - Evaluate whether recreation capacity and existing facilities/amenities meet current needs
 - Estimate future recreation use of the trail
 - Estimate potential future recreation needs and the ability to meet the future needs over the term of a new license
- Conduct Site Inventory and Condition Assessment
- Recreation User Surveys
 - QR code posted at sign-in station



Cultural and Tribal Resources – Proposed Studies

- **Cultural Resources Study**

- Area of Potential Effect
 - Project Boundary around reservoir, facilities, access road and transmission line from powerhouse to the Petro Star Switch Building
- Alaska Heritage Resource Survey (AHRS) database
 - 3 sites within vicinity of Project Boundary
 - Reported by Smith (1974) or Lobdell (1978a, 1978b)
 - No determination of eligibility (DOE) evaluations completed
- Consult with SHPO, BLM, Tribes and other interested parties
- Identify Low and High potential areas to survey
- Conduct Phase 1 pedestrian surveys
 - coverage and intensity TBD based on potential
- Complete Phase 2 DOE, as applicable
- Develop Monitoring and Inadvertent Discovery Plan

- **Tribal Resources Study**

- TBD based on Consultation
 - Native Village of Tatitlek
 - Native Village of Chenega
 - Native Village of Eyak
 - Native Village of Kluti Kaah
 - Native Village of Tazlina
 - Gulkana Village Council (Native Village of C' ulc'e Na')
 - Native Village of Gakona
 - Native Village of Chitina
 - Cheesh'na Tribe
 - Chickaloon Native Village
 - Valdez Native Tribe

Socioeconomic Resources

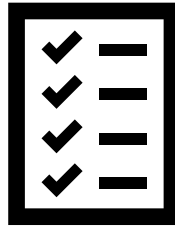
- The Solomon Gulch Hydroelectric Project provides renewable, low-cost energy, and recreational opportunities.
- Continued operation of the Project is not expected to have any new or unavoidable adverse effects on socioeconomic resources or environmental justice communities.

No socioeconomic studies are proposed.

Summary of Proposed Studies

- Nexus between Project operations and resource
 - Study results would help understand Project effects and inform the development of Protection, Mitigation, and Enhancement (PMEs) measures
 - Water Temperature Monitoring Study
 - Vegetation Characterization Study
 - Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Study
 - Rare and Sensitive Plant Study
 - Invasive Plant Study
 - Recreation Evaluation Study
 - Cultural Resources Study
-

Agenda Items Covered:



- Project Resources Review
- Proposed Studies

Questions/Comments?

Next Steps in the Relicensing Process

- Recording/Transcript of Joint Meeting filed by Applicant with FERC (within 2 weeks)
 - Written Comments on PAD and Resource Study Requests from Stakeholders Due to be filed with FERC (60 days from Joint Meeting) - by October 14, 2023
 - Applicant reviews study requests and further plans studies
 - CVEA issues a Draft Study Plan (November 2023)
 - Comments on Draft Study Plan (February 2024)
 - CVEA finalizes Study Plan (March 2024)
 - Conduct First Year Studies (2024)
-

Next Steps in the Relicensing Process

Next Steps – Study Requests

Stakeholder study requests should consider FERC's Study Request Requirements (18 CFR 4.38(b)(5); 18 CFR 16.8(b)(5)):

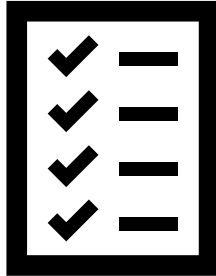
- Study identification/request
 - Basis for the study request
 - Resource(s) involved as well as goals and objectives for these resources
 - Justification for the recommended study methodology
 - Documentation that the study method recommended conforms with generally accepted practice
 - An explanation of how the study will be used to further resource goals and objectives
-

Proposed Process and Schedule

TLP Schedule	Duration Days	Estimated Date
File NOI/PAD and Request TLP		4/28/2023
FERC Issues Authorization to Use TLP	60 days	6/23/2023
STAGE 1		
Joint Meeting	30-60 days	8/15/2023
Comments on PAD/Study request	60 days (from joint mtg)	10/14/2023
Draft Study Plan for Stakeholder Review and Comment		11/21/2023
Finalize Study Plan		3/22/2024
STAGE 2		
Conduct Studies ("reasonable and necessary")		2024 Study Season
Share Draft Study Report(s)		Winter 2025
Conduct 2nd Year Studies (if needed)		2025 Study Season
Issue Draft License Application (DLA)	No later than 150 days prior to FLA filing	12/30/2025
Comments on DLA	90 days	3/30/2026
STAGE 3		
File Final License Application		5/31/2026
License Expiration		5/31/2028

FERC Comments/Filings

- Comments to be submitted formally to FERC
 - For details, see: <https://www.ferc.gov/ferc-online/overview>
 - All filings are publicly accessible in the FERC eLibrary.
 - To subscribe to be notified when comments or documents are filed:
 - <https://ferconline.ferc.gov>, click “eSubscription”
 - FERC Project docket number is P-2742
-



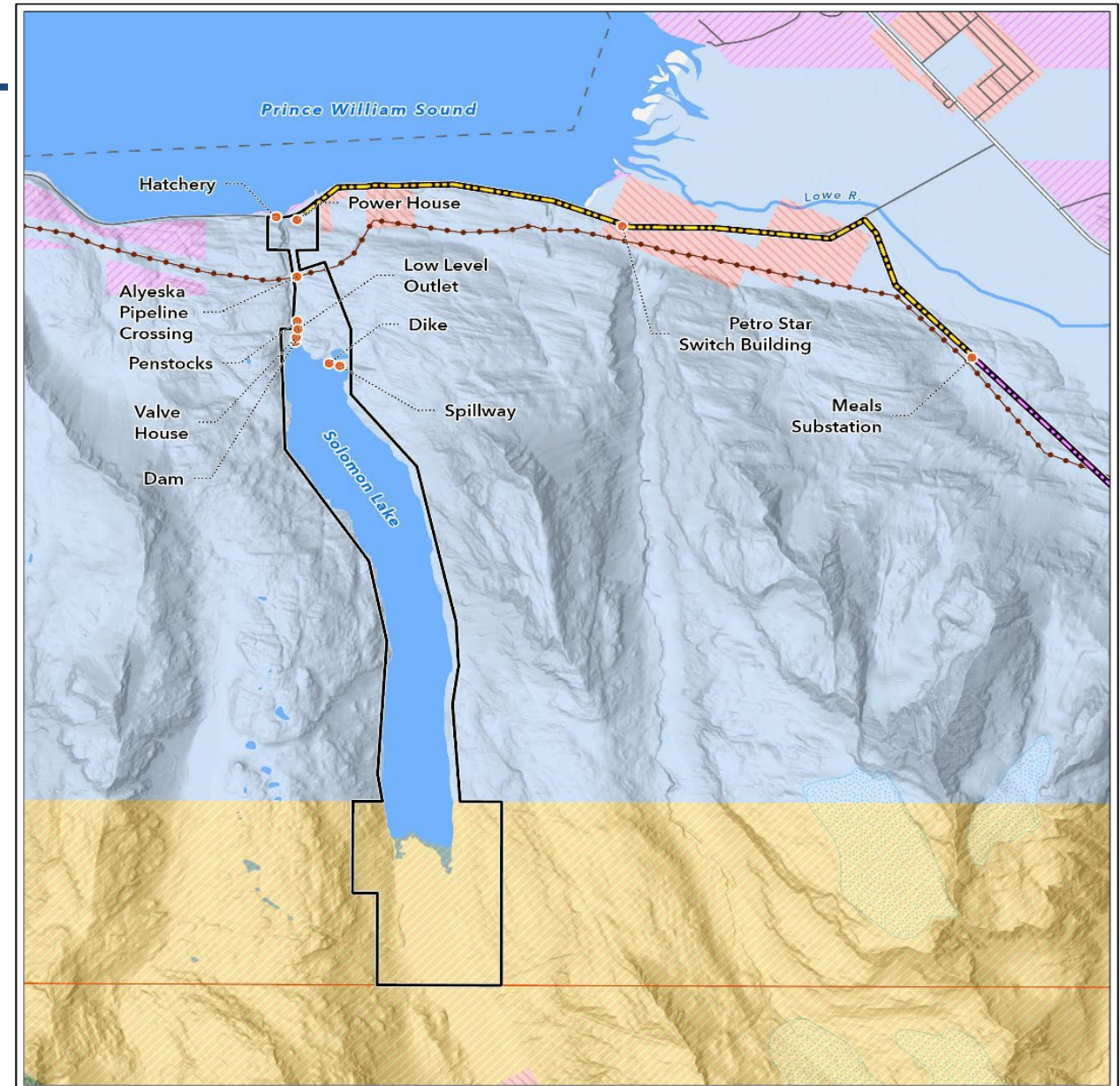
Agenda Items Covered:

- Relicensing Next Steps
- Process and Schedule

Questions/Comments?

Next Steps Today: Site Visit

- Lunch
- In-Person Site Visit: 1:30 – 4:00 pm



Closing

Thank you for joining us today.

Please contact us with questions.

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Kleinschmidt Associates
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Portland, OR 97232
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Email: Fatima.Oswald@kleinschmidtgroup.com



www.cvea.org

Relicensing Website: <https://www.cvea.org/about/project-reports/solomon-gulch-relicensing.html>

Attachment B

Joint Agency and Public Meeting Transcript

0:17:55.920 --> 0:17:57.10

Fatima Oswald

Welcome, everyone.

0:17:57.220 --> 0:18:0.310

Fatima Oswald

Just going to check in with the folks on the virtual meeting.

0:18:1.0 --> 0:18:2.770

Fatima Oswald

Hi, Wendy, Rebecca and Laura.

0:18:2.780 --> 0:18:4.790

Fatima Oswald

Just want to make sure that you all can hear us still.

0:18:6.220 --> 0:18:7.0

Laura Pevan

Yeah, we can hear you.

0:18:7.80 --> 0:18:7.690

Laura Pevan

Well, I can hear you.

0:18:8.790 --> 0:18:9.200

Fatima Oswald

Perfect.

0:18:9.210 --> 0:18:9.780

Fatima Oswald

OK.

0:18:9.870 --> 0:18:10.250

Fatima Oswald

Hi, Terry.

0:18:15.560 --> 0:18:16.480

Fatima Oswald

OK, great.

0:18:18.650 --> 0:18:19.50

Fatima Oswald

OK.

0:18:19.60 --> 0:18:27.630

Fatima Oswald

So we do have a handful of folks on the phone and then we also have people in the room here.

0:18:27.640 --> 0:18:46.360

Fatima Oswald

We're going to do our best here to make sure that everyone can hear and that we're able to answer all the questions and connect with all the folks that are in the call.

0:18:49.710 --> 0:18:58.380

Fatima Oswald

First thing I'd like to do is go ahead and have introductions take place here in the room.

0:18:59.210 --> 0:19:0.600

Fatima Oswald

I will start with myself.

0:19:0.610 --> 0:19:2.540

Fatima Oswald

My name is Fatima Oswald.

0:19:2.550 --> 0:19:13.940

Fatima Oswald

I work for Kleinschmidt and we are working with Copper Valley to help them with the relicensing of the project, and I think the best thing we can do is head around the room and have folks introduce themselves.

0:19:14.770 --> 0:19:23.290

Finlay Anderson

I'll just bring a microphone around and the reason we're using the microphone is so that the voice your voice will transmit so that the folks online can hear us.

0:19:23.300 --> 0:19:24.650

Finlay Anderson

So if you have something to say.

0:19:25.90 --> 0:19:28.60

Finlay Anderson

I'll wander people

0:19:28.470 --> 0:19:32.170

Finlay Anderson

Also, we should just note that we're going to be recording this.

