

SOUTHEAST ALASKA POWER AGENCY

55 Don Finney Lane
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901



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www.seapahydro.org

Electronically Filed May 13, 2025

May 13, 2025

Debbie-Anne Reese, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

Subject: Swan Lake Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 2911 Notice of Intent to File an Application for New License and Pre-Application Document; Request for Designation of Non-Federal Representative; Request to Use the Traditional Licensing Process; and Proposed Joint Agency Meeting and Site Visit

Dear Secretary Reese;

Pursuant to Section 15(b)(1) of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. § 808(b)) and Section 5.5 of the regulations of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) (18 C.F.R. § 5.5), Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA), licensee of the Swan Lake Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 2911 (Project), hereby files its Notice of Intent (NOI) to seek a new license for the 25 MW Project. The Project is located on Revillagigedo Island in the Swan Lake–Falls Creek drainage basin near the northern end of Carroll Inlet, approximately 22 air-miles northeast of the city of Ketchikan, Alaska. The Project operates on a FERC license that was issued on July 17, 1980, and expires on June 30, 2030.

Concurrently with this filing, SEAPA is also filing, pursuant to Section 5.6 of the Commission's regulations, a Preliminary Application Document (PAD) for the relicensing of the Project.

SEAPA is concurrently submitting a request to use FERC's Traditional Licensing Process (TLP). SEAPA believes that the TLP is the most efficient licensing process for the Project relicensing. Pursuant to 18 CFR §5.3, SEAPA has included a formal request to use the TLP as an attachment to this letter, and letters from agencies commenting on the use of the TLP are also included. All parties may provide comments with FERC regarding SEAPA's request to use the TLP within 30 days (by June 12, 2025).

In accordance with 18 CFR §5.5(e), SEAPA hereby requests the following authorizations:

- Designation as the non-federal representative under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and the joint agency regulations under 50 CFR §402 to undertake consultation with applicable federal and state agencies regarding federally threatened and endangered species that may be affected by the Project.

- Designation as the non-federal representative under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the implementing regulations under 36 CFR §800.2(c)(4) to undertake consultation with the Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), and appropriate, federally recognized Alaska Native Tribes.

If granted the authority to use the TLP, pursuant to 18 CFR § 16.8(b) SEAPA will hold a Joint Agency Public Meeting and Project site visit within 30 to 60 days after FERC notices the NOI and PAD. In accordance with the schedule presented in Section 2.0 of the PAD, FERC will likely issue a notice of commencement of proceeding on or about July 12, 2025. By approximately August 11, 2025, SEAPA will provide a public notice with the date, time, and location of the Joint Agency Public Meeting and site visit. SEAPA is tentatively planning to hold the meeting and site visit on August 26-27, 2025.

Pursuant to 18 CFR § 5.5 and § 16.8 of the Commission's regulations, the NOI and PAD are being simultaneously distributed to agencies and stakeholders listed in the attached Distribution List which includes applicable resource agencies, local governments, Indian Tribes, non-government organizations, and additional identified potential licensing parties. Parties with interest in the upcoming licensing can download an electronic copy of the NOI, PAD, and Request to Use the TLP from SEAPA's relicensing website at <https://www.swanlakerelicensing.com/>, or from FERC's eLibrary system at <https://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/elibrary.asp> by conducting a search using the docket number P-2911. In accordance with 18 CFR § 5.2, a copy of the NOI and PAD is also available for review at SEAPA's office located at 55 Don Finney Lane, Ketchikan, AK 99901, by appointment only.

SEAPA looks forward to working with FERC and other interested parties on the Project relicensing. Should there be any questions or concerns regarding this filing please contact Mark Hilson, P.E., at 907-228-2017 or by email at mhilson@seapahydro.org.

Sincerely,



Robert Siedman, P.E., Chief Executive Officer
Southeast Alaska Power Agency

Attachments:

- Distribution List
- Request to Use the Traditional Licensing Process
- Agency Consultation
- Notice of Intent (FERC No. 2911)
- Preliminary Application Document (FERC No. 2911)

Distribution List

FERC Service List (April 15, 2025):

Joel Paisner Ascent Law Partners, LLP Southeast Alaska Power Agency 1191 2 nd Ave Ste 1800 Seattle, WA 98101 joel@ascentllp.com	Melissa Dinsmore Lands Special Uses Specialist and Energy Program Coordinator Tongass National Forest 2108 Halibut Point Road Sitka, AK 99835 melissa.dinsmore@usda.gov 907-747-4201
Jeffrey W DeFreest USDA Forest Service – Region 10 District Ranger 3031 Tongass Ave Ketchikan, AK 99901 jdefreest@fs.fed.us	Carl Fink Blue Planet Energy Law, LLC 628 SW Chestnut Street, Suite 200 Portland, OR 97219 CMFink@Blueplanetlaw.com 971.266.8940
Robert J Siedman, CEO SEAPA 55 Don Finney Lane Ketchikan, AK 99901 rsiedman@seapahydro.org	Mark Hilson, Chief Dam Safety Engineer SEAPA 55 Don Finney Lane Ketchikan, AK 99901 mhilson@seapahydro.org

Federal Government/Representatives:

Nicholas S. Baggett Project Manager Regulatory Division U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District (907) 227-3124 nicholas.s.baggett@usace.army.mil	Sean McDermott National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Habitat Conservation Division Alaska Region sean.mcdermott@noaa.gov
Casey Loofbourrow Energy Program Coordinator Tongass National Forest 8510 Mendenhall Loop Road Juneau, AK 99801 casey.loofbourrow@usda.gov 907-789-6283	Regional Directors Bureau of Indian Affairs U.S. Department of the Interior PO Box 21647 Juneau, AK 99802-5520
Carol Mahara Ecological Services – Biologist (FWS) 4700 BLM Road Anchorage, AK 99507 carol_mahara@fws.gov	

State Government/Representatives:

<p>Ann Marie Larquier Habitat Biologist, Statewide FERC Hydropower Coordinator Alaska Department of Fish and Game 333 Rasberry Road Anchorage, AK 99518 ann.larquier@alaska.gov 907-267-2311</p>	<p>Jarrold Sowa LDP for Southeast Alaska Hydro Projects Alaska Department of Fish and Game 333 Rasberry Road Anchorage, AK 99518 jarrod.sowa@alaska.gov</p>
<p>Sarah Meitl Review and Compliance Coordinator Alaska State Historic Preservation Office Alaska Department of Natural Resources 550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1310 Anchorage, AK 99501 sarah.meitl@alaska.gov</p>	<p>Megan Marie Alaska Department of Fish and Game PO Box 115526 Juneau, AK 99811-5526 megan.marie@alaska.gov</p>
<p>Mckenzie Johnson Archaeologist I Alaska State Historic Preservation Office 550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1310 Anchorage, AK 99501 mckenzie.johnson@alaska.gov</p>	<p>Mason Auger Natural Resource Coordinator Alaska Department of Natural Resources P.O. Box 111020 Juneau, AK 99811 mason.auger@alaska.gov</p>
<p>Carl Reese Statewide Hydroelectric Coordinator Alaska Department of Natural Resources P.O. Box 111020 Juneau, AK 99811 carl.reese@alaska.gov (907) 465-5341</p>	<p>Clint Gundelfinger Natural Resource Manager II Alaska Department of Natural Resources Water Management Unit 550 W. 7th Ave. Suite 1360 Anchorage, AK 99501 clint.gundelfinger@alaska.gov</p>
<p>Ben Wagner Dam Safety Engineer Alaska Department of Natural Resources Division of Mining, Land & Water, Dam Safety and Construction Unit 550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1020 Anchorage, AK 99501 ben.wagner@alaska.gov (907) 269-8636</p>	<p>Melinda O'Donnell Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Division of Water – Compliance Program 555 Cordova St Anchorage, AK 99501 melinda.odonnell@alaska.gov (907) 269-7564</p>
<p>Jim Rypkema Program Manager Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Division of Water – Compliance Program 555 Cordova St Anchorage, AK 99501 james.rypkema@alaska.gov (907) 334-2288</p>	<p>Bryan Carey Director of Owned Assets, Statewide Hydroelectric Coordinator Alaska Energy Authority 813 W Northern Lights Blvd. Anchorage, AK 99503 bcarey@akenergyauthority.org</p>

Local Government/ Public Agency:

Ruben Duran, Borough Manager Ketchikan Gateway Borough 1900 First Avenue, Suite 210 Ketchikan, AK 99901 managersoffice@kgbak.us 907-228-6625 907-228-6684 fax	Lacey Simpson Acting City Manager/KPU General Manager City of Ketchikan 334 Front Street Ketchikan, AK 99901 907-225-3111 laceysimpson@ketchikan.gov clerk@ktn-ak.us
Steve Giesbrecht, Borough Manager Rebecca Regula, Borough Clerk City and Borough of Petersburg PO Box 329 12 South Nordic Drive Petersburg, AK 99833 907-772-5402 (Manager) 907-772-5405 (Clerk) 907-772-3759 (fax) sgiesbrecht@petersburgak.gov bregula@petersburgak.gov	Frank H. Seludo, City Administrator City of Saxman Route 2 Box 1 2841 S Tongass Hwy Ketchikan, AK 99901 cityadmin@kpunet.net 907-225-4166 907-225-6450 fax
Mason Villarma, Borough Manager Kim Lane, MMC, Borough Clerk City and Borough of Wrangell P.O. Box 531 Wrangell, AK 99929 907-874-2381 clerk@wrangell.com	

Alaska Native Tribes:

Norman Skan, President Jennifer Hanlon, Cultural Resources Director Ketchikan Indian Community 429 Deermount St. Ketchikan, Alaska, 99901 (Norman) aburns@kictribe.org (Jennifer) jhanlon@kictribe.org Main reception: 907-228-9381 Direct: 907-228-9445 https://www.kictribe.org/	Joe Williams Jr., President Organized Village of Saxman 2706 S Tongass Highway Route 2 Box 2, Saxman Ketchikan, AK 99901 (Joe) saxmanira@kpunet.net Main: 907-247-2502 Fax: 907-247-2502 https://saxmantribe.org/
Edward Rilatos, President Esther Reese, Tribal Administrator Wrangell Cooperative Association P.O. Box 2021 1002 Zimovia Highway Wrangell, AK 99929	Richard J. Peterson, President Native Lands & Resources Department (NLR) Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska PO Box 25500, Juneau AK 99802 (Richard) otp@tlingitandhaida.gov and

(Edward and Esther) wcatribes@gmail.com (General) receptionist.wca@gmail.com 907-874-4304 https://www.wcatribes.org/	rpeterson@tlingitandhaida.gov (General) nlr@tlingitandhaida.gov (NLR Department) nlr@tlingitandhaida.gov Main Reception: 907-586-1432 NLR Phone: 907-463-7186 NLR Fax: 907-885-0065 https://www.ccthita.org/index.html
Joel M. Jackson, President Organized Village of Kake P.O. Box 316 Kake, AK 99830 (Joel) president@kake-nsn.gov and hr@kake-nsn.gov (General) ed@kake-nsn.gov Main: 907-785-6471 Fax: 907-785-4902 https://kake-nsn.gov/	Albert G. Smith, Mayor Metlakatla Indian Community Annette Islands Reserve P.O. Box 8 Metlakatla, AK 99926 (Albert) asmith@metlakatla.com (General) judi@metlakatla.com 907-886-4441 https://www.metlakatla.com/
Debra O'Gara, President Jaylyn Pomrenke, Tribal Administrator Petersburg Indian Association P.O. Box 1410 15 North 12th St Petersburg, AK 99833 (Debra) president@piatribal.org (Jaylyn) tribaladmin@piatribal.org Main: 907-772-3636 Fax: 907-772-3637 https://piatribal.org/	Craig Tribal Association P.O. Box 828 Craig, AK 99921 info@craigtribe.org (907) 826-3996

ANSCA Corporations:

<p>Sealaska Corporation Joe Nelson, Interim President Jason Gubatayao, General Manager Jo Ann Patterson, Natural Resources Secretary Sally Kasnick, Executive Assistant 1 Sealaska Plaza, Suite 400 Juneau, AK 99801 (Joe) joe.nelson@sealaska.com (Jason) jason.gubatayao@sealaska.com (Jo Ann) joann.patterson@sealaska.com (Sally) sally.kasnick@sealaska.com (General) corpsec@sealaska.com Main 907-586-1512 Fax 907-586-2304 https://sealaska.com/</p>	<p>Sealaska Heritage Institute 105 Heritage Way, Suite 201 Juneau, AK 9980 heritage@sealaska.com 907-463-4844</p>
<p>Cape Fox Corporation Clifford Blair, President Crystal Blair, Vice Secretary/ Treasurer 2851 S Tongass Highway P.O. Box 8558 Ketchikan, AK 99901 communications@capefoxss.com cblair@capefoxcorp.com 907-225-5163 907-225-3137 https://www.capefoxcorp.com/</p>	<p>Joseph Reeves III Ketchikan ANCSA Landless Representative P.O. Box 8034 Ketchikan, AK 99901 jobereeves@yahoo.com 907.617.8850 https://www.withoutland.org/ketchikan</p>
<p>Leo Barlow Wrangell ANCSA Landless Representative lbarlow@aol.com 907-240-6950 https://www.withoutland.org/wrangell</p>	<p>Brenda Louise Petersburg ANCSA Landless Representative 206 S. Dickens St Petersburg, AK 99833 boxofdaylite@yahoo.com 907-772-2615 https://www.withoutland.org/petersburg</p>
<p>Kake Tribal Corporation P.O. Box 263 Kake, AK 99830 (Jeff) Jeff.Jackson@kaketribalcorp.com (Jacqueline) jackie.martin@kaketribal.corp.com (General) info@kaketribalcorp.com Main: 907-785-3221 Fax: 855-310-3488 https://www.kaketribalcorporation.com/</p>	<p>Klawock Cooperative Association PO Box 430 Klawock, AK 99925 tribaladmin@klawocktribe.org (907) 755-2265 Fax (907) 755-8800</p>

Other Interested Parties:

<p>Rod Rhoades, Superintendent Wrangell Municipal Light & Power 1064 Case Ave Wrangell, AK 99929 wmlp@gci.net 907-874-3602 (phone) 907-874-3614 (fax)</p>	<p>John Cameron, Director Metlakatla Power and Light P.O. Box 359 3.5 Airport Rd Metlakatla, AK 99926 metpowerandlight@gmail.com 907-886-4451</p>
<p>Alaska Power & Telephone P.O. Box 3222 193 Otto Street Port Townsend, WA 98368 800-982-0136</p>	<p>Karl Hagerman, Utility Director Petersburg Municipal Power & Light 11 South Nordic Drive PO Box 329 Petersburg, Alaska 99833 khagerman@petersburgak.gov 907-772-5403</p>
<p>Wrangell Chamber of Commerce P.O. Box 49 107 Stikine Ave Wrangell, AK 99929 info@wrangellchamber.com 907-874-3901</p>	<p>Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association 14 Borch Street Ketchikan, AK 99901 admin@ssraa.org 907-225-9605</p>
<p>Alaska Power Association 703 West Tudor Road, Suite 200 Anchorage, AK 99503 907-771-5700</p>	<p>Petersburg Chamber of Commerce P.O. Box 649 19 Fram Street Petersburg, AK 99833 907-772-4636 pcoc@alaskan.com</p>
<p>Kristina Hill, Archaeologist/Commission Chair Ketchikan Historic Commission 629 Dock Street Ketchikan, AK 99901 kristina.hill@usda.gov Commission Secretary: 907-225-5600 http://ketchikanmuseums.org/about/historic-commission</p>	<p>Robert Venables Southeast Conference P.O. Box 21989 9360 Glacier Highway, #201 Juneau, AK 99801 robert@seconference.org info@seconference.org 907-586-4360</p>
<p>Joel Paisner Ascent Law Partners, LLP 1191 2nd Ave Ste 1800 Seattle, WA 98101 joel@ascentllp.com</p>	<p>Berne Mosley Energy Projects Consulting, LLC 1124 NW 40th St Oklahoma City, OK 73118 BerneMosley@yahoo.com 703-850-8779</p>
<p>Carl Fink Blue Planet Energy Law, LLC 628 SW Chestnut Street, Suite 200 Portland, OR 97219 CMFink@Blueplanetlaw.com 971-266-8940</p>	<p>Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance (SEAFA) 1008 Fish Creek Rd Juneau, AK 99801 Kathy@seafa.org 907-465-7666</p>

Greater Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce
2417 Tongass Ave, #223A
Ketchikan, AK 99901
info@ketchikanchamber.com
907-225-3184

Sharon Thompson
Executive Assistant/Contracts Administrator
SEAPA
55 Don Finney Lane
Ketchikan, AK 99901
907-228-2015
sthompson@seapahydro.org

Request to Use the Traditional Licensing Process

REQUEST TO USE THE TRADITIONAL LICENSING PROCESS

SWAN LAKE HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT (FERC NO. 2911)

Pursuant to 18 CFR § 5.3(c)(1)(ii), SEAPA hereby requests use of the Traditional Licensing Process (“TLP”) for the licensing of the Swan Lake Project.