0:19:32.180 --> 0:19:33.990

Fatima Oswald

FERC requires the transcript

0:19:34.800 --> 0:19:40.370

Finlay Anderson

I will introduce myself, and then we'll go through the CVEA folks and circle back around.

0:19:40.380 --> 0:19:41.410

Finlay Anderson

So I'm Finlay Anderson.

0:19:41.420 --> 0:19:42.590

Finlay Anderson

I'm with Kleinschmidt as well.

0:19:43.340 --> 0:19:44.950

Finlay Anderson

Thank you guys for coming.

0:19:44.960 --> 0:19:54.550

Finlay Anderson

I have met some of you previously, so Travis

0:19:55:551 → 0:19:56.450

Travis Million

I'm Travis Million, CEO, for Copper Valley Electric and have been involved with the project for the last 12 years

0:19:56.450 --> 0:19:58.710

Wayne McKinzey

Yes good morning my name and Wayne McKinzey, COO, for Copper Valley

0:20:2.10 --> 0:20:4.890

Coreen Palacios

Coreen Palacios, regulatory and compliance specialist with Copper Valley Electric.

0:20:4.900 --> 0:20:9.280

Steve Williams

Steve Williams, Power Generation Manager with Copper Valley Electric.

0:20:15.290 --> 0:20:22.970

Kate Huber

This is Kate Huber I am the planning director for the City of Valdez.

0:20:22:971 --> 0:20:24.239

Carol Mahara

Carol Mahara Fish and Wildlife biologist with the Fish and Wildlife Service.

0:20:25.240 --> 0:20:29.950

Leah Ellis

Leah Ellis with Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Firefighter Power coordinator for the state.

0:20:33.220 --> 0:20:34.210

Mike Wells

Mike Wells, I am the executive director for the Valdez Fisheries Development Association and we operate the solvable chatter.

0:20:43.820 --> 0:20:45.190

Betsy McGregor

Hi, I'm Betsy McGregor. I'm the science lead with Kleinschmidt for the relicensing of this project.

0:20:52.130 --> 0:20:52.400

Finlay Anderson

Great.

0:20:52.410 --> 0:20:52.760

Finlay Anderson

Thank you.

And it's we always try to have at least as many consultants and dam owners in the room in case, you know, the stakeholders get really.

0:21:3.70 --> 0:21:4.440

Finlay Anderson

So that's great.

0:21:4.450 --> 0:21:8.0

Finlay Anderson

You guys are here and go ahead with whatever you have next to.

0:21:8.180 --> 0:21:9.740

Fatima Oswald

OK, Finlay

0:21:9.750 --> 0:21:11.380

Fatima Oswald

Just one little bit of housekeeping.

0:21:11.570 --> 0:21:14.50

Fatima Oswald

Any ideas about getting rid of that little tiny screen?

0:21:14.60 --> 0:21:15.860

Fatima Oswald

It wasn't there earlier.

0:21:15.870 --> 0:21:18.320

Fatima Oswald

Just want to make sure it doesn't cover our slides too much.

0:21:18.370 --> 0:21:19.550

Finlay Anderson

Yeah, just minimize it.

0:21:19.590 --> 0:21:20.260

Fatima Oswald

I can't.

0:21:20.530 --> 0:21:20.990

Fatima Oswald
I've been.

0:21:21.210 --> 0:21:21.620

Fatima Oswald
Yeah.

0:21:23.470 --> 0:21:26.900

Fatima Oswald
Otherwise, we'll just live with it, and that's going to be fine.

0:21:30.120 --> 0:21:30.420

Fatima Oswald
That.

0:21:30.700 --> 0:21:31.100

Fatima Oswald
Let's see.

0:21:31.110 --> 0:21:35.940

Fatima Oswald
Here, hold on and thanks you all.

0:21:35.950 --> 0:21:44.260

Finlay Anderson
For while we're while she's working on that, let me just mention and in case of emergency here I just right, I think it was here.

0:21:44.490 --> 0:21:46.570

Finlay Anderson
Bathrooms are down the hall.

0:21:50.640 --> 0:21:53.820

Finlay Anderson
That doesn't, and food is at the end of the table.

0:21:53.830 --> 0:21:55.400

Finlay Anderson
So help yourselves.

0:21:59.270 --> 0:22:2.70

Finlay Anderson
I mentioned that we're recording for actual part of the transcript.

0:22:7.720 --> 0:22:8.130

Fatima Oswald
OK.

0:22:8.560 --> 0:22:11.170

Fatima Oswald

Well, we will live with it, OK?

0:22:11.780 --> 0:22:18.980

Fatima Oswald

And the other thing that I did want to do was allow the folks on the phone to introduce themselves.

0:22:19.970 --> 0:22:24.550

Fatima Oswald

And so I do see that we've got Laura on the phone.

0:22:26.550 --> 0:22:27.60

Laura Pevan

Hi there.

0:22:27.210 --> 0:22:28.440

Laura Pevan

My name is Laura Pevan.

0:22:28.450 --> 0:22:32.230

Laura Pevan

I'm the fisheries biologist for Chickaloon Village Traditional Council.

0:22:32.590 --> 0:22:33.860

Laura Pevan

Down on the Glenn Highway.

0:22:34.110 --> 0:22:34.680

Laura Pevan

Nice to be here.

0:22:36.470 --> 0:22:37.640

Fatima Oswald

Thanks, Laura. Rebecca.

0:22:39.950 --> 0:22:41.240

Rebecca McGuire (Guest)

Hi, I'm Rebecca.

0:22:41.250 --> 0:22:45.370

Rebecca McGuire (Guest)

I'm up in Fairbanks with ABR and I'm the AV and lead here.

0:22:46.780 --> 0:22:47.180

Fatima Oswald

Great.

0:22:47.230 --> 0:22:47.700

Fatima Oswald

Terry.

0:22:49.60 --> 0:22:56.410

Terry Schick (ABR) (Guest)

This is Terry Schick with ABR and we are working on the Botanical and wildlife issues for the project.

0:22:57.840 --> 0:22:58.720

Fatima Oswald

Perfect and Wendy.

0:23:0.610 --> 0:23:0.900

Wendy Davis (Guest)

Yeah.

0:23:0.910 --> 0:23:4.840

Wendy Davis (Guest)

Hi I'm also with a ABR and I'm the vegetation lead.

0:23:6.840 --> 0:23:7.590

Fatima Oswald

Perfect.

0:23:8.100 --> 0:23:11.730

Fatima Oswald

And what's nice is we can hear you all really well.

0:23:11.740 --> 0:23:14.150

Fatima Oswald

Just want to make sure that you can hear us in the room.

0:23:19.120 --> 0:23:20.910

Fatima Oswald

Folks on the phone, can you hear us pretty well?

0:23:22.940 --> 0:23:23.220

Wendy Davis (Guest)

Yes.

0:23:23.240 --> 0:23:23.900

Rebecca McGuire (Guest)

Yes, I can.

0:23:25.130 --> 0:23:26.130

Fatima Oswald

Right. OK.

0:23:28.900 --> 0:23:34.360

Fatima Oswald

So I'm going to go ahead and move to our next slide.

0:23:34.440 --> 0:23:38.500

Fatima Oswald

So overall, meeting guidelines, we've been through a lot of this already.

0:23:38.850 --> 0:23:43.160

Fatima Oswald

It's a little bit tricky since we have folks on the phone and people in the room.

0:23:43.830 --> 0:23:51.700

Fatima Oswald

The nice thing about this meeting is it is very small and we can all have a nice conversational meeting.

0:23:51.710 --> 0:24:6.440

Fatima Oswald

I think overall, so if you all do have questions, please just go ahead and speak up and ask your questions as we move through the slides, we will also we've built in a lot of slides just to pause and ask and answer questions as well.

0:24:6.450 --> 0:24:17.510

Fatima Oswald

So I just want to make sure that that opportunity is well known for the folks on the phone will keep an eye on our meeting and see if you have any hands raised.

0:24:17.520 --> 0:24:31.340

Fatima Oswald

But we will feel free to also jump in and ask any questions that you have since we do have a small meeting, this meeting has finally noted as being recorded since so that we can prepare a transcript for the meeting.

0:24:32.920 --> 0:24:39.50

Fatima Oswald

For those of you on the phone, if you can remain on mute until you speak, that would be great.

0:24:39.170 --> 0:24:44.140

Fatima Oswald

And again raise your hand or just speak up and we will move to you.

0:24:45.120 --> 0:24:51.990

Fatima Oswald

One important piece here is if you all do speak, ask comments or ask questions, have comments.

0:24:52.0 --> 0:24:59.760

Fatima Oswald

If you could just state your full name prior to speaking, that will help us with our transcript to understand who said what.

0:25:1.400 --> 0:25:8.890

Fatima Oswald

And again, a lot of Q&A opportunities throughout and then there is a nice stack of handouts in the back of the room.

0:25:8.900 --> 0:25:10.560

Fatima Oswald

Hopefully everybody has those.

0:25:10.760 --> 0:25:22.970

Fatima Oswald

We've got an agenda, we have a maps list for later on today during our site visit, and then we also just have an info sheet about the project that's available.

0:25:22.980 --> 0:25:26.970

Fatima Oswald

And for all of you on the phone, those items are all attached to the meeting.

0:25:26.980 --> 0:25:31.670

Fatima Oswald

And so you should have those in front of you as well, and that's about it.

0:25:31.680 --> 0:25:34.630

Fatima Oswald

With this meeting guidelines slide.

0:25:36.50 --> 0:25:43.950

Fatima Oswald

So from here just wanted to take a look at the overall agenda and line out our morning for us.

0:25:44.330 --> 0:25:46.200

Fatima Oswald

We have a few hours together.

0:25:46.730 --> 0:25:56.560

Fatima Oswald

I think that we might be able to get through the bulk of the presentation in an hour, an hour and a half, and then that leaves a couple a good hour for questions and discussion.

0:25:57.150 --> 0:26:0.190

Fatima Oswald

So we have plenty of time for the meeting overall.

0:26:0.510 --> 0:26:4.140

Fatima Oswald

We are going to move into the meeting purpose next.

0:26:4.190 --> 0:26:9.20

Fatima Oswald

We'll talk about the relicensing process overall and review that with you.

0:26:9.30 --> 0:26:14.550

Fatima Oswald

All we do have a non-capacity license amendment currently in play.

0:26:14.560 --> 0:26:20.630

Fatima Oswald

At the same time as this relicensing is taking place and that's the transmission line removal amendment.

0:26:20.760 --> 0:26:25.270

Fatima Oswald

And we'll dig into that a little bit here later here as we move through the meeting.

0:26:26.930 --> 0:26:36.720

Fatima Oswald

At that point, we will start to review the pre application document and just really go through the project overview, facilities operations.

0:26:36.730 --> 0:26:50.200

Fatima Oswald

We'll look at pictures of the project and we will also talk about a proposed project boundary update that we have going on with this relicensing.

0:26:51.430 --> 0:26:54.640

Fatima Oswald

Again, lots of opportunities for questions.

0:26:54.650 --> 0:27:6.10

Fatima Oswald

We'll take a break somewhere in the middle if we if we see that as being a good, good point to break and then from there we're going to move into reviewing the project resources.

0:27:6.20 --> 0:27:11.910

Fatima Oswald

So really, taking a look at all of the project resources and everything that's covered in the pre application document.

0:27:13.750 --> 0:27:35.520

Fatima Oswald

We'll talk about the studies that we have proposed for the project, relicensing at this time and after that we will move into relicensing next steps and the overall schedule for the relicensing we plan to run through the relicensing schedule a few times, and just to talk that through as we go through the meeting.

0:27:37.300 --> 0:27:40.320

Fatima Oswald

And then finally, we should be done sometime around noon.

0:27:42.600 --> 0:27:46.100

Fatima Oswald

For those of us here in the room, we'll have lunch.

0:27:46.420 --> 0:27:53.150

Fatima Oswald

Some sandwiches are being brought in and then after lunch we can all rally and head out for a site visit.

0:27:53.220 --> 0:28:2.990

Fatima Oswald

That site visit is planned for 1:30 and will last a few hours and we can drive ourselves there and orient ourselves later.

0:28:3.0 --> 0:28:14.800

Fatima Oswald

We are able to also bring people into our various vehicles so we can arrange that towards the end of the meeting, but that's kind of what our day is looking like together today.

0:28:14.810 --> 0:28:20.290

Fatima Oswald

Thank you all for coming and looking forward to spending the day together.

0:28:23.300 --> 0:28:43.880

Fatima Oswald

The overall meeting purpose is the joint agency meeting and site visit meeting for the projects relicensing, we plan to go through issues that are pursuant to NEPA as part of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission relicensing.

0:28:45.160 --> 0:28:52.980

Fatima Oswald

We're going to review and discuss all of the known existing conditions and the resource management objectives that we currently have for the project.

0:28:53.740 --> 0:29:13.890

Fatima Oswald

From there, we can discuss that existing information and discuss preliminary information needs and study needs that we find that we have during the relicensing and then finally we will review, discuss and talk about the process plan and schedule for the relicensing.

0:29:15.740 --> 0:29:31.80

Fatima Oswald

And that includes coordinating with federal, state, tribal agencies, the Section 7 process, ESA consultation, as well as the 401 Clean Water Act process of the joint meeting and site visits.

0:29:31.90 --> 0:29:39.930

Fatima Oswald

So this is kind of the purpose of the meeting today and I'm going to go ahead and move on to the next slide before I dive into it.

0:29:39.940 --> 0:29:44.570

Fatima Oswald

Just a really quick project overview discussing the purpose of the meeting today.

0:29:44.580 --> 0:29:45.430

Fatima Oswald

The agenda.

0:29:45.500 --> 0:29:47.450

Fatima Oswald

Does anyone have any questions?

0:29:50.510 --> 0:29:56.410

Fatima Oswald

And then just moving over to the phone, I'm not seeing anything here.

0:29:56.420 --> 0:30:2.370

Fatima Oswald

I will go ahead and move on back-to-back to our project overview.

0:30:2.970 --> 0:30:12.520

Fatima Oswald

So a general project overview, this this Solomon Gulch hydroelectric project was planned back in the late 1970s.

0:30:12.830 --> 0:30:22.980

Fatima Oswald

It was licensed in June of 1978 for a 50-year term, and so the license does expire in May of 2028.

0:30:23.730 --> 0:30:35.620

Fatima Oswald

This is the first relicensing of the project, so the price the project was planned in the late 70s and it was constructed in 1982 and began operation at that time.

0:30:36.330 --> 0:30:38.620

Fatima Oswald

It is a 12 MW project.

0:30:38.990 --> 0:30:43.480

Fatima Oswald

It's owned and operated by Copper Valley Electric Association.

0:30:43.770 --> 0:30:54.280

Fatima Oswald

There are 4000 meters that are served in the Valdez and the Copper River area via this project as part of the relicensing.

0:30:54.290 --> 0:30:58.60

Fatima Oswald

We are not proposing any changes to current facilities and operations.

0:31:0.490 --> 0:31:6.110

Fatima Oswald

There is a site project boundary modification which we will discuss moving forward.

0:31:6.190 --> 0:31:13.810

Fatima Oswald

And then there's also the separate but concurrent transmission line removal process that is also happening at this time.

0:31:14.690 --> 0:31:20.10

Fatima Oswald

So just wanted to note kind of all of these very basic project overview features.

0:31:22.390 --> 0:31:35.210

Fatima Oswald

I also wanted to highlight in the materials that we have provided, there is a link to a 5 minute video of the project that you all produce.

0:31:35.220 --> 0:31:37.220

Fatima Oswald

Copper Valley produces 5 minute video.

0:31:37.530 --> 0:31:38.420

Fatima Oswald

I love the video.

0:31:38.430 --> 0:31:39.400

Fatima Oswald

I think it's fantastic.

0:31:39.410 --> 0:31:42.860

Fatima Oswald

I don't know how many of us have had a chance to watch the video.

0:31:43.780 --> 0:31:59.870

Fatima Oswald

I feel like most people have, so there is a link in the materials and then I also just wanted to note that there is a relicensing website that Copper Valley has set up on their website, so that link is also in the materials that have been distributed.

0:32:0.300 --> 0:32:11.120

Fatima Oswald

But generally, if you go to the CVEA website, move over into about projects, you'll find the project in the relicensing website is really easy to find from the homepage.

0:32:16.0 --> 0:32:19.480

Finlay Anderson

What would they expect to find out that they're like they're site process?

0:32:19.650 --> 0:32:20.260

Fatima Oswald

Thanks Finlay.

0:32:20.270 --> 0:32:27.420

Fatima Oswald

So essentially just all milestones as we move through the relicensing and process will be listed on the website.

0:32:27.490 --> 0:32:36.780

Fatima Oswald

So the pre application document was filed with FERC in late April and that document is linked on the website.

0:32:37.490 --> 0:32:45.80

Fatima Oswald

We did put out a public notice that this meeting was taking place, so that is on the website as well as the ways to sign up for the meeting.

0:32:45.460 --> 0:32:57.490

Fatima Oswald

So as we move through this next five-year relicensing process, everything that takes place, all the major milestones and documents that are produced will be uploaded to their relicensing website.

0:33:4.750 --> 0:33:12.470

Fatima Oswald

And so from here we wanted to move into the FERC relicensing process overview and Finlay.

0:33:12.540 --> 0:33:17.530

Fatima Oswald

I know that you had wanted to talk about relicensing in general.

0:33:23.510 --> 0:33:24.430

Finlay Anderson

Yeah.

0:33:24.610 --> 0:33:25.520

Finlay Anderson

I just wanted to describe sort of what we do in relicensing and why we relicense.

0:33:30.410 --> 0:33:33.930

Finlay Anderson

For those who don't have experience with the process.

0:33:34.840 --> 0:33:41.900

Finlay Anderson

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission regulates nonfederal hydropower in the and the United States.

0:33:44.360 --> 0:33:50.410

Finlay Anderson

They operate under licenses that are issued by FERC and those licenses to get reviewed periodically.

0:33:50.450 --> 0:33:51.370

Finlay Anderson

So that's what we're doing.

0:33:53.600 --> 0:34:12.130

Finlay Anderson

There's a number of different processes that are available to licensees to relicense through the West, called the Integrated Licensing proposal or process, which is a very structured process where FERC is involved early work would be in that Constance work would be conducted in this meeting to be their scoping process. We're doing what's called a traditional licensing process, so we're going through informal ways, scoping, and then at the end of the process FERC comes back in and basically checks our work.

0:34:23.150 --> 0:34:30.920

Finlay Anderson

FERC will do another scoping process at the end, which will be mostly at paper process unless something related gone awry.

0:34:32.290 --> 0:34:34.760

Finlay Anderson

So it's a about a five-year process.

0:34:34.820 --> 0:34:41.70

Finlay Anderson

We'll be actively involved for three years and then for kind of takes over and begins there.

0:34:46.410 --> 0:35:3.510

Finlay Anderson

So the reason we're using the traditional licensing process is it's it well suited for what we think is a very simple process of the issues that Solomon Gulch are fairly standard and there's not any controversy about the project that we're aware of.

0:35:4.360 --> 0:35:14.90

Finlay Anderson

It arrives a lot of flexibility to the licensee into it, to the stakeholders, to kind of adjust schedules as needed.

0:35:16.40 --> 0:35:22.740

Finlay Anderson

It's cheaper because it lacks a lot of the extra process that the ILP provides. So.

0:35:23.610 --> 0:35:38.760

Finlay Anderson

The TLP you know does not have as much built-in process for the stakeholders with the ILP, but we also have the ability to add elements that you may want or request.

0:35:39.540 --> 0:35:43.490

Finlay Anderson

There's a lot of flexibility to engage you all.

0:35:49.990 --> 0:35:53.700

Finlay Anderson

Think of the licensing process as kind of three stages.

0:35:53.710 --> 0:36:9.110

Finlay Anderson

The first stage is us educating, describing the project, educating both ourselves and you about the project, identifying resource issues, identifying potential gaps.

0:36:12.840 --> 0:36:18.780

Finlay Anderson

The second stage I think we can just move on, I don't need to read all these bullets.

0:36:18.790 --> 0:36:21.440

Finlay Anderson

The second stage is basically us answering the question.

0:36:21.450 --> 0:36:39.600

Finlay Anderson

So the first stage ends with a study plan, but we've all heard consulted with the stakeholder second stage, where we're out in the field, we're collecting data and we sure that culminates in study reports that then go into a draft license application.

0:36:41.930 --> 0:36:56.50

Finlay Anderson

That then turned into a final license application and that basically in second saving and they'll be opportunities for safe holders to kind of figure out throughout that process of like comments ask additional questions.

0:36:57.510 --> 0:36:58.520

Finlay Anderson

Third stage.

0:36:58.590 --> 0:37:1.380

Finlay Anderson

We hand over this big pile of documents to FERC and then they begin, as I said, to double check our work, they'll reach out the last bird interveners, the last for comments.

0:37:12.660 --> 0:37:14.780

Finlay Anderson

They will put out what's called the scoping document.

0:37:16.890 --> 0:37:21.880

Finlay Anderson

And then at the end of that, they'll say, OK, we now we have all the information we're ready to begin our analysis.

0:37:23.20 --> 0:37:37.880

Finlay Anderson

If you're federal agency, that's the point at which, or a state agency, you'll make management objectives known to fork, and you'll make recommendations about.

0:37:39.30 --> 0:37:48.360

Finlay Anderson

Yeah, you know the voice should be in the next project license, certain types of recommendations or certain types of agencies have different levels of authority.

0:37:48.850 --> 0:37:56.540

Finlay Anderson

Fish and Wildlife agencies would provide 10 d recommendations.

0:37:57.600 --> 0:38:7.230

Finlay Anderson

Federal Land Management agency might have mandatory conditions around how lands are used and probably dictate in the in the project boundary.

0:38:7.620 --> 0:38:26.30

Finlay Anderson

All of that comes to kind of together during that third stage, and then ideally for the light for the next license and very between 30 to 50 years, there's kind of a default 40 year license that gets issued.

0:38:26.40 --> 0:38:29.580

Finlay Anderson

But FERC will sometimes adjust that based on different factors.

0:38:35.950 --> 0:38:48.80

Finlay Anderson

So schedule wise, we're here at the middle of August with the with the joint meeting.

0:38:49.70 --> 0:38:57.940

Finlay Anderson

We will be looking for comments on the application document and study request by, essentially 2 months from now.

0:39:1.470 --> 0:39:11.20

Fatima Oswald

And then from that, we will produce a study plan and go out and conducted studies to address the question.

0:39:11.30 --> 0:39:15.890

Finlay Anderson

But be braised thinking maybe have commented on and maybe identified any additional gaps.

0:39:17.100 --> 0:39:18.690

Finlay Anderson

That study plan could last one year, could last two years.

0:39:23.80 --> 0:39:32.660

Finlay Anderson

They've started depends on the complexity of the issue, and just sometimes we can make shifts and studies to a second year just to make the management of the studies a little bit easier.

0:39:32.670 --> 0:39:39.720

Finlay Anderson

But my own preference is to try to get all done early, and then that gives us more time to and work on the application.

0:39:46.790 --> 0:39:52.560

Finlay Anderson

Basically, the application is going to consist of different exhibits.

0:39:53.730 --> 0:40:4.920

Finlay Anderson

The other exhibit is H you know and, and there's an exhibit that describes the project that describe it, description of project operations exhibit that describes how the project operates.