SEAPA believes that the TLP will be in the best interest of FERC and all relicensing participants, achieving the goals of efficient, thorough, and fair consideration of all relicensing matters. We address below the following considerations to justify our request to use the TLP.

1.0 LIKELIHOOD OF TIMELY LICENSE ISSUANCE [18 CFR § 5.3(C)(1)(II)(A)]

The likelihood of timely license issuance is high due to preemptive informal stakeholder communications and the fact that there are limited resource issues identified around the Project area.

The likelihood of timely license issuance is also high because the Licensee has committed to timely execution of the TLP process in accordance with the relicensing process, plan and schedule (as outlined in the PAD).

2.0 COMPLEXITY OF THE RESOURCE ISSUES [18 CFR § 5.3(C)(1)(II)(B)]

The resource issues anticipated at the Project are limited and not expected to be complex. The Project footprint is small, it is located in a remote and relatively isolated location, and it has limited recreation use. The steep-sided reservoir is located above a natural fish passage barrier.

Further, the Licensee is not planning to propose any major changes to the Project or its operation. SEAPA proposes to modify the FERC Project boundary, which is largely administrative in nature and will not result in any changes to land management. SEAPA’s proposal to lower the minimum draft limit of Swan Lake would increase the total potential drawdown from 271.5 feet to 262 feet. An additional 9.5 feet of drawdown would not likely be used every year. SEAPA has not immediately identified significant environmental concerns relating to a lower draft limit.

3.0 LEVEL OF ANTICIPATED CONTROVERSY [18 CFR § 5.3(C)(1)(II)(C)]

SEAPA held an initial outreach meeting with representatives from Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Alaska State Historic Preservation Office, National Marine Fisheries Service, and United States Fish and Wildlife Service on March 5, 2025, to introduce the Project and discuss potential resource concerns related to the relicensing. SEAPA will continue to engage agencies and other interested parties in consultation throughout the relicensing process.

Initial consultation has not identified any controversial issues with the Swan Lake relicensing effort. The proposed action is not expected to impact recreation, as the Project

is located in a remote and relatively isolated location and has limited recreation use. While the impacts of the lower draft limit on the shoreline and water quality of the reservoir will be evaluated during relicensing, the steep-sided reservoir, and downstream natural fish passage barrier will likely limit the extent of potential environmental impacts. SEAPA anticipates collaborative relationships with resource agencies and stakeholders throughout the relicensing process.

4.0 RELATIVE COST OF THE TRADITIONAL LICENSING PROCESS COMPARED TO THE INTEGRATED LICENSING PROCESS [18 CFR § 5.3(C)(1)(II)(D)]

The flexible nature and timelines of the TLP would allow SEAPA to work cooperatively with resource agencies and stakeholders to develop information necessary to resolve any issues that may arise. This flexibility is anticipated to aid consensus-building and therefore reduce relicensing timelines and costs. Given the significant changes in the federal government at this time, we expect that the flexible timeline of the TLP will aid federal agencies in their ability to consult in the Project relicensing.

5.0 THE AMOUNT OF AVAILABLE INFORMATION AND POTENTIAL FOR SIGNIFICANT DISPUTES OVER STUDIES [18 CFR § 5.3(C)(1)(II)(E)]

The 2016 Tongass National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, SEAPA's 2014 Applicant Prepared Environmental Assessment, and FERC's 2015 Environmental Assessment in support of the Swan Lake Dam raise provide baseline environmental data for the Project area. SEAPA will work with the resource agencies and stakeholders on data collection efforts to address any resource concerns associated with the Project. SEAPA does not anticipate any significant dispute to arise from the resource agencies or other stakeholders. Should a significant dispute arise during the process, SEAPA would initiate FERC's dispute resolution process outlined in 18 CFR § 16.8(b)(6)(i).

6.0 OTHER PERTINENT FACTORS [18 CFR § 5.3(C)(1)(II)(F)]

SEAPA's proposed changes to the Project's existing mode of operation (i.e., lower reservoir draft limit) and change in Project boundary are not anticipated to raise significant new environmental concerns with agencies or stakeholders. The lower draft limit would allow for additional operational flexibility and reliability in remote Alaska where the region is not connected to any other power grid. The increases in flexibility and reliability, as well as the reduction of reliance on diesel generation, could have overall environmental, economic, socioeconomic, and water use efficiency benefits.

Additionally, resource agencies involved in the relicensing process have a baseline knowledge of the Project because of SEAPA's informal consultation efforts leading up to filing of this NOI and PAD.

For all of the foregoing reasons, SEAPA respectfully requests that the Commission grant this request and authorize SEAPA to use the TLP for the relicensing of the Project.

As required by 18 CFR § 5.3(d)(1), SEAPA is concurrently providing copies of this request to all affected resource agencies, Alaska Native Tribes, and other potentially interested

parties. Pursuant to 18 CFR § 5.3(d)(1), comments on SEAPA's request to use the TLP must be filed with the Commission within 30 days of the filing date of this request. As required by 18 CFR § 5.3(d)(2), SEAPA is publishing notice of this request simultaneously with the publication of notice of availability of the NOI and PAD in the Ketchikan Daily News, a newspaper in general circulation in the Project location.

Agency Consultation

Swan Lake (FERC No. 2911) Agency Consultation Summary

Date	Sender & Recipient	Type of Correspondence / Consultation Event	Document Type
1/24/2025	Relicensing Team to ADF&G	Relicensing initial outreach	Email
1/24/2025	Relicensing Team to ADF&G	Relicensing initial outreach	Email
1/24/2025	Relicensing Team to ADNR	Relicensing initial outreach	Email
1/24/2025	Relicensing Team to ADNR	Relicensing initial outreach	Email
1/24/2025	Relicensing Team to NMFS	Relicensing initial outreach	Email
1/24/2025	Relicensing Team to SHPO	Relicensing initial outreach	Email
1/24/2025	Relicensing Team to USFS	Relicensing initial outreach	Email
1/24/2025	Relicensing Team to USFWS	Relicensing initial outreach	Email
3/5/2025	Relicensing Team to agencies	Relicensing initial outreach meeting invitation	Email
3/5/2025	Relicensing Team to agencies	Relicensing initial outreach meeting presentation	PowerPoint PDF
4/11/2025	Relicensing Team to USFWS	Relicensing TLP support request	Email
4/11/2025	Relicensing Team to ADF&G	Relicensing TLP support request	Email
4/11/2025	Relicensing Team to ADNR	Relicensing TLP support request	Email
4/11/2025	Relicensing Team to NMFS	Relicensing TLP support request	Email
4/11/2025	Relicensing Team to SHPO	Relicensing TLP support request	Email
4/11/2025	Relicensing Team to USFS	Relicensing TLP support request	Email
4/22/2025	NMFS to Relicensing Team	Response to Relicensing TLP support request	Email
5/5/2025	ADNR to Relicensing Team	Response to Relicensing TLP support request	Email

From: [Carissa Shoemaker](#)
To: jarrod.sowa@alaska.gov
Cc: [Laura Cowan](#); mhilson@seapahydro.org
Subject: Swan Lake (FERC No. 2911) Relicensing Initial Outreach
Date: Friday, January 24, 2025 10:33:00 AM

Dear Jarrod,

Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA) owns and operates the Swan Lake Hydroelectric Project (Project), located on Falls Creek and Swan Lake on Revillagigedo Island in the Tongass National Forest approximately 22 miles northeast of Ketchikan. The project operates under a license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Project No. 2911 (P-2911), which will expire June 30, 2030.

SEAPA is in the early stages of planning for the Project relicensing and hired Kleinschmidt to head up the relicensing efforts. While the 2030 License expiration date may seem like a long way off, FERC requires a Notice of Intent to relicense the Project and a Pre-Application Document in 2025. Therefore, we are beginning early outreach efforts. On behalf of SEAPA, I would like to hold an introductory online meeting/call with you and other agency representatives in the late February/early March timeframe.

The purpose of meeting would be to 1) introduce the Swan Lake project, 2) describe the overall relicensing process and schedule, and 3) discuss potential key issues related to the Project's relicensing.

Please let me know if you or any other representatives within your agency would like to participate in the Project introductory call. If so, please let me know your availability in the weeks of February 24 and March 3.

Once we have determined a date, we will send out a meeting invite including a more detailed agenda, as well as some basic information about the Project.

Thank you!

Carissa Shoemaker
Licensing Coordinator



C: 907-575-0294

Follow us on [LinkedIn](#)

*We provide practical **solutions** for renewable energy, water and environmental projects!*

From: [Carissa Shoemaker](#)
To: ann.larquier@alaska.gov
Cc: [Laura Cowan](#); mhilson@seapahydro.org
Subject: Swan Lake (FERC No. 2911) Relicensing Initial Outreach
Date: Friday, January 24, 2025 10:38:00 AM

Dear Ann Marie,

Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA) owns and operates the Swan Lake Hydroelectric Project (Project), located on Falls Creek and Swan Lake on Revillagigedo Island in the Tongass National Forest approximately 22 miles northeast of Ketchikan. The project operates under a license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Project No. 2911 (P-2911), which will expire June 30, 2030.

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Thank you!

Carissa Shoemaker
Licensing Coordinator



C: 907-575-0294

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*We provide practical **solutions** for renewable energy, water and environmental projects!*

From: [Carissa Shoemaker](#)
To: carl.reese@alaska.gov
Cc: [Laura Cowan](#); mhilson@seapahydro.org
Subject: Swan Lake (FERC No. 2911) Relicensing Initial Outreach
Date: Friday, January 24, 2025 10:36:00 AM

Dear Carl,

Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA) owns and operates the Swan Lake Hydroelectric Project (Project), located on Falls Creek and Swan Lake on Revillagigedo Island in the Tongass National Forest approximately 22 miles northeast of Ketchikan. The project operates under a license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Project No. 2911 (P-2911), which will expire June 30, 2030.

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Thank you!

Carissa Shoemaker
Licensing Coordinator



C: 907-575-0294

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From: [Carissa Shoemaker](#)
To: clint.gundelfinger@alaska.gov
Cc: [Laura Cowan](#); mhilson@seapahydro.org
Subject: Swan Lake (FERC No. 2911) Relicensing Initial Outreach
Date: Friday, January 24, 2025 10:37:00 AM

Dear Clint,

Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA) owns and operates the Swan Lake Hydroelectric Project (Project), located on Falls Creek and Swan Lake on Revillagigedo Island in the Tongass National Forest approximately 22 miles northeast of Ketchikan. The project operates under a license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Project No. 2911 (P-2911), which will expire June 30, 2030.

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The purpose of meeting would be to 1) introduce the Swan Lake project, 2) describe the overall relicensing process and schedule, and 3) discuss potential key issues related to the Project's relicensing.

Please let me know if you or any other representatives within your agency would like to participate in the Project introductory call. If so, please let me know your availability in the weeks of February 24 and March 3.

Once we have determined a date, we will send out a meeting invite including a more detailed agenda, as well as some basic information about the Project.

Thank you!

Carissa Shoemaker
Licensing Coordinator



C: 907-575-0294

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From: [Carissa Shoemaker](#)
To: julianne.rosset@noaa.gov
Cc: [Laura Cowan](#); mhilson@seapahydro.org
Subject: Swan Lake (FERC No. 2911) Relicensing Initial Outreach
Date: Friday, January 24, 2025 10:28:00 AM

Dear Julianne,

Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA) owns and operates the Swan Lake Hydroelectric Project (Project), located on Falls Creek and Swan Lake on Revillagigedo Island in the Tongass National Forest approximately 22 miles northeast of Ketchikan. The project operates under a license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Project No. 2911 (P-2911), which will expire June 30, 2030.

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Thank you!

Carissa Shoemaker
Licensing Coordinator

Kleinschmidt

C: 907-575-0294

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From: [Carissa Shoemaker](#)
To: sarah.meitl@alaska.gov
Cc: [Laura Cowan](#); mhilson@seapahydro.org
Subject: Swan Lake (FERC No. 2911) Relicensing Initial Outreach
Date: Friday, January 24, 2025 10:37:00 AM

Dear Sarah,

Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA) owns and operates the Swan Lake Hydroelectric Project (Project), located on Falls Creek and Swan Lake on Revillagigedo Island in the Tongass National Forest approximately 22 miles northeast of Ketchikan. The project operates under a license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Project No. 2911 (P-2911), which will expire June 30, 2030.

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Thank you!

Carissa Shoemaker
Licensing Coordinator

The logo for Kleinschmidt, featuring the word "Kleinschmidt" in a bold, sans-serif font. The "K" is large and stylized, with a green underline that extends under the rest of the word.

C: 907-575-0294

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From: [Carissa Shoemaker](#)
To: Melissa.dinsmore@usda.gov
Cc: [Laura Cowan](#); mhilson@seapahydro.org
Subject: Swan Lake (FERC No. 2911) Relicensing Initial Outreach
Date: Friday, January 24, 2025 10:29:00 AM

Dear Melissa,

Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA) owns and operates the Swan Lake Hydroelectric Project (Project), located on Falls Creek and Swan Lake on Revillagigedo Island in the Tongass National Forest approximately 22 miles northeast of Ketchikan. The project operates under a license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Project No. 2911 (P-2911), which will expire June 30, 2030.

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Thank you!

Carissa Shoemaker
Licensing Coordinator

Kleinschmidt

C: 907-575-0294

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From: [Carissa Shoemaker](#)
To: carol_mahara@fws.gov
Cc: [Laura Cowan](#); mhilson@seapahydro.org
Subject: Swan Lake (FERC No. 2911) Relicensing Initial Outreach
Date: Friday, January 24, 2025 10:19:00 AM

Dear Carol,

Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA) owns and operates the Swan Lake Hydroelectric Project (Project), located on Falls Creek and Swan Lake on Revillagigedo Island in the Tongass National Forest approximately 22 miles northeast of Ketchikan. The project operates under a license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Project No. 2911 (P-2911), which will expire June 30, 2030.

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Thank you!

Carissa Shoemaker
Licensing Coordinator

Kleinschmidt

C: 907-575-0294

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Hello Swan Lake relicensing interested parties,

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you!