0:40:6.160 --> 0:40:21.630

Finlay Anderson

There's an exhibit that talks about the costs and finances and through the economics of the project, and then something will be spending a lot of time on is we did it, that they're scribes, all the land around the project, what's in and what's out of the project boundary.

0:40:22.870 --> 0:40:25.260

Finlay Anderson

There's an exhibit that talks about the project structures.

0:40:27.530 --> 0:40:33.860

Finlay Anderson

Basically all the water retaining structures and that's kind of a dam safety tie into the licensing process.

0:40:36.830 --> 0:40:44.110

Finlay Anderson

And then there's one that's it's sort of a kind of an all-encompassing everything else bucket that sort of talks about the transmission line and all the systems that we can tie into and kind of the general energy portfolio of the region, umm, so that kind of covers what you know what's in the license and we'll schedule.

0:41:6.560 --> 0:41:8.480

Fatima Oswald

Thanks Finlay that is very helpful.

0:41:10.100 --> 0:41:23.110

Fatima Oswald

I just wanted to pause and see if anybody has any questions about the overall schedule, the process and that includes anybody on the phone with thoughts or questions.

0:41:30.920 --> 0:41:33.960

Fatima Oswald

I'm not seeing any questions.

0:41:33.970 --> 0:41:37.800

Fatima Oswald

I do see that Lindsay Simmons was able to join us.

0:41:37.890 --> 0:41:38.460

Fatima Oswald

Hi, Lindsay.

0:41:40.860 --> 0:41:41.20

Lindsay Simmons

Hello.

0:41:39.470 --> 0:41:45.120

Fatima Oswald

Lindsay is with Northern Land Use Research Alaska and they will be helping us with the cultural pieces of the study.

0:41:53.110 --> 0:42:0.230

Fatima Oswald

Just wanted to check in with everyone and also for those on the phone, were you able to hear Finlay pretty well?

0:42:4.790 --> 0:42:4.910

Wendy Davis (Guest)

Yes.

0:42:6.260 --> 0:42:6.890

Fatima Oswald

Thank you.

0:42:8.10 --> 0:42:8.360

Fatima Oswald

Good.

0:42:9.480 --> 0:42:19.50

Fatima Oswald

I just want to make sure that everyone can hear and we are all moving through together.

0:42:19.60 --> 0:42:20.310

Fatima Oswald

So thanks for that.

0:42:20.720 --> 0:42:36.460

Fatima Oswald

I'm going to go ahead and move on to talk about we do have two slides here about the non-capacity license amendment that we wanted to just put in at this point of the presentation.

0:42:36.470 --> 0:42:48.420

Fatima Oswald

We want to tell you what has happened and the various things that have been filed and kind of where we're moving next with this separate but concurrent license amendment.

0:42:48.430 --> 0:43:1.280

Fatima Oswald

So Finlay also feel free to jump in here if I miss anything, but essentially here on this slide you can see the Solomon Gulch project is down in the bottom portion of that visual.

0:43:2.160 --> 0:43:10.630

Fatima Oswald

And then as part of the project, there is roughly a 110-mile transmission line that goes all the way up to Glen Allen.

0:43:11.670 --> 0:43:24.920

Fatima Oswald

When this project was first built back in the late 1970s or early 80s, it was the only project around and that transmission line was for the project and it was included as part of the project boundary.

0:43:26.350 --> 0:43:35.360

Fatima Oswald

And as we have moved forward in time, we've had quite a few other tie ins into the project transmission line.

0:43:35.870 --> 0:43:45.660

Fatima Oswald

And so at the Petro Star switch building, which is where all of these projects tie in, which is just to the right of the project and we'll see some other images of this as well.

0:43:45.670 --> 0:43:49.460

Fatima Oswald

But that is where the Allison Creek project ties in.

0:43:49.530 --> 0:43:54.900

Fatima Oswald

That project is about 2 miles mile and a half, two miles to the West of the Solomon Gulch project.

0:43:54.910 --> 0:44:4.460

Fatima Oswald

As most of you are probably aware, also there's a Co-generation plant and the Valdez diesel plant that all tie into the transmission line.

0:44:5.490 --> 0:44:20.70

Fatima Oswald

So given that the transmission line no longer meets the definition of a primary transmission line via the Federal Power Act, and so it should not properly be part of the project boundary.

0:44:20.710 --> 0:44:36.160

Fatima Oswald

So as we started to look at this and decided to go ahead and submit a non-capacity license amendment to FERC to have the transmission line removed, we did that back in late October, Halloween of 2022.

0:44:39.920 --> 0:44:46.410

Fatima Oswald

Before doing that, we did consult with ADNR, Alaska Department of Fish and Wildlife, NMFS, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and we also consulted with SHPO and in asking for the transmission line removal, we did develop an inadvertent discovery plan for cultural sites for the transmission line removal.

0:45:7.930 --> 0:45:35.640

Fatima Oswald

So essentially a plan for section 106 cultural the National Historic Preservation Act, sector of the project, a plan of what would happen if a sites were new sites were found, or the transmission line during it often needs to be maintained.

0:45:35.650 --> 0:45:41.300

Fatima Oswald

And so that would be handled with or removal of the transmission line from the project boundary.

0:45:41.610 --> 0:45:47.950

Fatima Oswald

We submitted all that back in October and we waited to hear back from FERC.

0:45:49.50 --> 0:45:52.650

Fatima Oswald

And so this is kind of a listing of what has happened since that time.

0:45:53.890 --> 0:46:13.560

Fatima Oswald

So on June 8th, FERC did respond to our non-capacity license amendment, and they suggested that Copper Valley request Section 106 designation which essentially allows Copper Valley to work with cultural agencies.

0:46:13.570 --> 0:46:14.140

Fatima Oswald

The SHPO and all consulting parties on removal of the transmission line.

0:46:20.570 --> 0:46:45.330

Fatima Oswald

They did ask for communication, summaries of tribal communications and other entities regarding the land removal, and then they did ask to provide information that current cultural sites along the transmission line would not be adversely affected or to develop a memorandum of agreement for those sites.

0:46:46.620 --> 0:47:3.900

Fatima Oswald

And so a month later, Copper Valley did respond and asked for Section 106 designation so that they could be the ones to work with all of the entities on the removal and also requested a 60 day extension to better provide the comprehensive approach to the removal.

0:47:5.360 --> 0:47:14.790

Fatima Oswald

And then just about a week ago FERC did respond designated Copper Valley with section 106 authority, so they could in fact move forward with this work.

0:47:15.830 --> 0:47:27.220

Fatima Oswald

At the end of the day, the FERC is ultimately responsible for any findings or determinations in relation to section 106 authority.

0:47:27.230 --> 0:47:32.90

Fatima Oswald

Though they did hand over that authority to Copper Valley, it's still ultimately their job.

0:47:33.400 --> 0:47:37.330

Fatima Oswald

And then our next steps in this process is at this point.

0:47:37.340 --> 0:47:41.70

Fatima Oswald

We do have this 100 and roughly eight mile transmission line.

0:47:41.320 --> 0:47:47.70

Fatima Oswald

There are a lot of federal, state, private party, tribal ownership all along the transmission line.

0:47:47.80 --> 0:47:58.430

Fatima Oswald

So our next job is to go ahead and identify all of those owners, various landowners, and begin consulting with them, letting them know about this process, inviting them to be part of the process.

0:47:59.300 --> 0:48:18.680

Fatima Oswald

We will be creating a finding of effect letter for FERC and the SHPO as well as the consulting party and then we are drafting a memorandum of agreement for this process and that will include the inadvertent discovery plan that we've already created.

0:48:20.620 --> 0:48:24.410

Fatima Oswald

So that, in a nutshell, is where we are in this process.

0:48:26.250 --> 0:48:27.420

Fatima Oswald

Finlay, what did I leave out?

0:48:27.640 --> 0:48:28.360

Fatima Oswald

Help me out here.

0:48:28.790 --> 0:48:36.550

Finlay Anderson

You left nothing out, but I just wanted to clarify, and I think why it's important is technically the transmission line is currently part of the project description.

0:48:38.740 --> 0:48:50.70

Finlay Anderson

Our relicensing is focusing only on the immediate project and for purposes of relicensing, we're considering the transmission line essentially already removed.

0:48:50.380 --> 0:49:4.180

Finlay Anderson

I think FERC is agreeing with us that it doesn't really belong in the project boundary, but you know it it's they're kind of a commingle process here because it is part of the relicensing or part of the project today.

0:49:4.190 --> 0:49:28.400

Finlay Anderson

And so as we move forward, in our minds we're considering them separately, but we just have to be clear about what we're considering to be the area of contextual factor, the affected area for the relicensing is different from does not include the transmission and that's why we're covering this today.

0:49:30.580 --> 0:49:30.850

Fatima Oswald
Yeah.

0:49:30.860 --> 0:49:34.370

Wayne McKinzey with Copper Valley Electric, just wanted to provide a little clarification on this too.

0:49:34.660 --> 0:49:37.880

Wayne McKinzey
If we had known that that that mission had changed by FERC.

0:49:37.890 --> 0:49:41.20

Wayne McKinzey
When it did, we would have amended the license back then.

0:49:44.130 --> 0:49:49.920

Wayne McKinzey
We pay a substantial use fee to FERC for that land,

0:49:51.70 --> 0:49:54.140

Wayne McKinzey
And so there's no need to burden our members with that cost.

0:49:54.150 --> 0:49:54.940

Wayne McKinzey
It's not necessary.

0:49:58.810 --> 0:50:1.40

Fatima Oswald
Yes, that is great point.

0:50:1.170 --> 0:50:5.580

Fatima Oswald
And then Lindsay, we do have you on the phone with us.

0:50:5.590 --> 0:50:11.540

Fatima Oswald
Lindsay is our cultural consultant that helped us with that inadvertent discovery plan.

0:50:11.590 --> 0:50:17.400

Fatima Oswald
Is there anything I missed or anything that you would like to add in about the amendment?

0:50:19.480 --> 0:50:20.210

Lindsay Simmons
Thanks, Fatima.

0:50:20.220 --> 0:50:30.170

Lindsay Simmons

I think you did a really good job summarizing what's been done to date and what is out ahead of us for the T Line amendment.

0:50:31.180 --> 0:50:52.560

Lindsay Simmons

I would just add or further reiterate that the mitigation included in the Memorandum of Agreement is specific to the T line and is also specific to known activities that will be occurring within the T line.

0:50:52.830 --> 0:50:59.980

Lindsay Simmons

Right now it's understood that that includes the implementation of the vegetation management plan.

0:51:0.270 --> 0:51:4.270

Lindsay Simmons

But if there are other right of way activities that are.

0:51:6.370 --> 0:51:12.420

Lindsay Simmons

Planned or potential have the potential to happen in the future.

0:51:12.670 --> 0:51:26.630

Lindsay Simmons

It would be worth identifying those now and incorporating those into the MOA as well to try to avoid the need to amend it in the future or conduct section 106 separately for those other activities within the right way in the future.

0:51:27.530 --> 0:51:31.550

Lindsay Simmons

So finding some efficiencies in this process to cover as much as possible.

0:51:34.770 --> 0:51:35.180

Fatima Oswald

Great.

0:51:35.450 --> 0:51:36.370

Fatima Oswald

Thanks Lindsay.

0:51:36.840 --> 0:51:53.370

Finlay Anderson

Sounds like a little bit of a question that's CVEA just are you aware of any thing coming up with the transmission line that we may want to plead now in this section, you're not rerouting it or anything that's part of you know, OK?

0:51:55.730 --> 0:51:55.970

Fatima Oswald

Great.

0:51:57.360 --> 0:51:58.10

Fatima Oswald

Thank you, Lindsay.

0:51:58.20 --> 0:51:58.830

Fatima Oswald

Appreciate that.

0:51:59.160 --> 0:52:2.250

Fatima Oswald

Anybody else on the phone that has any questions?

0:52:7.460 --> 0:52:8.600

Fatima Oswald

And then how about in the room?

0:52:8.610 --> 0:52:10.140

Fatima Oswald

Any thoughts, questions, comments?

0:52:14.840 --> 0:52:18.890

Fatima Oswald

I will go ahead and move on to our next slide.

0:52:27.390 --> 0:52:32.840

Fatima Oswald

So at this time we have talked about meeting guidelines, the purpose of the meeting.

0:52:32.850 --> 0:52:42.690

Fatima Oswald

We've gone through the FERC relicensing process in general and what that looks like for the next five years and then we have talked about the non-capacity license amendment.

0:52:42.700 --> 0:52:47.160

Fatima Oswald

So are there any questions about anything that we've discussed?

0:52:55.230 --> 0:52:59.640

Fatima Oswald

At this point we're going to go ahead and move on and start to talk about that.

0:52:59.650 --> 0:53:12.960

Fatima Oswald

The pre application document that was filed with FERC in late April, so the pre application document is essentially everything that we know to date about the project and he's studies that have been done in and around the area.

0:53:12.970 --> 0:53:29.550

Fatima Oswald

All of the information that we could find about the project has been included in this free application document, and so we'll just run through that document here briefly with all of you and we'll start out by describing the project for you.

0:53:30.260 --> 0:53:35.270

Fatima Oswald

I don't know how many of you have been able to visit the project or have had an opportunity to see.

0:53:35.280 --> 0:53:37.0

Fatima Oswald

The project we'll certainly do that later today.

0:53:38.670 --> 0:53:43.390

Fatima Oswald

We will run through here, point out various project aspects.

0:53:44.50 --> 0:54:1.40

Fatima Oswald

We'll look at some photos in the upcoming slides just to give you a good understanding and hopefully visual of what the project looks like and how it operates in the functions and so essentially here we've got Solomon Lake and it is roughly a 3-mile-Long lake.

0:54:1.900 --> 0:54:7.270

Fatima Oswald

The current project boundary is the purple line that you see in the image.

0:54:7.760 --> 0:54:18.810

Fatima Oswald

That surrounds the project and then the little image on the right is a call out of the A portion of the project there.

0:54:19.40 --> 0:54:24.170

Fatima Oswald

So we've got the lake, there is a spillway associated with the lake.

0:54:24.220 --> 0:54:30.370

Fatima Oswald

When the lake does spill in the summer months, there's a spillway basin.

0:54:31.410 --> 0:54:39.460

Fatima Oswald

There is a little spillway Creek that goes from the spillway basin over to Solomon Creek.

0:54:40.850 --> 0:54:54.330

Fatima Oswald

We do have a saddle dike and then a main dam as well as a picnic pavilion.

0:54:54.340 --> 0:55:4.400

Fatima Oswald

That's kind of located close near the main dam there is a Valve house, a lower-level outlet works associated with the project.

0:55:4.450 --> 0:55:11.920

Fatima Oswald

There are two penstocks that run about .6 of a mile from the dam all the way down to.

0:55:14.260 --> 0:55:14.720

Fatima Oswald

Port Valdez.

0:55:16.280 --> 0:55:22.450

Fatima Oswald

We do have a powerhouse, a small tailrace channel, and then the transmission line system.

0:55:22.950 --> 0:55:29.210

Fatima Oswald

And so we will run through and take a look at images of all of those project components.

0:55:31.200 --> 0:55:32.670

Fatima Oswald

So here's the lake.

0:55:33.680 --> 0:55:39.230

Fatima Oswald

It does have a drainage area of about 20 square miles of water that drains into the lake.

0:55:39.520 --> 0:55:49.910

Fatima Oswald

It is glacially fed the full pool elevation is at 685 feet, and then the lowest elevation is 615.

0:55:51.70 --> 0:55:53.590

Fatima Oswald

The surface area is about 660 acres.

0:55:54.870 --> 0:56:6.160

Fatima Oswald

We have a Max storage volume of 31,560 acre feet and then the Max depth of the lake at full pool is roughly 100 feet.

0:56:11.730 --> 0:56:16.40

Fatima Oswald

So this is a look at the spillway here in the image.

0:56:16.50 --> 0:56:20.20

Fatima Oswald

On the left there's a saddle dike right next to the spillway.

0:56:20.230 --> 0:56:26.980

Fatima Oswald

And then if those two images were connected, then the main dam would be right next to the saddle dike so it essentially the three are in line.

0:56:28.890 --> 0:56:31.340

Fatima Oswald

The spillway is about 450 feet.

0:56:32.990 --> 0:56:41.500

Fatima Oswald

The saddle dike is about 365 feet and then the main embankment dam is almost 400 feet.

0:56:43.350 --> 0:56:51.340

Fatima Oswald

won't read through all the they're little descriptors here, but essentially the main dam is a rockfill structure.

0:56:51.350 --> 0:56:53.980

Fatima Oswald

There is a valve house at the bottom of that main dam.

0:56:56.900 --> 0:57:6.620

Fatima Oswald

The image on the right there is the main dam.

0:57:7.80 --> 0:57:19.610

Fatima Oswald

You can see Solomon Creek heading out towards the Bay there and there's a lower-level outlet works that's located not too far from the main dam.

0:57:20.690 --> 0:57:22.320

Fatima Oswald

It was constructed in 2011.

0:57:22.330 --> 0:57:25.350

Fatima Oswald

It's a newer, lower-level outlet.

0:57:25.810 --> 0:57:35.660

Fatima Oswald

There are two concrete encased steel pen stocks that are 48 inches in diameter, and they run a little more than half a mile.

0:57:37.800 --> 0:57:41.660

Fatima Oswald

Is there anything that you all would like to add about any of these features?

0:57:41.670 --> 0:57:45.820

Fatima Oswald

Copper Valley or any questions about these.

0:57:45.830 --> 0:57:49.770

Fatima Oswald

So far I feel like you all know this inside and out.

0:57:51.160 --> 0:57:52.990

Fatima Oswald

So you can help me along here if I get anything wrong.

0:57:55.630 --> 0:58:9.170

Fatima Oswald

Those two penstocks will run all the way down to the powerhouse inside the powerhouse we have two Francis turbans, and again the total rated capacity is 12 megawatts.

0:58:10.340 --> 0:58:17.870

Fatima Oswald

The image of the powerhouse on the lower right has a substation sitting on the powerhouse and that is no longer the case.

0:58:17.880 --> 0:58:20.710

Fatima Oswald

I believe in the last year you all have moved that substation.

0:58:23.770 --> 0:58:29.600

Fatima Oswald

And when that is moved, it'll be sitting in the parking ladder.

0:58:29.610 --> 0:58:33.70

Fatima Oswald

That mechanical building that's next to the powerhouse, it'll be sitting next to that.

0:58:33.80 --> 0:58:33.540

Fatima Oswald

Is that right? And then when will that be completed ?

0:58:53.440 --> 0:58:54.60

Wayne McKinzey

Later this year.

0:58:57.340 --> 0:59:11.260

Fatima Oswald

And then the powerhouse the transmission line goes from the powerhouse all the way to the Petro Star switch building and that length of transmission line is about 1.68 miles.

0:59:11.270 --> 0:59:19.890

Fatima Oswald

That is what we are proposing to keep in the project boundary and it's almost 25 kilovolts that take us to the Petro Star switch building.

0:59:26.290 --> 0:59:35.180

Fatima Oswald

And then within the project boundary, a portion of the project boundary, there is a recreation trail, the John Hunter Memorial Trail.

0:59:35.250 --> 0:59:37.900

Fatima Oswald

It is almost 4 miles in length.

0:59:37.950 --> 0:59:45.30

Fatima Oswald

It is the yellow line that we are seeing in the figure on the left, there's a picnic pavilion there.

0:59:47.50 --> 0:59:49.520

Fatima Oswald

That is right up next to the dam.

0:59:53.820 --> 1:0:5.400

Fatima Oswald

Is it maybe a mile and 1/2 to two miles of that trail is actually in the project boundary, but otherwise there's a parking area off of Dayville Rd that folks can access to go and access that trail.

1:0:6.820 --> 1:0:12.890

Fatima Oswald

And then as I move forward, if anyone has questions, please just jump in and ask any questions that you have.

1:0:14.700 --> 1:0:20.10

Fatima Oswald

From here I want to move into project operations and just generally describe how the project operates.

1:0:20.360 --> 1:0:21.310

Fatima Oswald

Again, copper valley feel free to jump in and add anything that I'm missing.

1:0:26.170 --> 1:0:32.930

Fatima Oswald

Essentially the average annual generation is about 42,000 megawatts hours.

1:0:33.810 --> 1:0:49.0

Fatima Oswald

There are some minimum flows associated with the project, so we've got 2 cubic feet per second that go into Solomon Creek and another 2 cubic feet per second that, UM are required to go into the tailrace channel.

1:0:59.740 --> 1:1:9.280

Fatima Oswald

From May through June of every year, the reservoir fills up with water from melting snow and water runoff, and that fills up the reservoir.

1:1:10.630 --> 1:1:18.20

Fatima Oswald

And then late June or early July through September, the project is potentially spilling if there's excess water.

1:1:20.410 --> 1:1:29.860

Fatima Oswald

The spilled water flows down through the spillway Creek into the Solomon Gulch Creek and then downstream all the way out to the Bay.

1:1:32.720 --> 1:1:40.830

Fatima Oswald

And then so all year long, 2 cubic feet per second are required to go into the spillway Creek.

1:1:40.840 --> 1:1:46.820

Fatima Oswald

But during times of spill, a lot more than two CFS or moving into the Creek.

1:1:48.760 --> 1:1:52.490

Finlay Anderson

Can I call an audible here and just ask somebody?

1:1:52.500 --> 1:2:6.820

Finlay Anderson

CVEA, explain sort of the resource mix and sure how the other resources you have in your system influence how you operate in settlement and how you make decisions about regular elevation.

1:2:12.500 --> 1:2:38.980

Wayne McKinzey

For the summer we actually have two hydro projects, Solomon and then Alison and they are providing 100% power over the summer months and so across the year that's about 70% of our power dams and then because Alison project is run-of-the river it's not available through the winter. What we have is a cogeneration unit. That cogeneration unit typically starts up somewhere around November, and it runs all the way until the end of April. And so it's not enough to meet all of our power needs.

1:2:57.410 --> 1:3:10.340

Wayne McKinzey

Whatever is captured in Solomon Lake, we spread that use of that water out over the winter months, start the Cogen unit and then we supplement with diesel.

1:3:13.60 --> 1:3:21.590

Wayne McKinzey

A line up in Glennallen and one down here, and they want to make up the difference and then diesel is running 24 hours a day, seven days a week as mentioned.

1:3:28.30 --> 1:3:37.690

Fatima Oswald

Back to this schedule then from mid-October to April, the reservoir is fully drawing down as power is produced with that water.

1:3:38.670 --> 1:3:41.610

Fatima Oswald

I really appreciate this next visual.

1:3:43.400 --> 1:3:53.380

Fatima Oswald

It's from Copper Valley, so essentially this is looking at the last nine years of lake levels and how it works throughout the year.

1:3:54.390 --> 1:4:0.80

Fatima Oswald

You can see that kind of from late April of all the way up to.

1:4:2.140 --> 1:4:16.490

Fatima Oswald

Late June, the reservoir is filling up at the top of that bar is where we are in the summer months and the reservoir is filling and you can see the lake levels on the left here.

1:4:16.500 --> 1:4:23.250

Fatima Oswald

So the top lake level is 685 and so anything over 685 is going to be spilling during those summer months.

1:4:24.140 --> 1:4:32.820

Fatima Oswald

And then once we hit late October and all the way back to late April is when the reservoir is slowly being drawn down.