Carissa Shoemaker

Licensing Coordinator

<https://www.kleinschmidtgroup.com/>

C: 907-575-0294

Follow us on LinkedIn <<https://www.linkedin.com/company/kleinschmidt-associates/>>

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Microsoft Teams Need help? <<https://aka.ms/JoinTeamsMeeting?omkt=en-US>>

[Join the meeting now <https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ZThmZWZkMmltZTZQMC0YQT5LTkyNzktYjkwYTlyNmVIYWl4%40thread.v2/0?context=%7B%22id%22%3A%22adc6e70c-e575-40a4-9676-24da4afdc9e%22%2C%22Oid%22%3A%22527874e1-a95c-47f0-a80b-501855167fec%22%7D>](#)

Meeting ID: 253 677 461 180

Passcode: H7pu9jP7

Dial in by phone

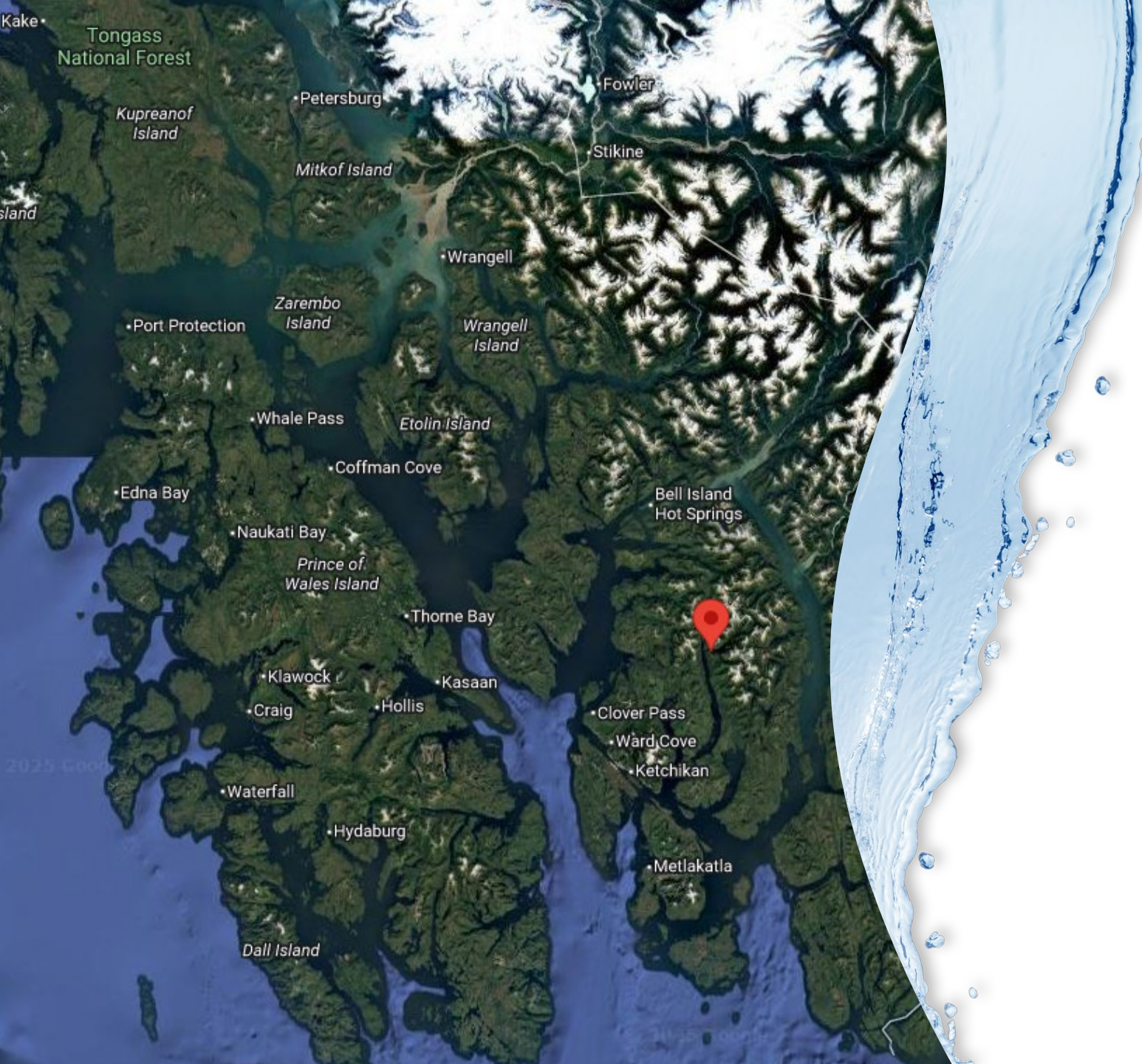
+1 207-248-8024,,755392961# <tel:+12072488024,,755392961> United States, Augusta

Find a local number <<https://dialin.teams.microsoft.com/d08180aa-712f-4098-8161-d183ecab7d97?id=755392961>>

Phone conference ID: 755 392 961#

For organizers: Meeting options <https://teams.microsoft.com/meetingOptions/?organizerId=527874e1-a95c-47f0-a80b-501855167fec&tenantId=adc6e70c-c575-40a4-9676-24da4a1fdce9&threadId=19_meeting_ZThmZWZkMmltZTQ2MC00YTQ5L2kyNzktYjkwYTlyNmViYW14@thread.v2&messageId=0&language=en-US> | Reset dial-in PIN <<https://dialin.teams.microsoft.com/usp/pstnconferencing>>

<<https://www.kleinschmidtgroup.com/wp-content/themes/ironstrap/dist/images/logo-footer.gif>>



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Swan Lake Hydroelectric Project

P-2911

**Relicensing Project Introduction
Initial Agency Outreach Meeting
March 5, 2025**





Meeting Purpose and Agenda

- Introduce the Swan Lake Project and relicensing team
- Describe the overall relicensing process schedule
- Discuss potential key issues related to the Project's relicensing
- Preliminary proposed studies
- Questions
- Next Steps



Introductions



Service Area and Generation System



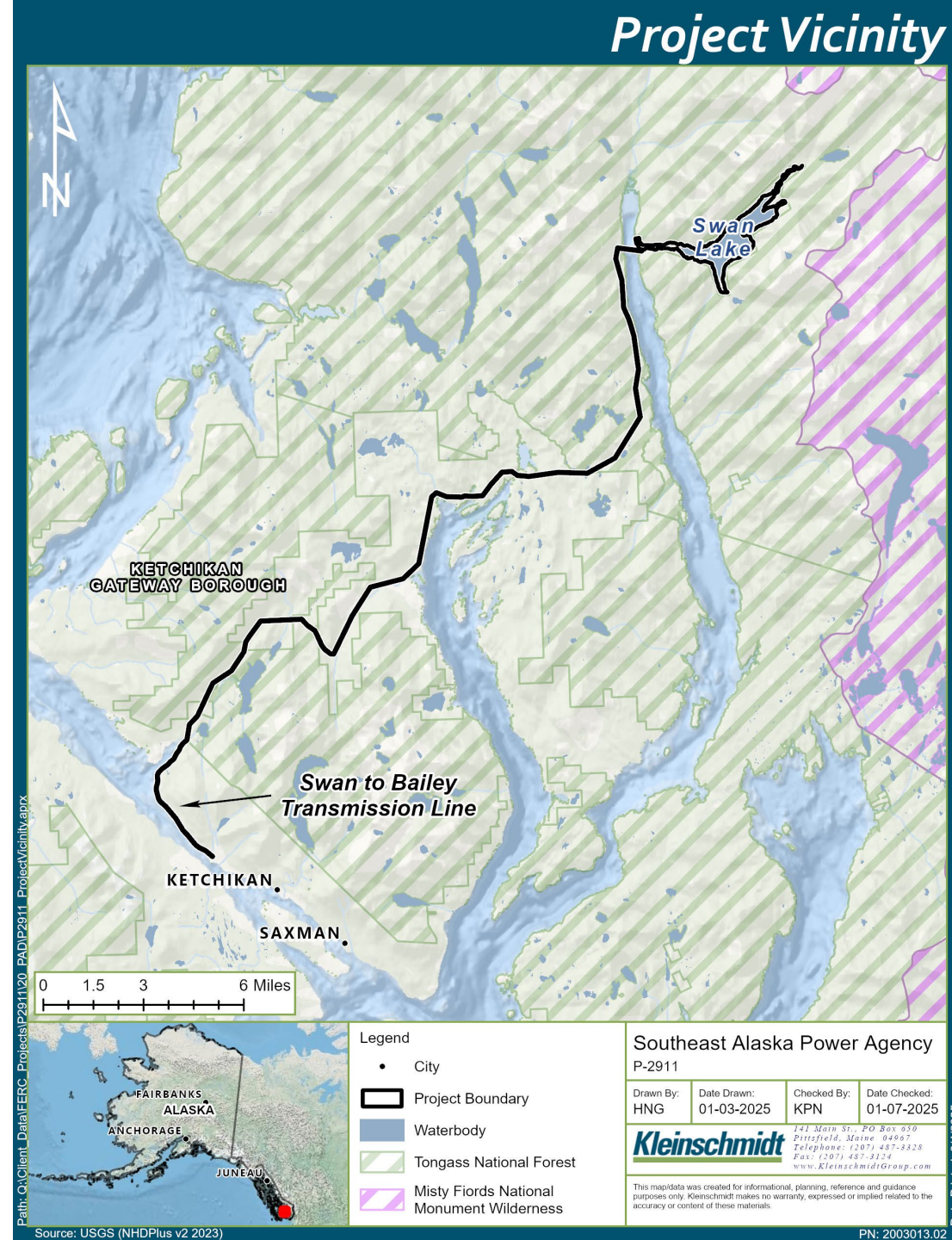
- SEAPA is a Joint Action Agency (AS 42.45.310)
- Governance is through a Board of Directors appointed by member utilities
- **Tyee Lake Hydro Project – 20 MW**
 - 1984
 - Petersburg and Wrangell
- **Swan Lake Hydro Project – 22 MW**
 - 1984
 - Ketchikan
- **Swan-Tyee Intertie (STI) - 2009**
 - interconnected SEAPA projects and all three communities