1:4:33.110 --> 1:4:36.720

Fatima Oswald

And so that pattern generally holds year after year.

1:4:41.480 --> 1:4:49.170

Fatima Oswald

Are there are any questions at all about this from anyone on the phone, or you're in the room.

1:5:5.280 --> 1:5:11.390

Fatima Oswald

I will move from this slide and these are just some annual generation figures.

1:5:11.400 --> 1:5:12.120

Fatima Oswald

Annual generation.

1:5:12.750 --> 1:5:27.900

Fatima Oswald

Overall per year and then by month and so you can see typically the months of July, August, September, October can be higher generating months and lower during the rest of the year.

1:5:27.910 --> 1:5:36.90

Fatima Oswald

And then the overall average annual generation over the last few years has been about 42,000 MW hours.

1:5:40.520 --> 1:5:49.910

Fatima Oswald

Here we just wanted to talk about the proposed project boundary that we will be proposing during this relicensing.

1:5:49.920 --> 1:6:21.950

Fatima Oswald

Just a reminder that there are no updates to project operations or facilities proposed during the relicensing, the current project boundary is the purple larger dashed line that you can see and there's a big chunk of land at the bottom of the lake here in the picture and that land is BLM land and then the rest of the land around the reservoir is state DNR managed land.

1:6:23.390 --> 1:6:30.780

Fatima Oswald

And what we are looking to do during the relicensing is just hug the project boundary in a little closer to the lake.

1:6:30.850 --> 1:6:52.790

Fatima Oswald

The rest of the lands are not needed for project maintenance or operation, and so that'll be one of the goals of relicensing, and that proposed smaller brought project boundary takes us to the Max probable flood elevation of 694 feet for the lake.

1:6:58.830 --> 1:7:8.980

Fatima Oswald

Here's our kind of break slide wondering if at this point, we've given a general pad review.

1:7:9.40 --> 1:7:12.540

Fatima Oswald

The next thing we're going to do is dive more into resource areas.

1:7:14.70 --> 1:7:21.330

Fatima Oswald

But we've given a general project overview, looking at the facilities and talked about their proposed project boundary.

1:7:55.230 --> 1:8:2.770

Fatima Oswald

Next we are going to move into the environmental review and NEPA approach of the project.

1:8:4.100 --> 1:8:8.420

Fatima Oswald

Essentially that this license proposal.

1:8:8.750 --> 1:8:17.130

Fatima Oswald

What we're looking to do is update the project description, describe our proposed operations, and update that proposed operations description.

1:8:18.180 --> 1:8:27.950

Fatima Oswald

We're looking to describe the existing conditions of the project resource management objectives and identify any project effects.

1:8:29.690 --> 1:8:43.860

Fatima Oswald

FERC's NEPA approach will compare the proposed action of relicensing the project against the baseline condition is essentially current operations and facilities under the existing license.

1:8:43.870 --> 1:8:59.150

Fatima Oswald

Since these projects are relicensed every 30 to 50 years, it's a chance to relook at everything and as we move into a new license and then we're also looking to propose appropriate measures.

1:9:0.370 --> 1:9:4.270

Fatima Oswald

To address any management objectives or project effects.

1:9:5.270 --> 1:9:9.460

Fatima Oswald

Finlay, any other thoughts on this slide as we move into resources?

1:9:13.670 --> 1:9:14.20

Finlay Anderson

No.

1:9:14.30 --> 1:9:31.760

Finlay Anderson

I would just say it's super helpful when people are reviewing the PAD and asking questions that we try and the pre application document to identify what we think are the Conference of management objectives of various insurance agencies.

1:9:32.410 --> 1:9:36.140

Finlay Anderson

Sometimes we miss them, or you may have updated guidance.

1:9:36.150 --> 1:9:56.480

Finlay Anderson

One of the areas is helpful when you comment on the PAD and just making clear what your agency or

your hands beans needs are 11 that helps us that we're putting together by this application that think about you know kind of next period of years.

1:10:2.370 --> 1:10:15.370

Fatima Oswald

And so this is where, Betsy, I will go ahead and hand over the presentation to you, but essentially at this point, we'll start to look at all of these various resource areas that are covered in the pre application document.

1:10:21.90 --> 1:10:42.290

Betsy McGregor

The pad includes a description of the existing conditions for each of these resource areas and a list of potential studies based on information gaps that we've identified or potential issues that are associated with the project operations or maintenance or the proposed project boundary change.

1:10:47.110 --> 1:10:49.240

Betsy McGregor

Here you can see the Solomon Gulch basin.

1:10:49.250 --> 1:10:54.730

Betsy McGregor

It's a small, steep sided, glacially fed basin that originates in the Chugach mountains.

1:10:56.90 --> 1:11:4.730

Betsy McGregor

On geologic terms, it was recently glaciated with glaciers receding in the last 5000 years, but underlying bedrock is part of the Valdez group.

1:11:5.660 --> 1:11:22.80

Betsy McGregor

The soil is made up of unconsolidated alluvium, colluvium, and glacial deposits, and it's characteristically young, thin, low infertility with little chemical alteration, which is typical of a recently like glaciated area.

1:11:23.430 --> 1:11:35.930

Betsy McGregor

Solomon Lake lies in a flat valley with a thick floor of alluvium deposits that are primarily composed of gravel and sand and increasingly amounts of silts.

1:11:35.940 --> 1:11:38.490

Betsy McGregor

As you move downstream.

1:12:2.170 --> 1:12:5.900

Betsy McGregor

We're not proposing any studies related to geology and soils.

1:12:6.510 --> 1:12:12.80

Betsy McGregor

Recent RIM surveys have been conducted and they found no areas of mass wasting or erosion.

1:12:12.390 --> 1:12:27.160

Betsy McGregor

As you can see, the side slopes are well vegetated and we are not proposing to change any project operations, so there's minimal potential for erosion within the impoundment area as well as Solomon Gulch Creek downriver of the dam.

1:12:36.830 --> 1:12:40.760

Betsy McGregor

As we said before, it's a glacially fed system.

1:12:40.870 --> 1:12:44.580

Betsy McGregor

The headwaters originated 3000 to 4000 feet in elevation.

1:12:44.690 --> 1:12:50.410

Betsy McGregor

It flows about four miles before reaching Solomon Lake, which at full pool is about 3 miles long.

1:12:51.350 --> 1:13:1.870

Betsy McGregor

The inlet to Solomon Lake is shallow and it increases in depth as you move towards the dam and at full pool is about 100 feet deep from the dam.

1:13:2.120 --> 1:13:5.810

Betsy McGregor

Solomon Gulch Creek flows about 3800 feet.

1:13:5.820 --> 1:13:9.750

Betsy McGregor

It's a deeply in size and very steep channel flows through a Canyon.

1:13:10.420 --> 1:13:15.430

Betsy McGregor

The average gradient is one of the 16% as I mentioned earlier.

1:13:15.440 --> 1:13:23.490

Betsy McGregor

There's also Spillway Creek, so in the summer months, as you can see here from about, if I can see.

1:13:23.500 --> 1:13:31.40

Betsy McGregor

From April, mid-May or so on to actually mid-May not April.

1:13:31.50 --> 1:13:46.40

Betsy McGregor

From about mid-May through October, the water, the Creek, the lake is spilling, so there's water flowing through Spillway Creek, which is about .4 miles long, and it empties into Solomon Gulch about 700 feet downstream of the dam.

1:13:47.410 --> 1:14:1.710

Betsy McGregor

And then there's also a tailrace channel which is about 300 feet long, and water flows from the powerhouse through the tailrace channel and into the inner title area of the Bay, just South of Dayville Rd.

1:14:3.310 --> 1:14:7.300

Betsy McGregor

There are two gauges on Solomon Creek.

1:14:8.450 --> 1:14:18.250

Betsy McGregor

One is a USGS Gage that's located the tailrace and the other there was a USGS Gage on Solomon Gulch Creek at the top of the falls.

1:14:18.750 --> 1:14:21.480

Betsy McGregor

Copper Valley has recently replaced this gauge.

1:14:21.730 --> 1:14:32.160

Betsy McGregor

This figure here is from a recent FERC filing that shows a comparison of copper rivers gauge with the USGS gauge that was formerly located at the top of the falls.

1:14:32.550 --> 1:14:44.150

Betsy McGregor

You can see that they mimic each other well in the summer months when the lake is spilling the flows through Solomon Gulch Creek range from.

1:14:46.30 --> 1:14:51.280

Betsy McGregor

100 to 1500 CFS and then most of the time throughout the winter.

1:14:51.570 --> 1:14:54.480

Betsy McGregor

The flows vary between two and four CFS.

1:15:3.280 --> 1:15:6.690

Betsy McGregor

We are proposing a water temperature monitoring study.

1:15:7.220 --> 1:15:12.230

Betsy McGregor

The last water temperature monitoring occurred in the 1980s was conducted by Fish and Game.

1:15:12.340 --> 1:15:26.560

Betsy McGregor

To evaluate the effects of the project on water temperature, it did find that there was about 1/2 a degree

Celsius increase in water temperature, but it was still well within the range of acceptable limits for spawning and rearing.

1:15:27.780 --> 1:15:57.530

Betsy McGregor

It wasn't considered to be an issue, but because the temperatures haven't been documented in since then, in the last 40 years, we proposed to monitor the water temperature at the Copper Valley gauge on Solomon Gulch and at the tailrace and UM, the temperature will be monitored June through October and then basically the data will be evaluated with respect to the state water quality standards, right.

1:16:1.510 --> 1:16:3.540

Betsy McGregor

Moving on to fish and aquatic resources.

1:16:5.820 --> 1:16:20.340

Betsy McGregor

There have been no fish documented within or above Solomon Lake, the headwater streams above the leak, don't have suitable habitat below the Lake Solomon Gulch's numerous barriers to fish movements as you can see here.

1:16:20.350 --> 1:16:25.400

Betsy McGregor

This is at the mouth of Solomon Gulch and the dam site.

1:16:26.340 --> 1:16:31.610

Betsy McGregor

The dam is constructed out of site, where there was an existing dam in 1907.

1:16:31.780 --> 1:16:35.430

Betsy McGregor

There hasn't been any fish movement into Solomon Lake.

1:16:35.560 --> 1:16:48.840

Betsy McGregor

If there was any and at least over 100 years below the dam, Solomon Gulch, as I said, flows through a very steep Canyon with numerous waterfalls and cascades that are barriers to fish movement.

1:16:48.910 --> 1:16:53.100

Betsy McGregor

The channels mostly bedrock with large slabs of fractured material.

1:16:53.110 --> 1:16:57.650

Betsy McGregor

You can see here and maybe some pocket step pools with gravel.

1:16:59.470 --> 1:17:8.90

Betsy McGregor

This is considered the barrier at the mouth of the Creek, per the anadromous waters catalogue for fishing game, and this extends below.

1:17:8.100 --> 1:17:10.200

Betsy McGregor

This barrier extends below the high tide line.

1:17:11.120 --> 1:17:13.370

Betsy McGregor

A fish studies were conducted in the 70s.

1:17:13.380 --> 1:17:23.360

Betsy McGregor

They documented a small Dolly Varden population within Solomon Gulch Creek below the dam and slimy sculpins sticklebacks are known to occur as well.

1:17:25.450 --> 1:17:54.460

Betsy McGregor

The minimum flow releases currently required into Solomon Gulch Creek below the dam are two cubic feet per second and the original license 3 1/2 cubic feet per second was required, which was then modified to 9 cubic feet per second and then fish and game conducted studies five years post construction and to establish minimum flows and through consultation with Fish, Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

1:17:55.640 --> 1:18:4.160

Betsy McGregor

They determined that the minimum flows of two CFS would be adequate because during the spawning and incubation period.

1:18:4.800 --> 1:18:11.630

Betsy McGregor

The flows far exceed the minimum requirements as you could see from the hydrograph that we showed in the previous slide.

1:18:13.530 --> 1:18:19.700

Betsy McGregor

They also required 2 cubic feet per second to flow through the head of the tailrace.

1:18:21.110 --> 1:18:42.220

Betsy McGregor

These are now the current minimum flows for their project in the there is a small intertidal area between the hatchery Weir, which I'll show you in the following slide and Solomon Gulch Creek and the tail race, but does support pink salmon spawning next slide.

1:18:46.790 --> 1:18:56.650

Betsy McGregor

This is the Valdez Fisheries Development Association Hatchery, which is located in the inner title area just north of Dayville Rd.

1:18:57.240 --> 1:19:4.760

Betsy McGregor

You could see in the slide on the right the relationship between the powerhouse, Dayville Rd, Solomon Gulch Creek and the hatchery.

1:19:6.960 --> 1:19:20.410

Betsy McGregor

We're located just north of Dayville Rd that prevents fish passage of adult large adult salmon, or just large fish, except that extreme high tides.

1:19:22.290 --> 1:19:29.970

Betsy McGregor

But as part of the permit for the hatchery, the hatchery passes 2000 pink salmon above the Weir every year.

1:19:31.50 --> 1:19:34.720

Betsy McGregor

They can spawn in the inner title area.

1:19:34.730 --> 1:19:40.650

Betsy McGregor

The hatchery was constructed about the same time as the project to support commercial sport and subsistence fisheries.

1:19:41.50 --> 1:19:47.900

Betsy McGregor

It is a significant resource in principal name sound, especially this area of principal name sound.

1:19:47.910 --> 1:20:0.760

Betsy McGregor

They produce over 250 million pink salmon fry and they release up to 1.8 million coho salmon smolts from saltwater net pens in various locations of partially sounds.

1:20:1.720 --> 1:20:4.320

Betsy McGregor

The hatchery is not part of the hydro project.

1:20:5.150 --> 1:20:8.940

Betsy McGregor

It's not mitigation, it's not associated with the license.

1:20:8.950 --> 1:20:10.900

Betsy McGregor

It's a completely separate project.

1:20:11.110 --> 1:20:42.40

Betsy McGregor

The water supply from the hatchery, the majority of it is provided by Copper Valley from their powerhouse through two 300 foot long pipes that extend under Dayville Road and then the hatchery also has their own water rights which are junior to Copper Valley for 4 cubic feet per second from

Solomon Gulch Creek and they own and operate the Falls Creek Diversion which diverts this water from above the top of the falls at the near the mouth of the Creek.

1:20:50.940 --> 1:20:53.530

Betsy McGregor

Wildlife, botanical, and wetland resources.

1:20:53.740 --> 1:21:10.790

Betsy McGregor

There are six physiographic zones within the project area, and based on the national wetland inventory, which was developed from 1978 aerial imagery, there are 81 acres of freshwater or shrub wetlands in the project area.

1:21:10.800 --> 1:21:17.330

Betsy McGregor

These are mostly at the southern part of the project area, near the inlet of Solomon Lake.

1:21:18.80 --> 1:21:34.790

Betsy McGregor

There's also less than an acre of freshwater emergent wetlands we there are no known invasive or rare plants in the project area, but surveys have not been conducted recently based on species and range maps.

1:21:34.800 --> 1:21:44.20

Betsy McGregor

And what's found in the adjacent Allison Creek Basin, there's 32 species of mammals and more than 87 species of birds potentially using the project area.

1:21:44.360 --> 1:21:53.970

Betsy McGregor

There are no known amphibians and there are no reptiles or threatened or endangered species, wildlife species or, or actually or botanical resources present.

1:21:59.80 --> 1:22:15.170

Betsy McGregor

We did identify vegetation and wildlife as an information gap because the wetlands mapping was based on 1978 aerial imagery and it's predominantly in the southern part of the project area, which we're proposing a project boundary change.

1:22:17.960 --> 1:22:26.650

Betsy McGregor

And a lot of the vegetation characterization was based on either the original license or what's in the adjacent LLC Creek Basin.

1:22:27.280 --> 1:22:37.290

Betsy McGregor

We propose to map the vegetation types that are present within the project area umm to the level four of the Alaska vegetation classification system.

1:22:38.260 --> 1:22:54.660

Betsy McGregor

Also, to map wetland types using the national Wetland Inventory classification system but updating that with current imagery and ground truthing and mapping rare and sensitive plant habitat types that are present in the project area.

1:22:56.0 --> 1:23:10.100

Betsy McGregor

From this information, the vegetation information and the presence of landscape features that are relevant to wildlife, wildlife habitat types will be mapped within the project area and then this study.

1:23:10.110 --> 1:23:16.60

Betsy McGregor

The output of this study will form the basis for the wildlife habitat evaluation study and the rare plant study.

1:23:16.810 --> 1:23:28.270

Betsy McGregor

From this information they a list of potentially cultural and ecological and conservation species of concern will be identified there.

1:23:28.280 --> 1:23:43.170

Betsy McGregor

Habitat associations will be determined from existing information and then the habitat types that are present in the project area will be ranked for each of these species based on its ability to provide habitat fixed.

1:23:47.990 --> 1:23:50.390

Betsy McGregor

We are proposing a rear and sensitive plant study.

1:23:51.230 --> 1:24:25.80

Betsy McGregor

Basically this will occur in conjunction with the vegetation habitat mapping ground truthing the habitat types will be determined from the vegetation or the potential for these habitat types will be determined from the vegetation study and then a habitat stratified field survey plan will be developed for most types and a random meander sampling method will be applied in the habitats that potentially support rare and sensitive plant species also conduct an invasive plant study.

1:24:26.600 --> 1:24:31.350

Betsy McGregor

And this is one is, there's a potential Nexus in project operations and maintenance.

1:24:32.300 --> 1:24:35.770

Betsy McGregor

We don't have any information on their occurrence in the area.

1:24:36.240 --> 1:24:46.270

Betsy McGregor

We will look at existing information and then basically do surveys in areas that are most likely to have invasive plants.

1:24:46.280 --> 1:24:51.200

Betsy McGregor

These would be areas along the access Rd and closer to the northern part of the project area.

1:24:58.930 --> 1:25:8.960

Betsy McGregor

There aren't any umm, threatened, or endangered species documented in the project area and no rare wildlife or fish species.

1:25:9.650 --> 1:25:14.920

Betsy McGregor

We don't know about plant species, so we will address that in the study that I just discussed.

1:25:15.150 --> 1:25:20.0

Betsy McGregor

But otherwise, there are no studies proposed specifically for rare, threatened, or endangered species.

1:25:21.400 --> 1:25:24.640

Betsy McGregor

We did consult the Fish and Wildlife Service IPAC database.

1:25:25.570 --> 1:25:33.980

Betsy McGregor

It indicated that the short, tailed albatross was present and this is a pelagic species that hasn't even been documented in Prince William Sound.

1:25:34.30 --> 1:25:35.880

Betsy McGregor

As you can see from the map on the slide.

1:25:42.350 --> 1:25:46.420

Betsy McGregor

Fatima discussed the recreational resources within the project area.

1:25:46.690 --> 1:25:53.840

Betsy McGregor

That's primarily the John Hunter Memorial Trail and the picnic pavilion that's maintained by Copper Valley during the summer months.

1:25:54.950 --> 1:26:0.840

Betsy McGregor

Other resources in the vicinity of the project area include the Allison Point Campground, the Dayville road bike path.

1:26:1.730 --> 1:26:6.330

Betsy McGregor

There's numerous scenic pullouts along Dayville Road and the Solomon Gulch hatchery.

1:26:20.470 --> 1:26:29.820

Betsy McGregor

Yeah, we are proposing a recreation evaluation study basically to document the condition of the trail, the use it receives.

1:26:30.270 --> 1:26:35.860

Betsy McGregor

How adequate the facilities are to provide current use and projected use in the future.

1:26:35.870 --> 1:26:43.810

Betsy McGregor

We're doing this through a site inventory and condition assessment and then a recreation user survey which will be conducted through.

1:26:46.210 --> 1:27:7.0

Betsy McGregor

Basically putting out a stand at the sign in station with the QR code so people will self-survey I guess and then we'll gather the results and identify if there's anything that needs to be done or if the facility is able to support current and future project projected recreational use.

1:27:10.930 --> 1:27:14.100

Betsy McGregor

We're not proposing any land users thetic resource studies.

1:27:14.170 --> 1:27:17.300

Betsy McGregor

There aren't any changes in facilities or operations proposed.

1:27:18.170 --> 1:27:26.150

Betsy McGregor

The setting of the project area is a primarily undeveloped area nestled in the Chugach Mountains, and the Prince William Sound.

1:27:35.120 --> 1:27:37.690

Fatima Oswald

The next Resource area is cultural and tribal resources.

1:27:40.90 --> 1:27:41.840

Betsy McGregor

We are proposing a cultural resource study.

1:27:42.810 --> 1:27:47.440

Betsy McGregor

There were studies conducted in the 1970s prior to construction of the project.

1:27:48.270 --> 1:27:50.460

Betsy McGregor
Three historic sites?

1:27:50.470 --> 1:27:53.300

Betsy McGregor
Potentially historic sites were documented.

1:27:53.310 --> 1:27:58.700

Betsy McGregor
These are mostly associated with mining in the area and the dam from 1907.

1:27:59.190 --> 1:28:20.610

Betsy McGregor
There was no determination of eligibility on these resources, so this will be something that we will be looking at also looking for archaeological resources, but for the most part, the area around the reservoir is considered low potential for archaeological resources, very steep slopes, there aren't anadromous fish.

1:28:20.780 --> 1:28:31.350

Betsy McGregor
There's a lot of wetlands at the southern end of the project area, but we still will consider and conduct pedestrian surveys in these areas.

1:28:31.920 --> 1:28:40.580

Betsy McGregor
The intensity of the surveys will vary depending on low versus high potential areas for archaeological resources to exist.

1:28:41.630 --> 1:28:54.800

Betsy McGregor
In 2024, we're proposing phase one studies, which entails the pedestrian survey of these areas, and then if areas are found, a determination of eligibility will occur the following year.

1:28:56.60 --> 1:29:7.870

Betsy McGregor
And we'll also be developing a monitoring and inadvertent discovery plan for the project area, like what was done for the transmission line that's proposed for removal on the right.

1:29:7.880 --> 1:29:13.640

Betsy McGregor
Here's a list of tribes from the Aetna tribes from the Copper Valley area.

1:29:14.500 --> 1:29:19.520

Betsy McGregor
Prince William Sound tribes and the Valdez native tribe.

1:29:19.750 --> 1:29:33.200

Betsy McGregor
These are the entities that we are considering for consultation umm to determine if we need to conduct

a tribal resource study or not, and to assist in determining areas of higher value for cultural resource study.

1:29:38.830 --> 1:29:42.500

Betsy McGregor

We're not proposing any socioeconomic studies.

1:29:43.110 --> 1:29:45.360

Betsy McGregor

The project is very valuable to the region.

1:29:45.570 --> 1:29:50.480

Betsy McGregor

It provides relatively low cost, stable energy.

1:29:50.930 --> 1:30:4.10

Betsy McGregor

It's renewable and it's supporting this community and there aren't any changes proposed in the operations, so it will continue to operate at least for over the entire next term of the license, if not longer.

1:30:10.160 --> 1:30:12.240

Betsy McGregor

This is just a summary of the proposed studies.

1:30:14.760 --> 1:30:21.120

Betsy McGregor

Again, there needs to be a Nexus between project operations and maintenance and the resources.

1:30:21.660 --> 1:30:37.20

Betsy McGregor

Otherwise, there isn't really a reason to study a resource area because the idea is to develop protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures to avoid impacts where possible to these resource areas where mitigate as needed.