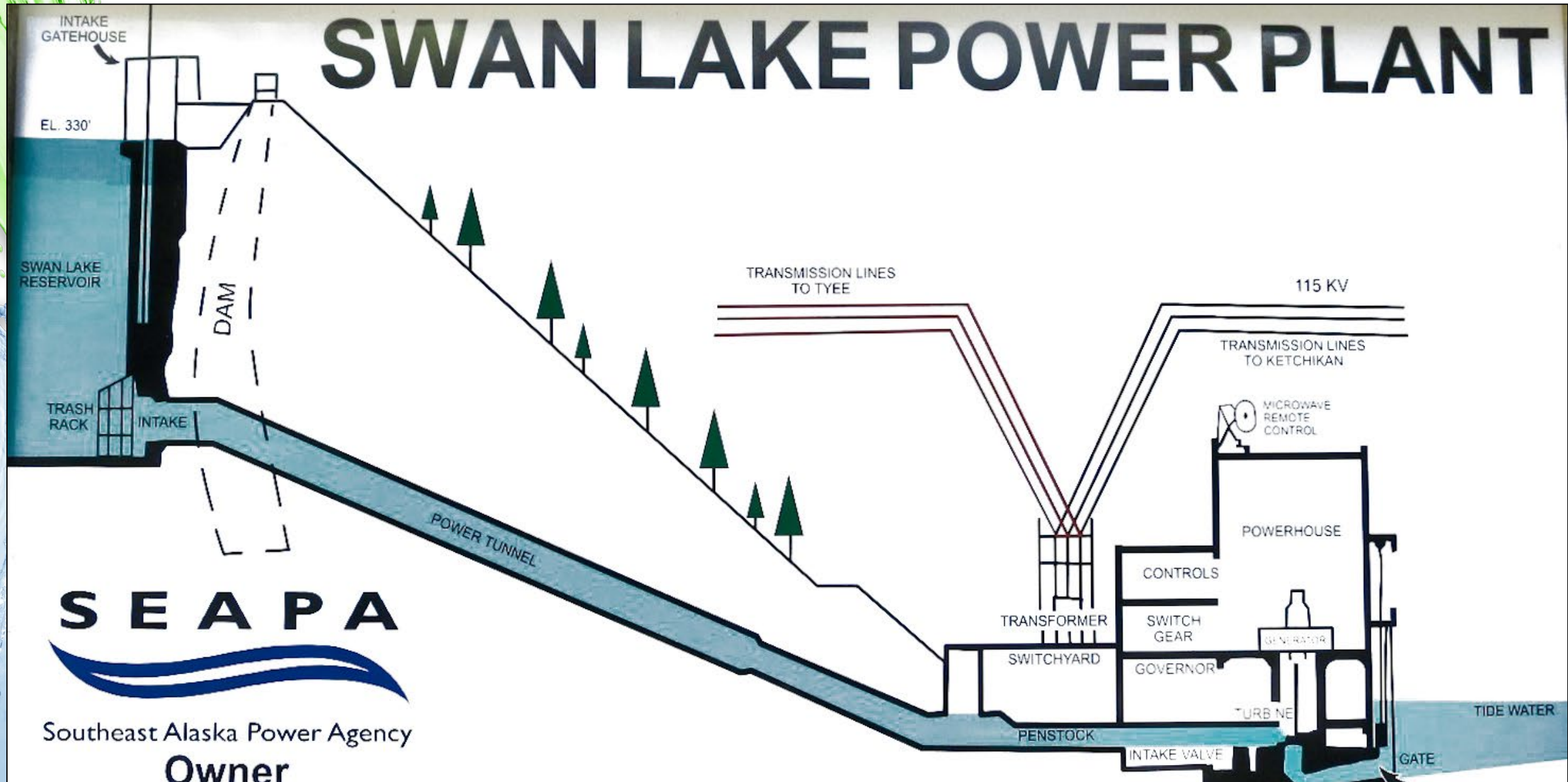
Overview of Swan Lake Project

Swan Lake Project Overview

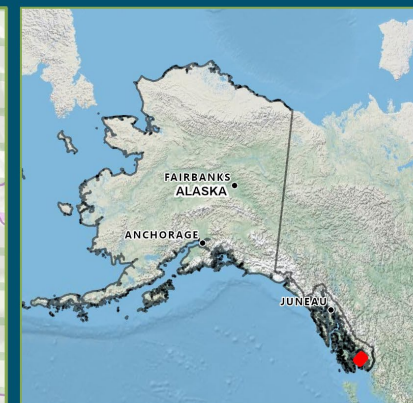
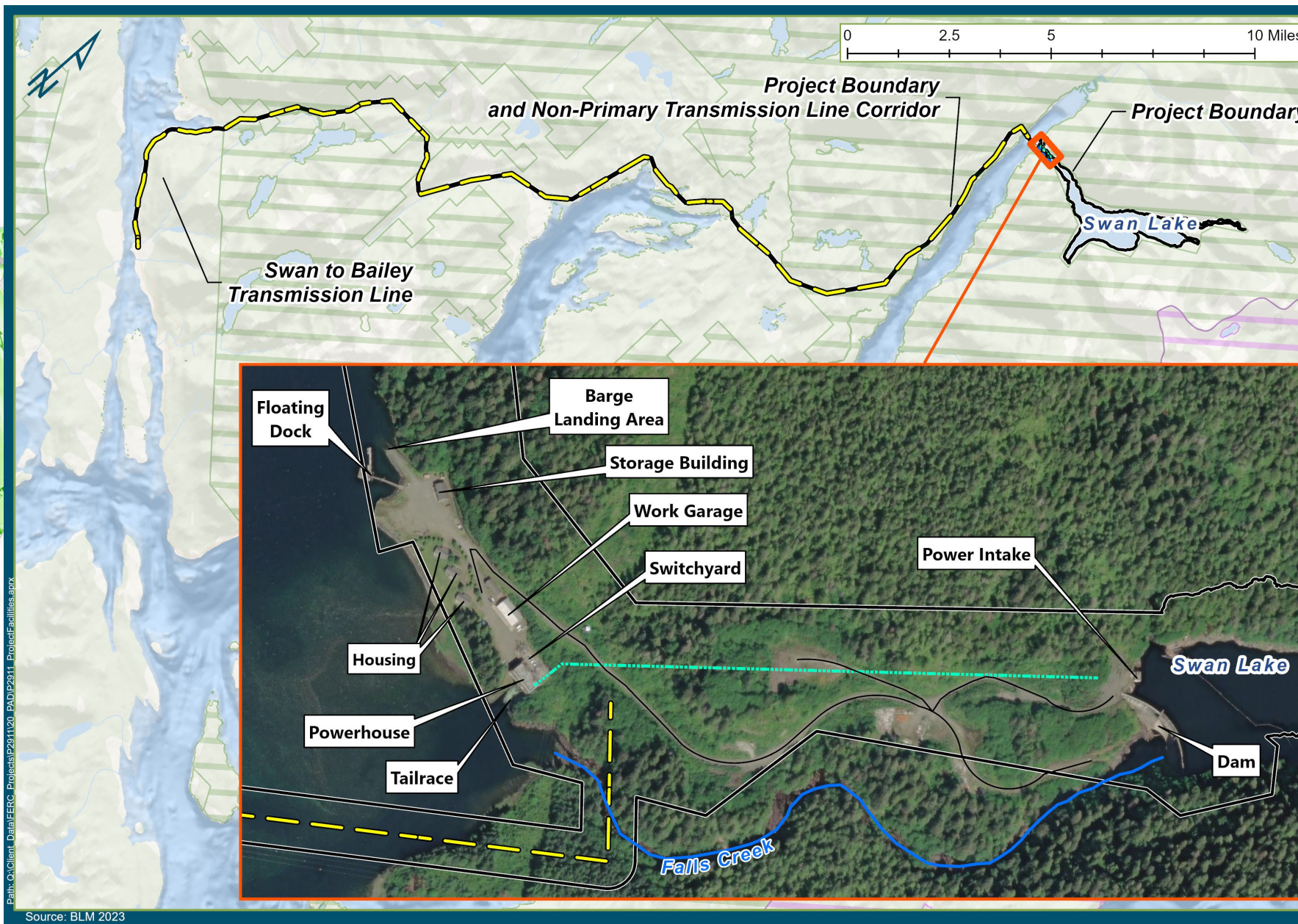
- 22 miles northeast of Ketchikan, Alaska
- Power is delivered to Wrangell, Petersburg, and Ketchikan
- Hydropower generation offsets reliance on diesel



Swan Lake Project Overview



Swan Lake Project Overview



Project Facilities

Legend

- Non-Primary Transmission
- Power Tunnel
- Road
- Falls Creek
- Project Boundary
- Tongass National Forest
- Misty Fiords National Monument Wilderness

Southeast Alaska Power Agency
P-2911

Drawn By: HNG Date Drawn: 01-08-2025 Checked By: KPN Date Checked: 01-08-2025

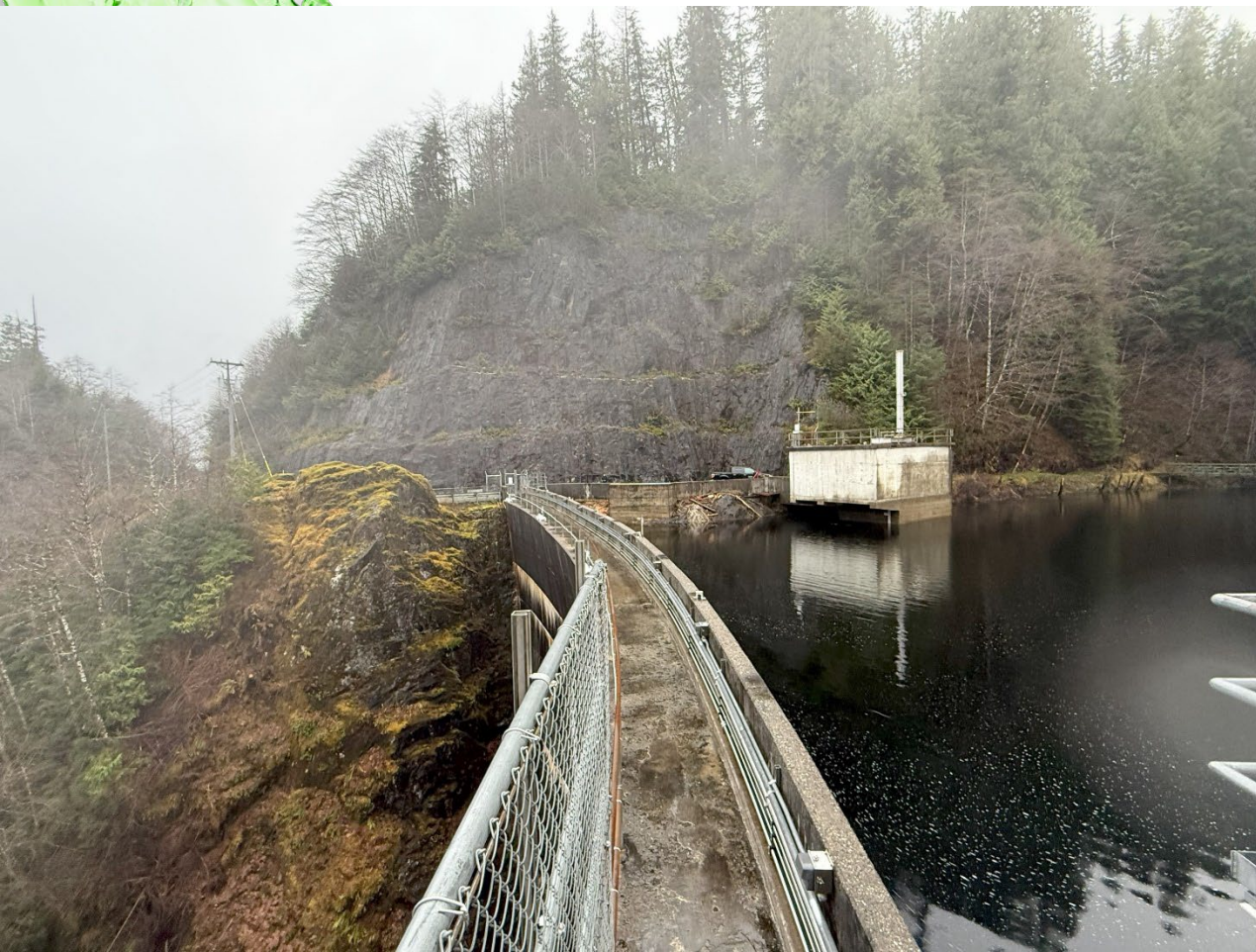
Kleinschmidt
141 Main St., PO Box 650
Pittsfield, Maine 04967
Telephone: (207) 487-3428
Fax: (207) 487-3124
www.KleinschmidtGroup.com

This map/data was created for informational, planning, reference and guidance purposes only. Kleinschmidt Associates makes no warranty, expressed or implied related to the accuracy or content of these materials.

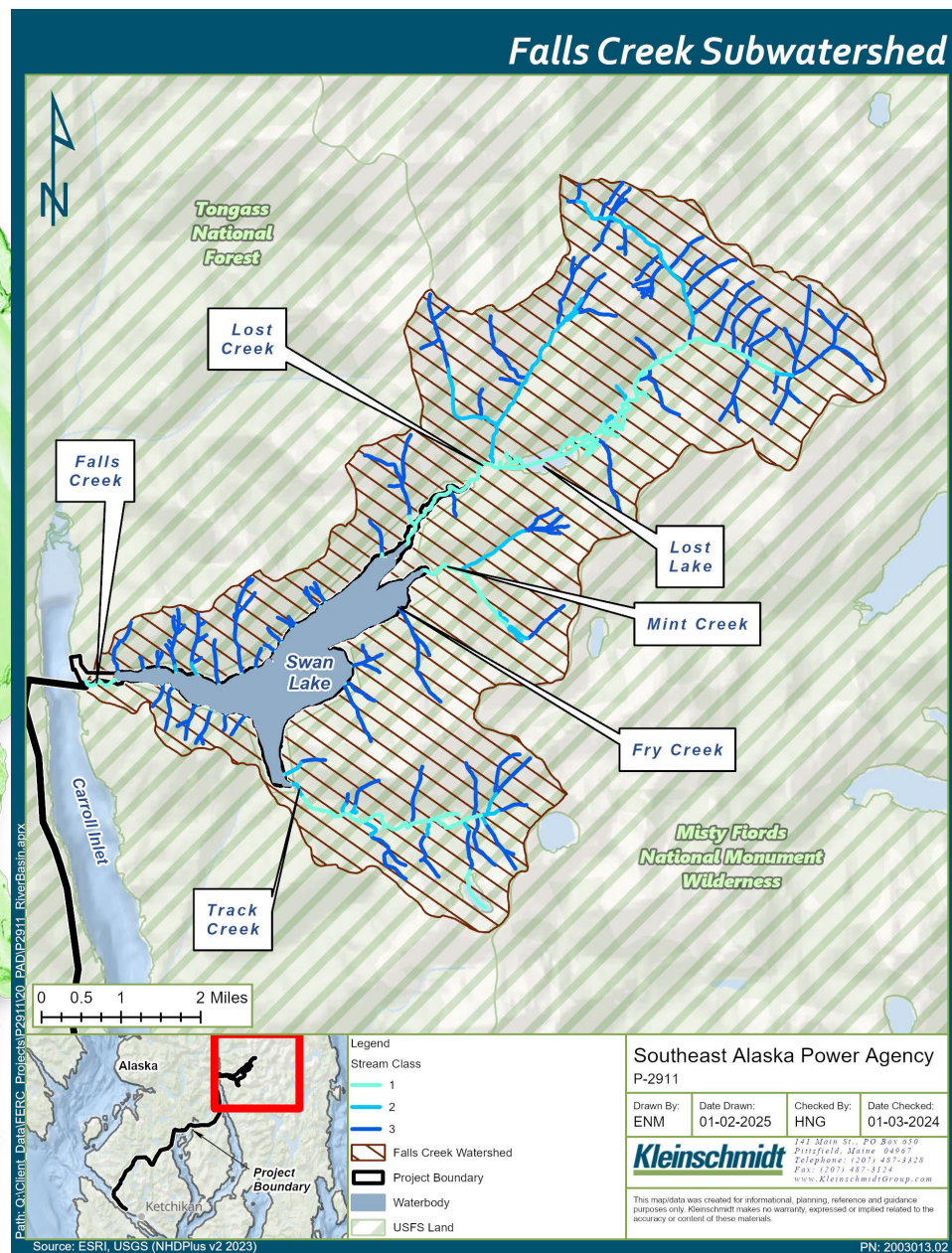
PN: 2003012.01

Swan Lake Project Overview: Dam

- 174 ft tall
- Concrete thin arch



Swan Lake Project Overview: Reservoir



- Active Storage: 102,467 acre-feet
- Normal pool elevation: 271.5 ft to 345 ft
- Surface area at full pool: 1,567 acres
- Falls Creek Watershed: 36.5 square miles

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Swan Lake Project Overview: Reservoir

- Falls Creek watershed
- Four major Swan Lake Tributaries:
 - Lost, Mint, Track, and Fry creeks
- Many small unnamed tributaries



Lost Creek



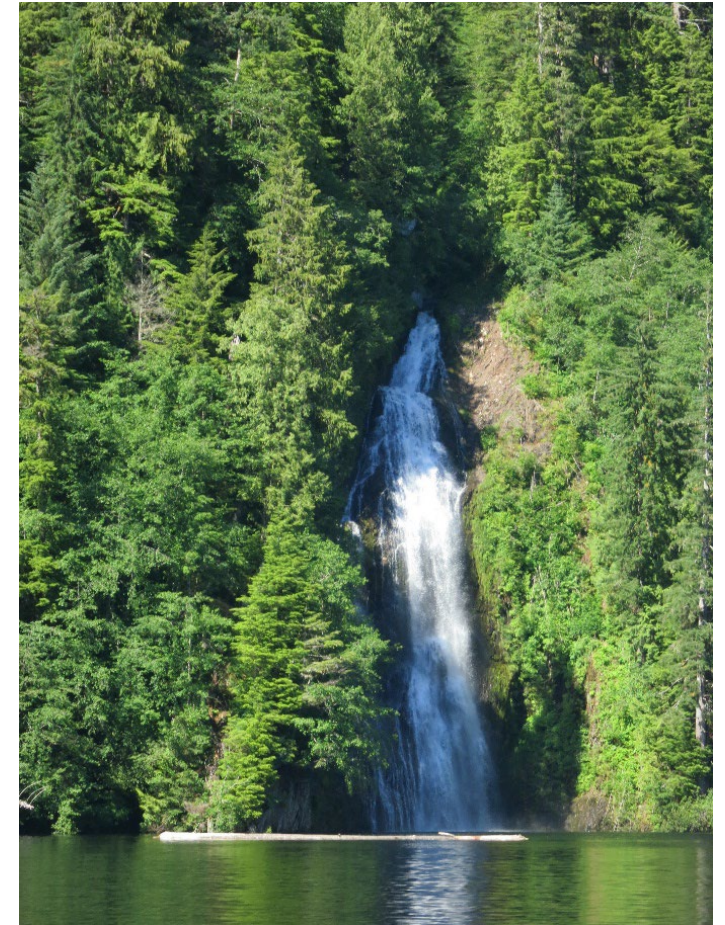
Track Creek falls at mouth at Swan Lake
el. of 326 feet, September 5, 2012

Swan Lake Project Overview: Reservoir

- Swan Lake Tributaries:
 - Mint Creek and Unnamed tributary



Mint Creek mouth at Swan Lake el. 327 ft,
September 9, 2012



Unnamed Tributary

Swan Lake Project Overview: Power Tunnel



Power tunnel

- 2,217-ft long
- 11-ft diameter

Swan Lake Project Overview: Powerhouse



Powerhouse

- Two Francis turbine generating units
- 22.5 MW generating capacity

Average project output

- 75,700 MWh

Swan Lake Project Overview: Other Facilities

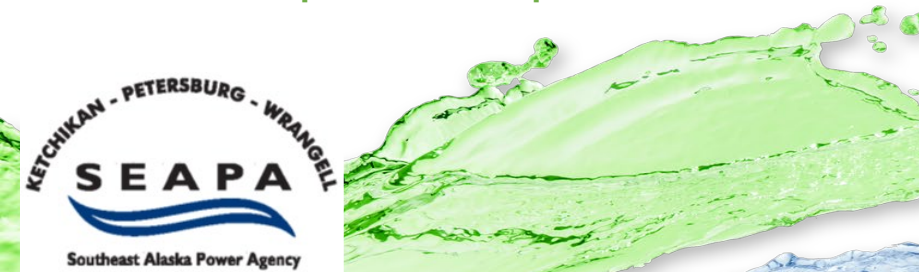
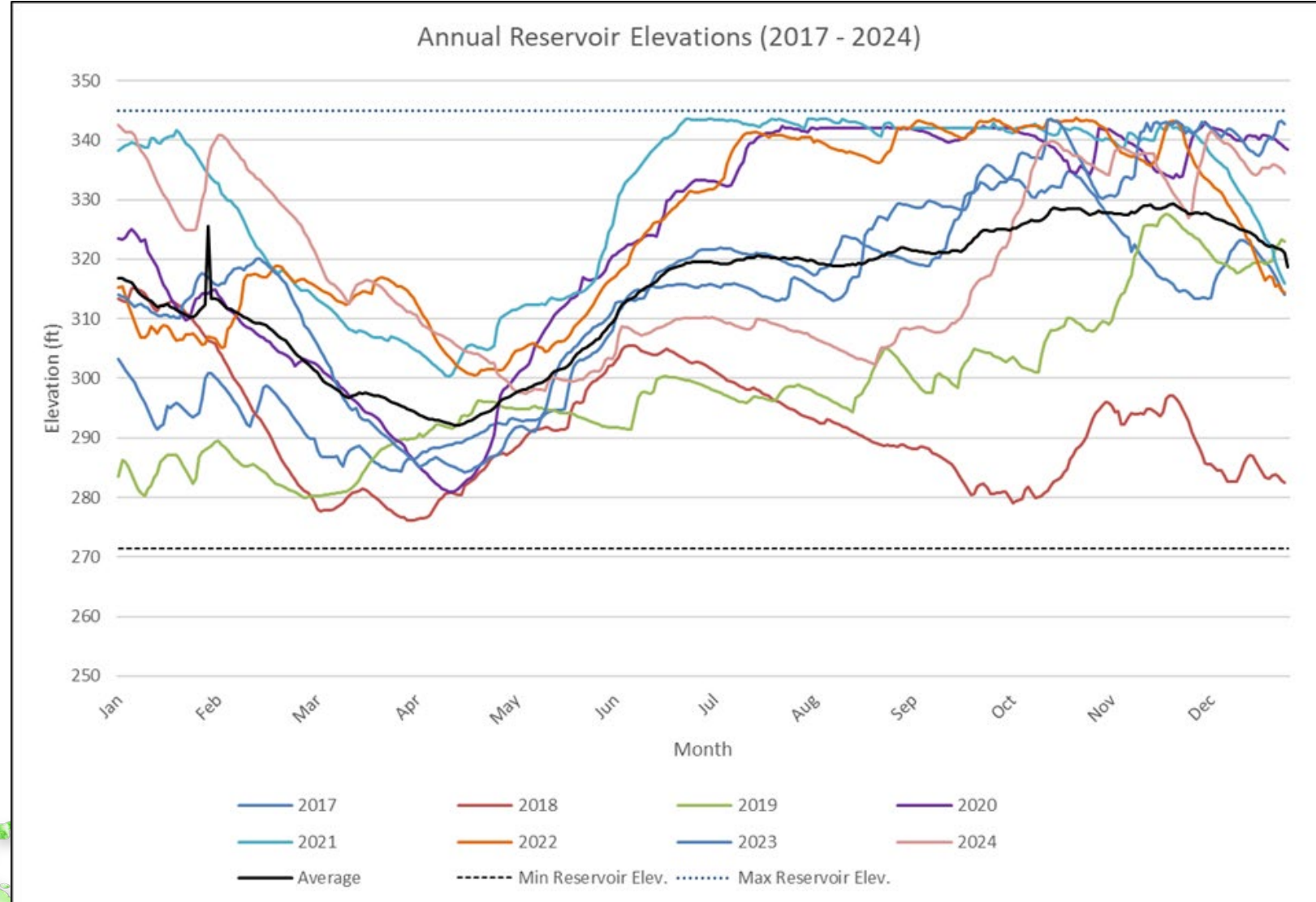


- Switchyard
- Dock
- Warehouse
- Crew quarters
- Maintenance shop
- Public use facilities: picnic shelter, and boat dock



Existing Project

- Normal pool elevation: 271.5 ft to 345 ft
- SEAPA attempts to minimize spill into Falls Creek
- No minimum flow requirement to Falls Creek
- Dam/pool raise in 2016 increased SEAPA's generation capacity
- Water Rights
 - Originally 303,000 acre-ft/yr
 - Additional 97,000 acre-ft/yr requested with pool raise



2016 Dam Raise

- Maximum surface elevation of the operating pool increased from 330 feet to 345 feet
 - Storage capacity before dam raise: 81,704 acre-feet
 - Storage capacity after dam raise: 102,467 acre-feet



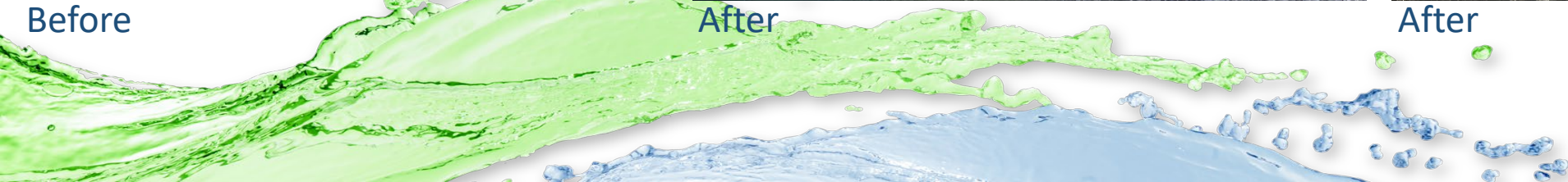
Before



After

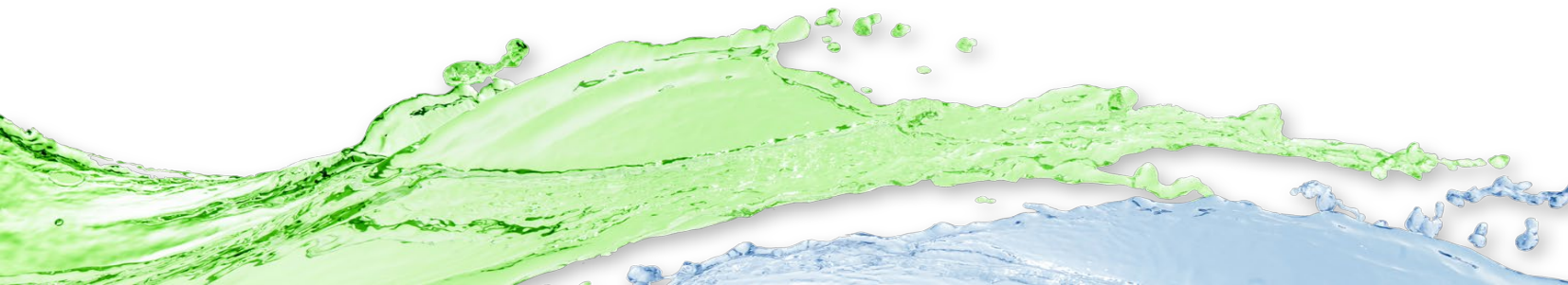


After



2016 Dam Raise

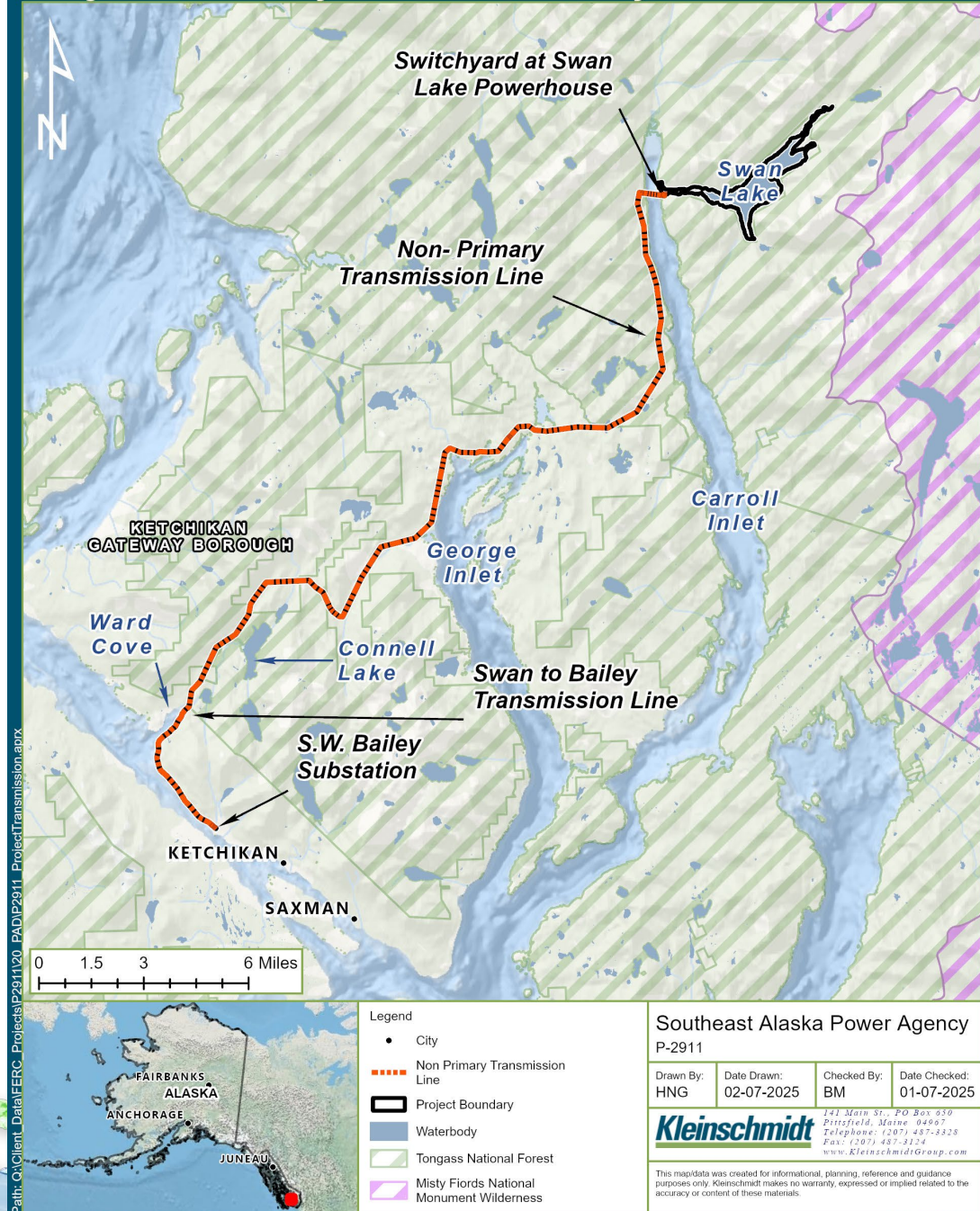
- **Studies conducted to support amendment:**
 - Aquatics and Watershed Resource Report
 - Botany Resource Report
 - Invasive Plant Risk Assessment
 - Biological Evaluation for Plants
 - Soils Resource Report
 - Wetlands Resource Report
 - Wildlife and Subsistence Resource Report



Proposed Action

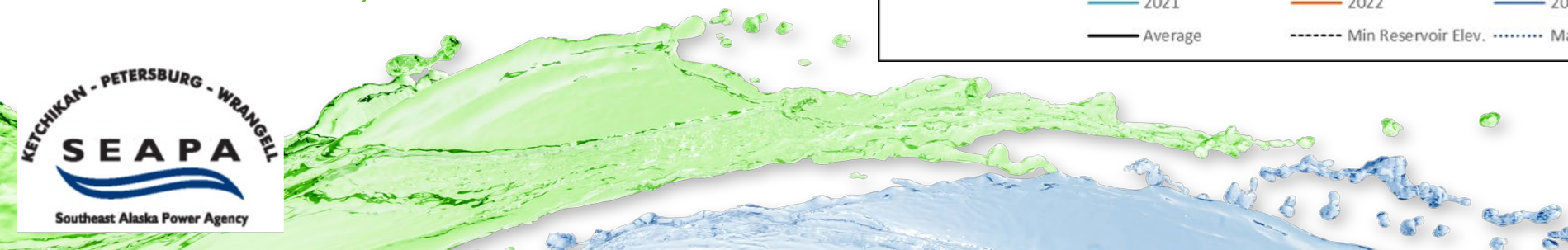
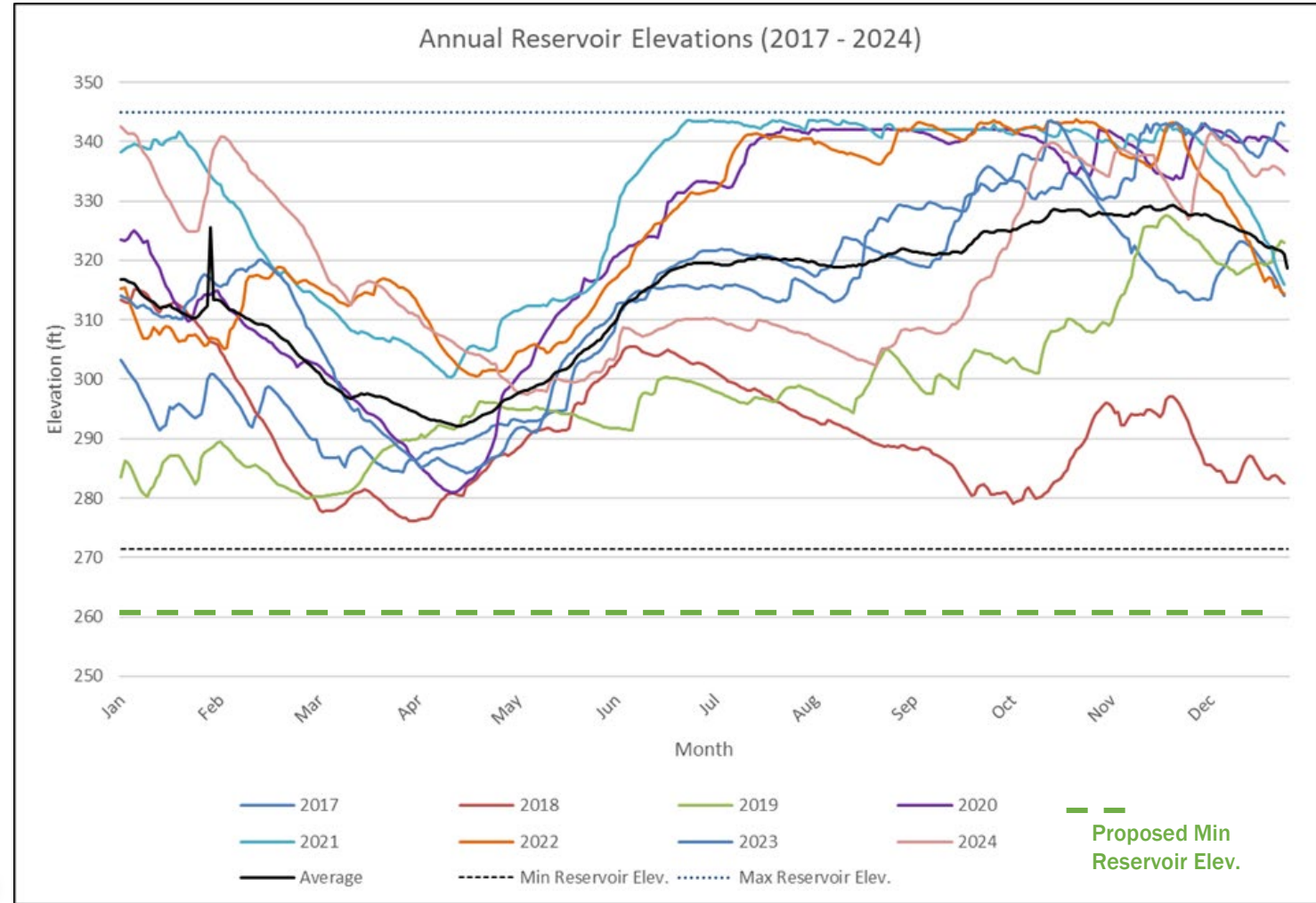
- **Modify FERC Project Boundary**
 - Remove Swan-to-Bailey transmission line from FERC Project Boundary
 - no longer meets criteria of “primary” transmission
- Project ownership in the FERC Project Boundary includes:
 - USFS (Tongass National Forest)
 - State
 - Local government (City, Borough)
 - Alaska Native Lands
 - Private