1:30:46.310 --> 1:30:56.780

Fatima Oswald

We did move through all the project resources quickly and the studies that we're proposing, so we're happy to go back.

1:30:56.790 --> 1:30:59.340

Fatima Oswald

We'd love to answer any questions that you all have.

1:31:1.610 --> 1:31:26.470

Fatima Oswald

The studies on the right are the proposed current proposed studies that we have planned for the relicensing process, and so just wanted to open it up to questions about any of the resource areas that

we reviewed and are covered in the pre application document and any of the proposed studies or just questions in general about project resources.

1:31:29.790 --> 1:31:30.780

Fatima Oswald

And proposed studies.

1:31:41.430 --> 1:31:42.770

Fatima Oswald

Any thoughts or questions?

1:31:51.70 --> 1:31:56.50

Fatima Oswald

Well, that takes us through all of our resource areas, our proposed studies.

1:31:59.700 --> 1:32:4.50

Fatima Oswald

And so now we wanted to move into next steps in the relicensing process.

1:32:6.160 --> 1:32:29.120

Fatima Oswald

The next things that need to happen here in the near and not so near future are within two roughly 2 weeks of this meeting we will produce a transcript of the meeting and all meeting materials that were provided will be included in the Umm recording and transcript of the meeting that will be filed with FERC.

1:32:30.430 --> 1:32:42.540

Fatima Oswald

I will also more than happy to send out the PowerPoint to everyone I did not attach the PowerPoint to the meeting, so I'll be sure to get the PowerPoint out to all and all of that will be included in the filing as well.

1:32:42.640 --> 1:32:49.580

Fatima Oswald

The transcript, all the materials, and the PowerPoint will all be attached to the filing and when nice package.

1:32:51.880 --> 1:32:53.620

Fatima Oswald

That will happen in the next two weeks.

1:32:55.310 --> 1:33:5.60

Fatima Oswald

And so the FERC relicensing process does give a comment opportunity that falls after this joint meeting.

1:33:5.70 --> 1:33:24.960

Fatima Oswald

Within 60 days, all entities, stakeholders, public, any other federal, state, tribal entities are welcome to submit any comments on the pre application document or any study requests or study comments.

1:33:25.440 --> 1:33:28.680

Fatima Oswald

There are 60 days allotted to do that.

1:33:28.690 --> 1:33:32.810

Fatima Oswald

October 14th is the deadline for comments.

1:33:34.950 --> 1:33:50.810

Fatima Oswald

At that time, we will take in any study requests any comments and we will look at our plan studies that we do have plan and see how we might need to modify or adjust those study needs and plans based on the comments received.

1:33:51.920 --> 1:33:57.290

Fatima Oswald

And then from there we will put out a draft study plan.

1:33:57.300 --> 1:33:59.980

Fatima Oswald

We're looking to put that out in November .

1:34:0.760 --> 1:34:3.110

Fatima Oswald

That draft study plan will list all these studies.

1:34:3.120 --> 1:34:13.890

Fatima Oswald

It will go through the methodologies and all the ways that those studies will be conducted, and we'll put that out for comment at that time.

1:34:14.400 --> 1:34:18.620

Fatima Oswald

We will leave open a comment period of roughly about three months.

1:34:18.630 --> 1:34:27.870

Fatima Oswald

Folks can review that draft study plan and offer any comments to the overall draft study plan and then we'll turn around and finalize our study plan.

1:34:27.880 --> 1:34:32.930

Fatima Oswald

What we will plan to study and do in the next two years in March.

1:34:32.940 --> 1:34:44.0

Fatima Oswald

After all of those comment opportunities and draft study plan opportunities or coming up opportunities have taken place and we'll come out with the final study plan in early March and then 2024 is our first year of studies.

1:34:50.610 --> 1:35:0.260

Fatima Oswald

At that point, we'll take all those study plans, dive into all the studies and the studies will all be conducted, and they will be underway in 2024.

1:35:0.270 --> 1:35:1.980

Fatima Oswald

That's our first-year studies.

1:35:2.550 --> 1:35:12.790

Fatima Oswald

And then, as Finlay noted earlier, if we threw the study period do have a need for a second year of studies, we have 2025 to do that.

1:35:14.80 --> 1:35:25.350

Fatima Oswald

Those are kind of our next immediate and not so immediate steps in the relicensing umm, and I'm going to move on to a slide here about study requests.

1:35:25.660 --> 1:36:1.770

Fatima Oswald

Essentially, if folks do have study requests or comments about studies of essentially the FERC regulations, ask that you identify any study that you are requesting and give a basis for that study and why you're requesting that study umm to identify any resources involved as well as the goals and objectives of those resource areas in your study requests or comments, umm for a requires justification for a recommended study methodology.

1:36:2.200 --> 1:36:19.240

Fatima Oswald

If you do request a study and documentation that that study methodology conforms with generally accepted study practices and then further an excellent explanation of how that study will be used to further our resource goals and objectives.

1:36:19.340 --> 1:36:25.300

Fatima Oswald

Those are kind of a general list of what FERC would like covered in any study request.

1:36:28.540 --> 1:36:39.540

Fatima Oswald

I just wanted to bring up again and this is a little small, but just another overall look at our process, the three stages of the relicensing process.

1:36:40.820 --> 1:36:46.610

Fatima Oswald

We are currently in the first stage having the joint meeting.

1:36:46.620 --> 1:36:49.150

Fatima Oswald

There are 60 days available for comment.

1:36:50.300 --> 1:36:56.470

Fatima Oswald

From there, we move into the draft and final study plans again in 2024.

1:36:56.480 --> 1:37:1.280

Fatima Oswald

We conduct studies, we do share draft study reports later and then 2025 is available in case we do need a second year for studies.

1:37:10.360 --> 1:37:24.160

Fatima Oswald

Once the study process is complete, we will draft our draft license application, which will go in at the end of 2025 and that's the draft license application with all the of the various exhibits that Finlay had mentioned.

1:37:24.170 --> 1:37:35.10

Fatima Oswald

It will take into account all of the study data that we gather and at that point there is a 90-day comment period on that draft license application.

1:37:35.20 --> 1:38:1.370

Fatima Oswald

An opportunity to comment on all of the work that has been done and compiled and then further down the road, once we all those comments on the draft are received and incorporated into the final license application, that final license application is submitted at the end of May in 2026 and that takes us to about roughly 2 years out from the license expiration date.

1:38:2.620 --> 1:38:6.300

Fatima Oswald

Another run through of what we're looking at here for the next few years.

1:38:19.780 --> 1:38:31.380

Finlay Anderson

We're going to do our best to keep the relicensing web page up to date, but I wanted to mention that as far as FERC is concerned, FERC has electronic docket.

1:38:31.440 --> 1:38:36.970

Finlay Anderson

That is how they manage and maintain their record.

1:38:37.20 --> 1:38:38.940

Finlay Anderson

I would recommend that everybody subscribe to the docket so that when filing is made, it comes directly to you.

1:38:53.780 --> 1:39:1.220

Finlay Anderson

The third will designate a sub docket for this, and that's what he possibly you want to try to the sub docket.

1:39:1.530 --> 1:39:6.930

Finlay Anderson

That way you don't get all the dam safety related stuff that into my vendors.

1:39:10.800 --> 1:39:22.970

Finlay Anderson

I also want to mention that when put you're putting together study requests, there's a useful guidance document on works website called the Guide to ILP study plan criteria.

1:39:22.980 --> 1:39:31.440

Finlay Anderson

That is a useful guide in terms of how you frame up the request to make that as effective as possible.

1:39:37.220 --> 1:39:43.880

Finlay Anderson

Kleinschmidt is Copper Valley's consultant, but we're also a resource for you.

1:39:43.930 --> 1:39:50.350

Finlay Anderson

If you've got questions about the process, about when deadlines are, you should be defining, feel free to reach out to us and then we'll help you as much as you can.

1:40:0.990 --> 1:40:4.80

Fatima Oswald

Thank you, Finlay, and that does lead into this FERC slide.

1:40:4.250 --> 1:40:34.310

Fatima Oswald

This information is always is always is also on the bottom of the handout so that you have this in the handout materials and the materials that went out and essentially just kind of takes you through how you can get on to the federal, the FERC you subscribe if subscription for this project and the project number is 2742, it's the docket number that's the number that you'll use subscribe to receive filings.

1:40:34.320 --> 1:40:39.320

Fatima Oswald

And Finlay, as you noted, there's a sub docket for the relicensing and that is Dash 39.

1:40:40.450 --> 1:40:44.390

Fatima Oswald

If you subscribe to the docket, you'll then be receiving everything.

1:40:47.650 --> 1:40:51.160

Fatima Oswald

We are happy to help with anything.

1:40:51.530 --> 1:41:0.30

Fatima Oswald

Feel free to reach out to me and my contact info is coming up here and I think most of you I've been in email communication with most of you so.

1:41:4.290 --> 1:41:7.940

Fatima Oswald

We've gone through relicensing next steps, the process, and schedule.

1:41:10.30 --> 1:41:13.720

Fatima Oswald

Any questions, comments, or thoughts on any of that?

1:41:37.580 --> 1:41:41.760

Rebecca McGuire (Guest)

No, I just want to let you know that I'm still here and I didn't have any questions.

1:41:42.680 --> 1:41:43.90

Fatima Oswald

OK.

1:41:43.100 --> 1:41:43.470

Fatima Oswald

Thank you.

1:41:49.300 --> 1:41:53.650

Fatima Oswald

Back to the presentation, so here we are.

1:41:53.720 --> 1:41:54.890

Fatima Oswald

It is 11, we are about an hour ahead of ourselves.

1:42:1.20 --> 1:42:9.910

Fatima Oswald

Our next steps were to go ahead and have lunch and then prep to go out for our site visit.

1:42:12.200 --> 1:42:14.870

Fatima Oswald

Do we want to go?

1:42:14.880 --> 1:42:21.310

Fatima Oswald

Want to go ahead and take a break and then we'll reconvene and have lunch and then we can kind of prep to move out for the site visit.

1:42:24.990 --> 1:42:35.830

Finlay Anderson

We can probably let the folks on the phone go and lunch is probably an hour away anyhow, right?

1:42:35.840 --> 1:42:36.900

Finlay Anderson

They're going to deliver at 11, so we could do the site visit early?

1:42:45.820 --> 1:42:51.760

Finlay Anderson

We're probably not expecting anybody else that show up at 1:30.

1:42:51.770 --> 1:42:56.410

Finlay Anderson

Let's make sure that we're here at 1:30.

1:43:6.470 --> 1:43:7.30

Fatima Oswald

Somebody is here.

1:43:7.960 --> 1:43:12.510

Fatima Oswald

I bet someone here at the Civic Center could give us a call if anybody did show up.

1:43:13.400 --> 1:43:13.790

Fatima Oswald

Thank you.

1:43:22.140 --> 1:43:23.910

Fatima Oswald

How about we take a break now?

1:43:25.390 --> 1:43:32.550

Fatima Oswald

We'll reconvene about 15-20 minutes and have lunch, and then we can move out from there and make our plan.

1:43:33.180 --> 1:43:39.570

Fatima Oswald

Closing out the meeting for the folks on the phone.

1:43:39.960 --> 1:43:49.100

Fatima Oswald

Thank you so much for joining us, appreciate that you joined us and any last-minute questions or comments.

1:43:53.140 --> 1:43:54.970

Terry Schick (ABR) (Guest)

No, not from me.

1:43:55.240 --> 1:43:56.550

Terry Schick (ABR) (Guest)

No. That's a good job of summarizing the terrestrial studies proposed studies.

1:44:4.890 --> 1:44:5.370

Fatima Oswald

Thanks Terry.

1:44:8.180 --> 1:44:9.290

Laura Pevan

Thank you very much for your time.

1:44:21.210 --> 1:44:21.690

Wendy Davis (Guest)

Thank you.