Project Boundary and Non-Primary Transmission Line



Proposed Action

- Considering modifying the lower draft limit from 271.5 ft to 262 ft
 - Lowest levels would be in spring, prior to snowmelt
 - Would reduce reliance on diesel generation
 - Increase useable storage capacity of Swan Lake
 - Feasibility evaluations are in the planning phase
 - (To be discussed under planned studies)

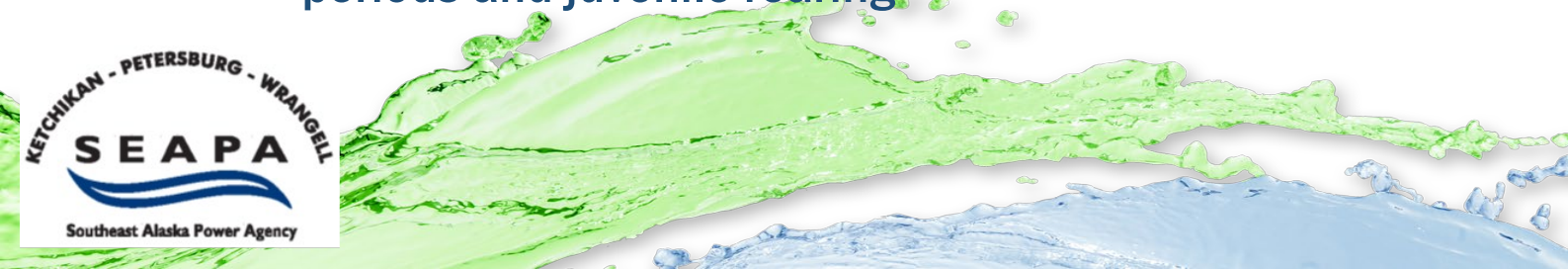




Environmental Resource Areas

Fish and Aquatic Resources – Swan Lake

- Falls Creek Watershed
- Non-glacial system, undeveloped area
- 36.5 sq. mi. drainage area
- Depth: average=300-380 ft; maximum=600 ft
- 14 mi of forested shoreline
- Very steep-sided lake
- Lacks littoral zone except at some tributary mouths
- Supports Kokanee and Dolly Varden
 - Suitable spawning areas primarily located near tributary mouths, or within a few tributaries
 - Lake provides habitat for adults during non-spawning periods and juvenile rearing



Fish and Aquatic Resources

- Kokanee and Dolly Varden present in Swan Lake
 - Kokanee Spawning mid-September through October
 - Dolly Varden Spawning October through November
- Fall 2012 Swan Lake sampling – most fish captured near Lost Creek mouth



Adult mature Kokanee (above) and bright Kokanee (below) from Swan Lake, September 2012

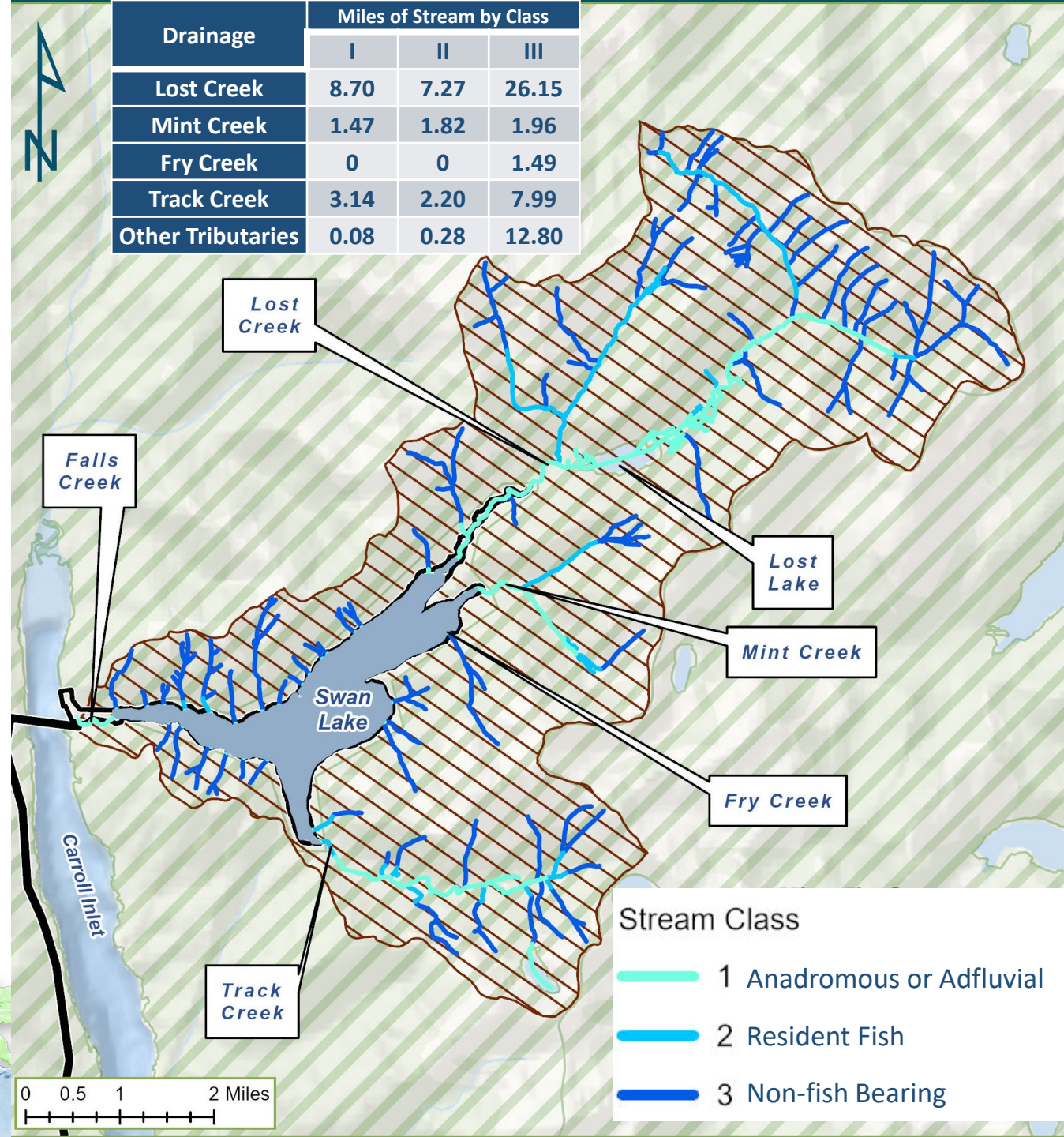


Adult Dolly Varden ranged in size from 238 mm to 655 mm during fall 2012 Swan Lake sampling

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Fish and Aquatic Resources - Tributaries

- 4 major tributaries
- Limited spawning habitat
- USFS Stream Classification
 - I: includes potential anadromous or adfluvial fish habitat; high quality resident; or enhancement opportunities above barriers
 - II: resident fish habitat that does not meet criteria for Class I
 - III: non-fish bearing streams



Fish and Aquatic Resources - Tributaries

- **Lost Creek**

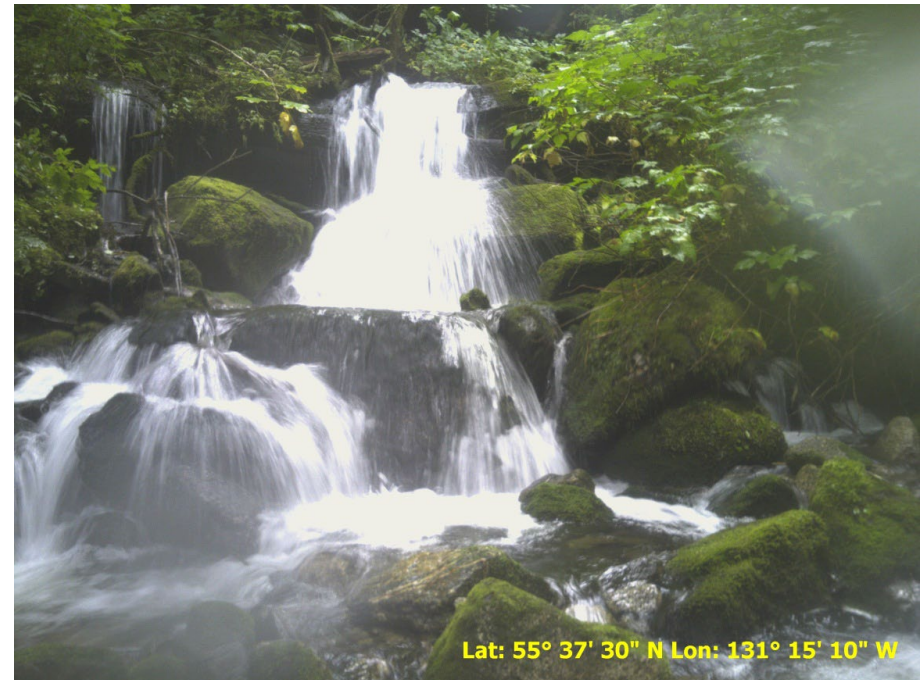
- Low gradient (<1%), good rearing habitat 2.5 mi
- Historic barrier 13-ft-high falls at 319 ft el.
- Now accessible at lake el. >314 ft
- 2012: small Dolly Varden juveniles and Sculpin
- 1990-2008: Swan Lake el. <314 ft
33-43% during Sept-Nov spawning period



Lost Creek at Swan Lake el. 314 ft showing partially exposed historic falls, Dec 4, 2012

- **Fry Creek**

- Best quality spawning habitat at mouth/alluvial fan
- Cascade-dominated habitat
- Fish barrier cascade/falls 200 ft from mouth
- 2012: small Dolly Varden

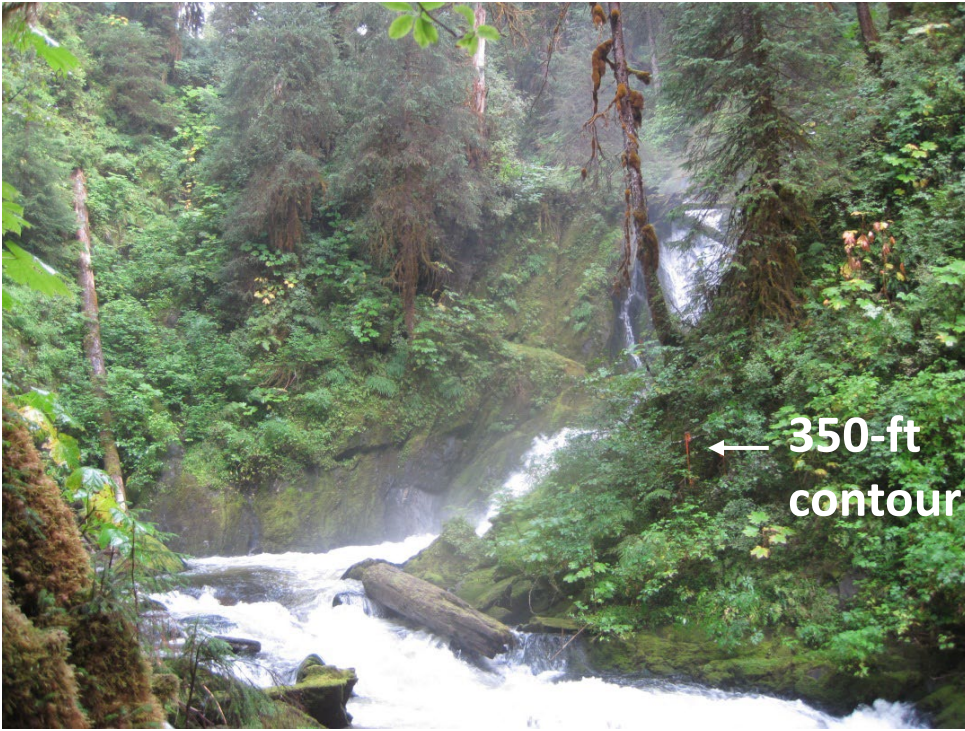


Fry Creek falls above the 350-ft lake el. about ~200 linear feet from Swan Lake, Sept 10, 2012

Fish and Aquatic Resources - Tributaries

- **Mint Creek**

- Cascade-dominated in lower 150 ft until series of impassable falls
- No spawning habitat; limited rearing
- 2012: Sculpin



Mint Creek falls less than 200 feet from Swan Lake at el. 327 feet, September 9, 2012

- **Track Creek**

- 80-ft-high waterfall barrier



Track Creek falls at mouth at Swan Lake el. of 326 feet, September 5, 2012

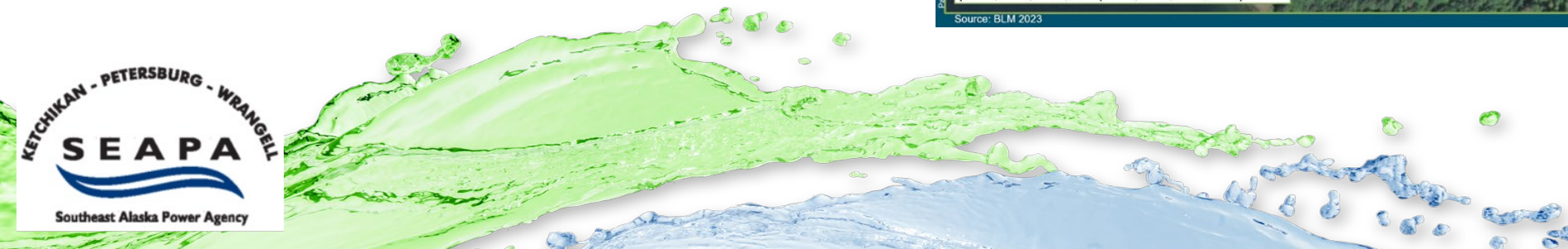
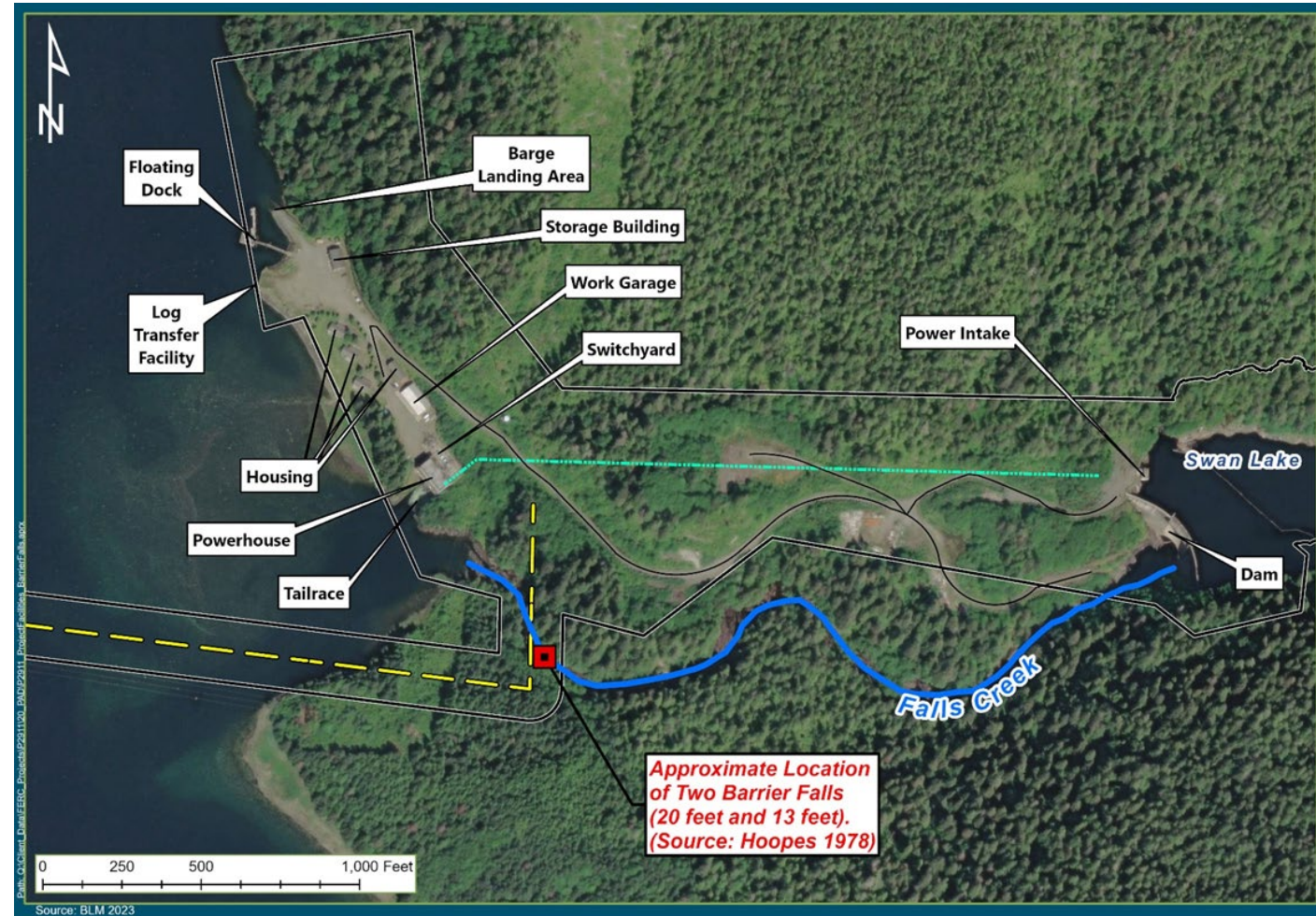
Fish and Aquatic Resources – Essential Fish Habitat

- Falls Creek

- Anadromous Barrier @ 300 ft
 - 20-ft high falls
 - 175 ft upstream 13-ft high falls
- EFH for Pink and Chum Salmon (lower 300 ft)
- Resident fish, Kokanee, Dolly Varden

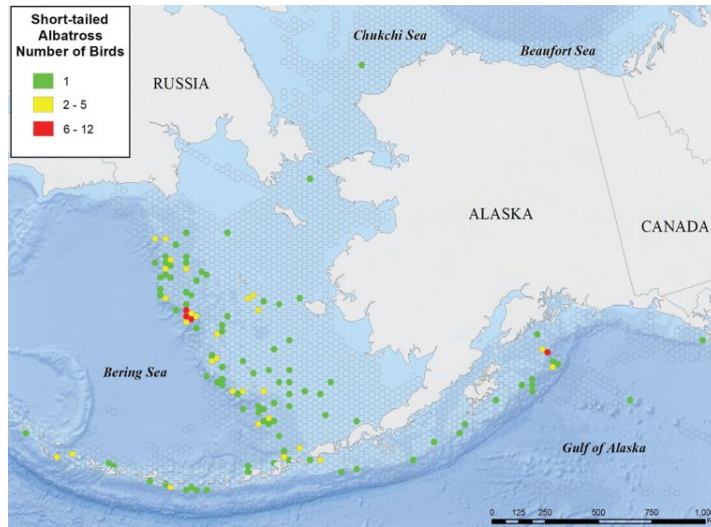
- Carroll Inlet

- Deep 14-mi long, 0.4-2.5-mi wide fjord with numerous boulders, reefs and islets near shore
- 16-ft average daily tidal fluctuations
- EFH for Chinook, Chum, Pink, and Coho salmon

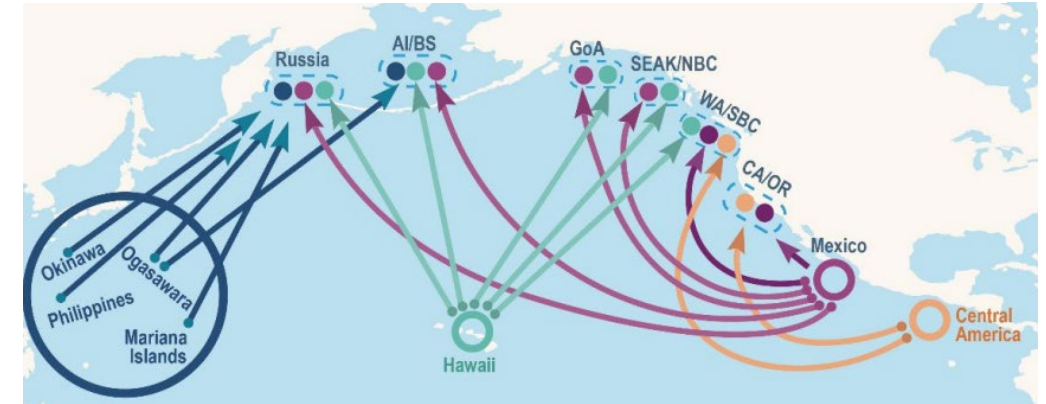


Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species

- **ESA-listed species**
 - Short-tailed Albatross (*Phoebastria albatrus*) – Endangered



- Humpback Whale Mexico DPS (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) - Threatened



Mexico-North Pacific Stock (light purple) feed in Southeast AK in summer. Annual human-caused mortality or serious injury to stock in SE AK is 0.101 whales from: fishing gear entanglement (0.04), marine debris entanglement (0.02), and vessel strikes (0.041).

- **Proposed Species for ESA Listing**
 - Sunflower sea star (*Pycnopodia helianthoides*) - Threatened



Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species

- **USFS Sensitive**

- Queen Charlotte Goshawk (*Accipiter gentiles laingi*)*
- Black Oystercatcher (*Haematopus bachmani*)
- Stellar Sea Lion Eastern DPS (*Eumetopias jubatus*)*

- **Rare Plants**

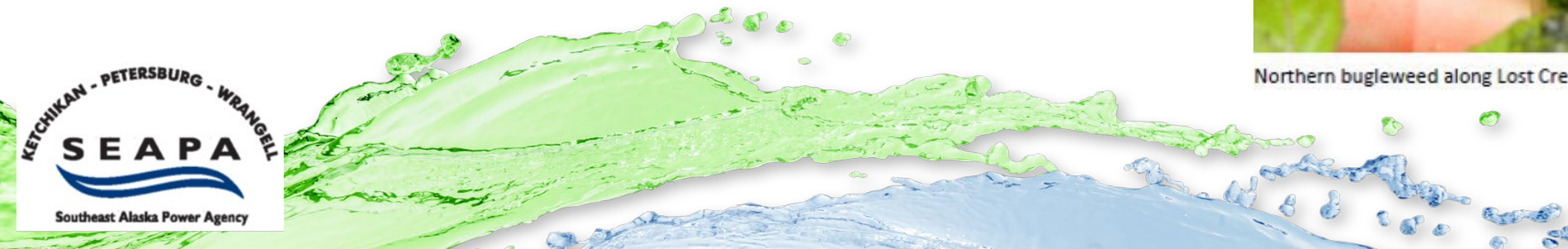
- Bog St. John's Wort
- Northern bugleweed
- Pacific buttercup
- Wallace's spikemoss

- **Marine mammals occur in Carroll Inlet**

* species analyzed in 2014 Biological Evaluation no longer considered for listing or no longer listed under the ESA

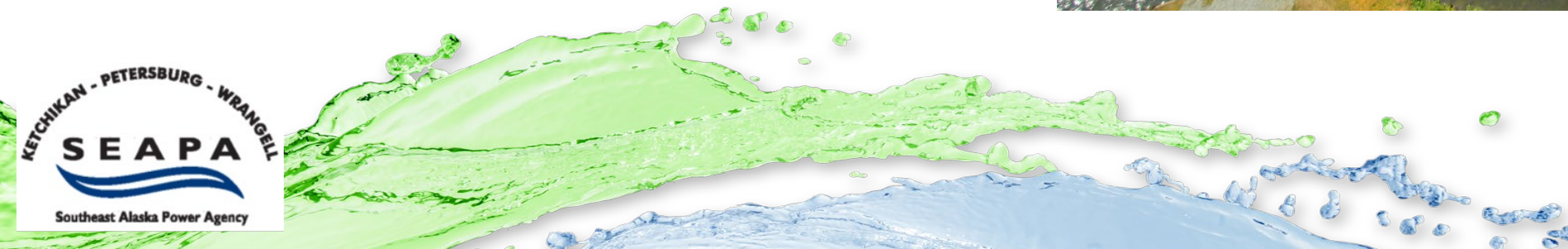


Northern bugleweed along Lost Creek



Recreation Resources

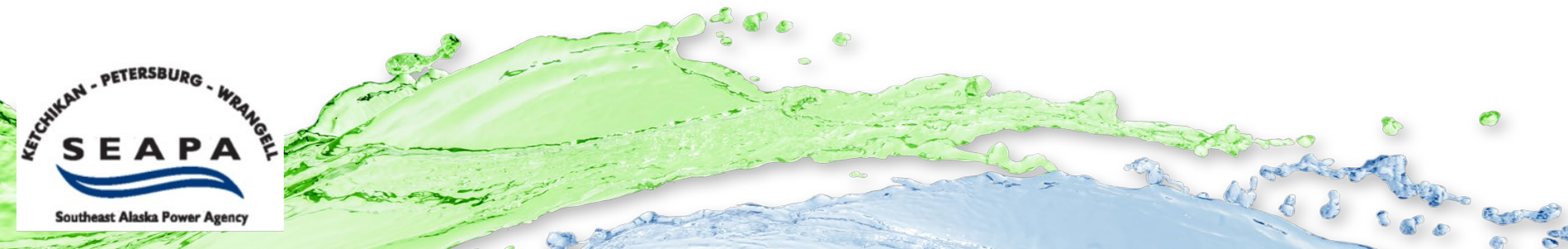
- Tongass National Forest
- Project Boundary is 1.6 miles from Misty Fjords National Monument
- Access limited to boat and air
- Public dock, mooring facility, picnic shelter, bear-proof trash cans
- Hiking, hunting, nature viewing



Cultural Resources



- Most recent 2013 inventory by Greiser and Carlson for the Swan Lake dam raise amendment
- One Alaska Heritage Resources Survey site in non-transmission portion of Project boundary:
 - Swan Lake Cabin – site inundated by Swan Lake
- Numerous sites in vicinity of Swan-to-Bailey transmission line, including:
 - Residential properties
 - Facilities associated with Ward Cove Cannery House
 - Leask Cove
 - Connell Lake Dam pipeline
 - Temsco Airlines Quonset Hut
 - Additional AHRs sites not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places

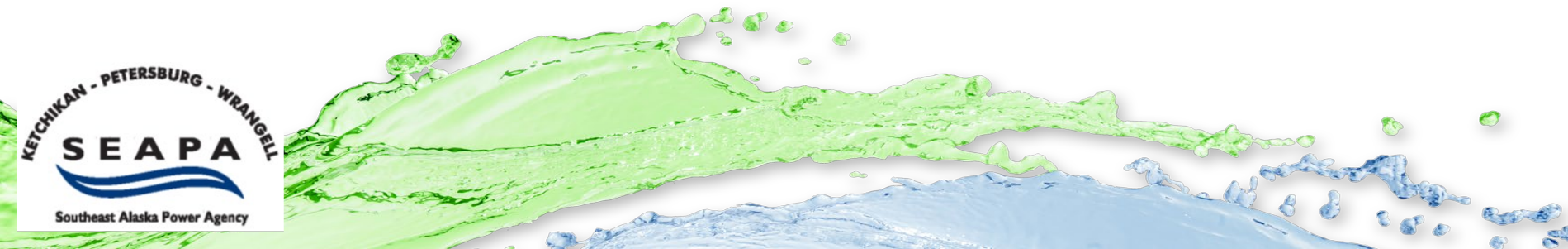




Preliminary Proposed Studies

Preliminary Proposed Study

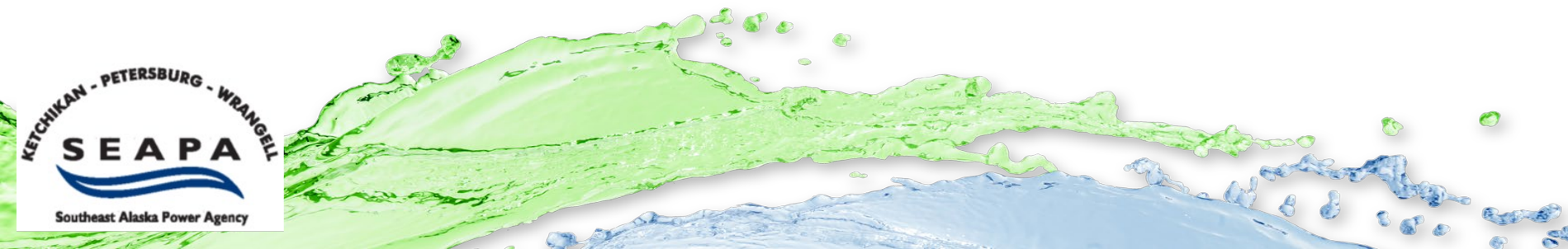
- Reservoir Drawdown Feasibility
 - Determine the operational limits and feasibility of a lower drawdown;
 - Assess the risks of the new operational limits on equipment and structures;
 - Estimate the capacity value and system response values of a lower drawdown limit; and
 - Identify potential effects to:
 - Fish and aquatic resources,
 - Water quality and quantity,
 - Soils and slope stability in the reservoir,
 - The intertidal zone and Falls Creek.
 - Will require FERC approval to temporarily draw down reservoir to collect engineering feasibility data
 - SEAPA will consult with agencies on the drawdown itself





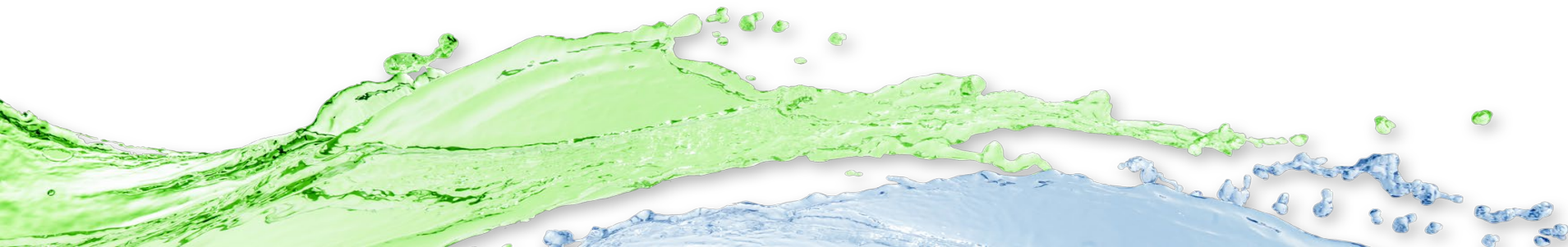
Relicensing Schedule

Relicensing Schedule



Request to use Traditional Licensing Process

- Default FERC Relicensing Process is the Integrated Licensing Process
- Traditional Licensing Process (TLP) provides greater flexibility with fewer rigid timelines for comments and responses throughout process
- SEAPA would like to request to use the TLP, if agencies are in support

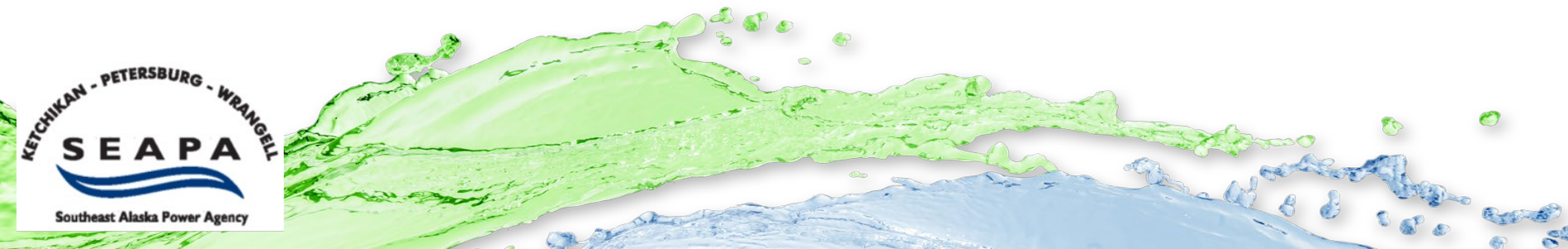




Next Steps

Next Steps

- Request concurrence for use of TLP
- PAD/NOI filing April 2025
- Joint Agency Meeting in August 2025
- Plan for Swan Lake drawdown study – Q2/Q3 2025



Questions/ Discussion





Kleinschmidt

Thank you



From: [Laura Cowan](#)
To: [Mahara, Carol J](#)
Cc: [Carissa Shoemaker](#); [Mark Hilson](#)
Subject: Swan Lake FERC Relicensing
Date: Friday, April 11, 2025 1:14:45 PM

Hi Carol:

Thank you for meeting with the Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA) on March 5 to begin discussing the upcoming FERC relicensing for the Swan Lake Hydroelectric Project. SEAPA is planning on filing the Notice of Intent to relicense the Project and a Pre-Application Document in the coming weeks. As discussed, SEAPA is considering two modifications to the Swan Lake Project: 1) a lower minimum reservoir operating level; and 2) a modification to the FERC Project boundary to remove lands related to the Swan-to-Bailey transmission line.

As we discussed during our meeting, SEAPA would prefer to use FERC's Traditional Licensing Process (TLP), rather than using the default Integrated Licensing Process (ILP), for the Swan Lake relicensing. The TLP, having fewer hard interim deadlines than the ILP, should help reduce the overall administrative burden and cost to agencies and participants, as well as to SEAPA. The flexibility that the TLP affords should also provide better opportunities for collaboration and resolution of resource issues.

As such, SEAPA plans to file a request with FERC to use the TLP and is seeking agency support or input on this request.

We would appreciate an email noting your support for use of the TLP for the Swan Lake Project relicensing, or with any feedback regarding the potential licensing process. Please provide any comments to me via email at Laura.Cowan@KleinschmidtGroup.com by May 5, 2025. If you have any questions regarding the Project or the Project relicensing, please contact me via email, or at 717-983-4056.

Sincerely,
Laura Cowan

Laura Cowan
Senior Regulatory Advisor

Kleinschmidt

717.983.4056 direct office

www.KleinschmidtGroup.com

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From: [Laura Cowan](#)
To: jarrod.sowa@alaska.gov; [Larquier, Ann M \(DFG\)](#)
Cc: [Carissa Shoemaker](#); [Mark Hilson](#)
Subject: Swan Lake FERC Relicensing
Date: Friday, April 11, 2025 1:14:42 PM

Hi Jarrod and Ann Marie:

Thank you for meeting with the Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA) on March 5 to begin discussing the upcoming FERC relicensing for the Swan Lake Hydroelectric Project. SEAPA is planning on filing the Notice of Intent to relicense the Project and a Pre-Application Document in the coming weeks. As discussed, SEAPA is considering two modifications to the Swan Lake Project: 1) a lower minimum reservoir operating level; and 2) a modification to the FERC Project boundary to remove lands related to the Swan-to-Bailey transmission line.

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Sincerely,
Laura Cowan

Laura Cowan
Senior Regulatory Advisor

Kleinschmidt

717.983.4056 direct office

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From: [Laura Cowan](#)
To: clint.gundelfinger@alaska.gov
Cc: [Carissa Shoemaker](#); [Mark Hilson](#)
Subject: Swan Lake FERC Relicensing
Date: Friday, April 11, 2025 1:14:34 PM

Hi Clint:

Thank you for meeting with the Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA) on March 5 to begin discussing the upcoming FERC relicensing for the Swan Lake Hydroelectric Project. SEAPA is planning on filing the Notice of Intent to relicense the Project and a Pre-Application Document in the coming weeks. As discussed, SEAPA is considering two modifications to the Swan Lake Project: 1) a lower minimum reservoir operating level; and 2) a modification to the FERC Project boundary to remove lands related to the Swan-to-Bailey transmission line.

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Sincerely,
Laura Cowan

Laura Cowan
Senior Regulatory Advisor

Kleinschmidt

717.983.4056 direct office

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From: [Laura Cowan](#)
To: [julianne.rosset](#)
Cc: [Mark Hilson](#); [Carissa Shoemaker](#)
Subject: Swan Lake FERC Relicensing
Date: Friday, April 11, 2025 1:14:44 PM

Hi Julianne:

Thank you for meeting with the Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA) on March 5 to begin discussing the upcoming FERC relicensing for the Swan Lake Hydroelectric Project. SEAPA is planning on filing the Notice of Intent to relicense the Project and a Pre-Application Document in the coming weeks. As discussed, SEAPA is considering two modifications to the Swan Lake Project: 1) a lower minimum reservoir operating level; and 2) a modification to the FERC Project boundary to remove lands related to the Swan-to-Bailey transmission line.

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Sincerely,
Laura Cowan

Laura Cowan
Senior Regulatory Advisor

Kleinschmidt

717.983.4056 direct office

www.KleinschmidtGroup.com

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From: [Laura Cowan](#)
To: sarah.meitl@alaska.gov
Cc: [Mark Hilson](#); [Carissa Shoemaker](#)
Subject: Swan Lake FERC Relicensing
Date: Friday, April 11, 2025 1:14:34 PM

Hi Sarah:

Thank you for meeting with the Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA) on March 5 to begin discussing the upcoming FERC relicensing for the Swan Lake Hydroelectric Project. SEAPA is planning on filing the Notice of Intent to relicense the Project and a Pre-Application Document in the coming weeks. As discussed, SEAPA is considering two modifications to the Swan Lake Project: 1) a lower minimum reservoir operating level; and 2) a modification to the FERC Project boundary to remove lands related to the Swan-to-Bailey transmission line.

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Sincerely,
Laura Cowan

Laura Cowan
Senior Regulatory Advisor

Kleinschmidt

717.983.4056 direct office

www.KleinschmidtGroup.com

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From: [Laura Cowan](#)
To: [Loofbourrow, Casey - FS, AK](#)
Cc: [Mark Hilson](#); [Carissa Shoemaker](#)
Subject: RE: Swan Lake (FERC No. 2911) Relicensing Initial Outreach
Date: Friday, April 11, 2025 1:29:38 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

Hi Casey:

As I believe Finlay Anderson from Kleinschmidt has mentioned to you, Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA) is preparing for the upcoming FERC relicensing for the Swan Lake Hydroelectric Project. SEAPA is planning on filing the Notice of Intent to relicense the Project and a Pre-Application Document in the coming weeks. SEAPA is considering two modifications to the Swan Lake Project: 1) a lower minimum reservoir operating level; and 2) a modification to the FERC Project boundary to remove lands related to the Swan-to-Bailey transmission line.

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We would appreciate an email noting your support for use of the TLP for the Swan Lake Project relicensing, or with any feedback regarding the potential licensing process. If possible, please provide any comments to me via email at Laura.Cowan@KleinschmidtGroup.com by May 5, 2025. If you have any questions regarding the Project or the Project relicensing, please contact me via email, or at 717-983-4056. I'd be happy to discuss this request, as well as to provide a general preview of the project and the relicensing, if it would be helpful to you.

Sincerely,
Laura Cowan

From: Finlay Anderson <finlay.anderson@kleinschmidtgroup.com>
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2025 5:33 PM
To: Dinsmore, Melissa - FS, AK <melissa.dinsmore@usda.gov>

Cc: Loofbourrow, Casey - FS, AK <Casey.Loofbourrow@usda.gov>; Betsy McGregor <Betsy.McGregor@KleinschmidtGroup.com>; Mark Hilson <mhilson@seapahydro.org>; Laura Cowan <Laura.Cowan@KleinschmidtGroup.com>; Negri, Steve <steve.negri@tetrattech.com>
Subject: Re: Swan Lake (FERC No. 2911) Relicensing Initial Outreach

Thanks for the introduction and for all your help over the years with our various energy projects-- Welcome Casey!

I would be happy to arrange a call and introduce you to SEAPA and the Kleinschmidt's project team that is assisting with relicensing – let me know if that is of interest. We had a good meeting last week with agencies to discuss the process and what we know about it so far.

Best,

Finlay Anderson

Principal Consultant

Kleinschmidt

O: 971.345.0517 C: 503.329.3586

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From: Dinsmore, Melissa - FS, AK <melissa.dinsmore@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 7, 2025 7:04 PM
To: Finlay Anderson <finlay.anderson@kleinschmidtgroup.com>
Cc: Loofbourrow, Casey - FS, AK <Casey.Loofbourrow@usda.gov>
Subject: Fw: Swan Lake (FERC No. 2911) Relicensing Initial Outreach

Good afternoon, Finlay. It was nice to hear from you. My apologies for being late to the game. There has been a change in our program. Let me e-troduce you to Casey, he recently started in the energy program coordinator role on the Tongass National Forest. His contact information is



Casey Loofbourrow
Energy Program
Coordinator
Forest Service
Tongass National Forest
p: 907-789-6283

f: 907-586-8808
casey.loofbourrow@usda.gov
8510 Mendenhall Loop Road
Juneau, AK 99801

We are transitioning so to provide the best service we can over the next few months please include us both. Thank you.

[illegible]

From: Finlay Anderson <finlay.anderson@kleinschmidtgroup.com>
Sent: Monday, March 3, 2025 11:47 AM
To: Dinsmore, Melissa - FS, AK <melissa.dinsmore@usda.gov>
Cc: Laura Cowan <Laura.Cowan@KleinschmidtGroup.com>
Subject: [External Email]Fw: Swan Lake (FERC No. 2911) Relicensing Initial Outreach

You don't often get email from finlay.anderson@kleinschmidtgroup.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[External Email]

If this message comes from an **unexpected sender** or references a **vague/unexpected topic**;
Use caution before clicking links or opening attachments.
Please send any concerns or suspicious messages to: Spam.Abuse@usda.gov

Hi Melissa — as I mentioned in a voicemail that I just left, SEAPA is presenting information on the Swan Lake Relicensing process this week (Wednesday at 2:00 AST)-see below for an initial email. You may have it on your calendar, but we noticed that you had not accepted.

If this time does not work for you, could we find a time to update your team on the project?

One of the elements of relicensing will be of interest to the Forest Service as it deals the transmission line relative to the FERC boundary.

Let me know if you have any questions

Best,

Finlay Anderson

Principal Consultant

Kleinschmidt

O: 971.345.0517 C: 503.329.3586

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From: Laura Cowan <Laura.Cowan@KleinschmidtGroup.com>
Sent: Monday, March 3, 2025 12:29 PM
To: Finlay Anderson <finlay.anderson@kleinschmidtgroup.com>
Subject: FW: Swan Lake (FERC No. 2911) Relicensing Initial Outreach

From: Carissa Shoemaker <Carissa.Shoemaker@KleinschmidtGroup.com>
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2025 1:30 PM
To: Melissa.dinsmore@usda.gov
Cc: Laura Cowan <Laura.Cowan@KleinschmidtGroup.com>; Mark Hilson <mhilson@seapahydro.org>
Subject: Swan Lake (FERC No. 2911) Relicensing Initial Outreach

Dear Melissa,

Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA) owns and operates the Swan Lake Hydroelectric Project (Project), located on Falls Creek and Swan Lake on Revillagigedo Island in the Tongass National Forest approximately 22 miles northeast of Ketchikan. The project operates under a license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Project No. 2911 (P-2911), which will expire June 30, 2030.

SEAPA is in the early stages of planning for the Project relicensing and hired Kleinschmidt to head up the relicensing efforts. While the 2030 License expiration date may seem like a long way off, FERC requires a Notice of Intent to relicense the Project and a Pre-Application Document in 2025. Therefore, we are beginning early outreach efforts. On behalf of SEAPA, I would like to hold an introductory online meeting/call with you and other agency representatives in the late February/early March timeframe.

The purpose of meeting would be to 1) introduce the Swan Lake project, 2) describe the overall relicensing process and schedule, and 3) discuss potential key issues related to the Project's relicensing.

Please let me know if you or any other representatives within your agency would like to participate in the Project introductory call. If so, please let me know your availability in the weeks of February 24 and March 3.

Once we have determined a date, we will send out a meeting invite including a more detailed agenda, as well as some basic information about the Project.

Thank you!

Carissa Shoemaker

Licensing Coordinator

Kleinschmidt

C: 907-575-0294

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From: [Julianne Rosset - NOAA Federal](#)
To: [Laura Cowan](#)
Cc: [Mark Hilson](#); [Carissa Shoemaker](#)
Subject: Re: Swan Lake FERC Relicensing
Date: Tuesday, April 22, 2025 3:11:07 PM

Hi Laura,

Thanks so much for your email.

At this time, NMFS does not object to SEAPA using the Traditional Licensing Process (TLP) for the upcoming Swan Lake (FERC No. 2911) relicensing proceeding.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need anything additional.

Kind regards,
Julianne

Julianne Rosset

Hydropower Program Coordinator, Alaska Region

NOAA Fisheries | U.S. Department of Commerce

Office: 907-271-3654 | [AK Hydropower Projects](#)



On Fri, Apr 11, 2025 at 12:16 PM Laura Cowan <Laura.Cowan@kleinschmidtgroup.com> wrote:

Hi Julianne:

Thank you for meeting with the Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA) on March 5 to begin discussing the upcoming FERC relicensing for the Swan Lake Hydroelectric Project. SEAPA is planning on filing the Notice of Intent to relicense the Project and a Pre-Application Document in the coming weeks. As discussed, SEAPA is considering two modifications to the Swan Lake Project: 1) a lower minimum reservoir operating level; and 2) a modification to the FERC Project boundary to remove lands related to the Swan-to-Bailey transmission line.

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Sincerely,

Laura Cowan

Laura Cowan

Senior Regulatory Advisor

Kleinschmidt

717.983.4056 direct office

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From: [Gundelfinger, Clint E \(DNR\)](#)
To: [Laura Cowan](#)
Subject: Swan Lake FERC Relicensing TLP Process
Date: Monday, May 5, 2025 2:44:20 PM

You don't often get email from clint.gundelfinger@alaska.gov. [Learn why this is important](#)

Laura,

This email serves as the ADNR Water Resources agreement with, and full support of, SEAPA's preference to utilize the Traditional Licensing Process (TLP) for the Swan Lake Hydroelectric Project (P-2911) FERC relicensing efforts.

Best regards,

Clint Gundelfinger

Alaska Department of Natural Resources

Division of Mining, Land, & Water

Southeastern Region Water Resources- Lead

Statewide Hydropower Water Resources- Lead

PO Box 111020 Juneau, AK 99811-1020

(907) 465-6363

clint.gundelfinger@alaska.gov