Eklutna Fish & Wildlife Program
Chugach BOD Meeting

Special Board of Directors' Meeting
February 12, 2024
Public Comments

• Public Meetings
  • About 40-50 people attended each afternoon meeting
  • About 15-20 people attended each evening meeting

• Summary of public comments (so far)
  • Anti dam removal
    • ~90 individual comments
  • Pro dam removal
    • ~90 individual comments
    • ~380 form letters
      • ~80 are from CEA/MEA service area
      • ~300 are from out of service area (275 are from out of state)
The Native Village of Eklutna has proposed to remove the dam/project in 10 years after replacing it with another renewable energy source

• Without the dam or hydro project, flows in the Eklutna River would be...
  • ~1200 cfs every July/August, ~2000 cfs every few years, ~4000 cfs every 10 years
• AWWU’s pipeline is buried for 6 miles under/adjacent to the Eklutna riverbed
  • Significant scour impacts to the water supply pipeline would be likely
  • Hydro project owners legally cannot negatively impact the public water supply
• Significant impacts to the downstream railroad and highway bridges would also be likely
• The Project Owners are conducting a more detailed assessment of dam removal which will be included in the Proposed Final Program
Eklutna River Flows in 2011-2020 if there had been no Dam/Hydro Project and no AWWU Withdrawals

This graph uses the calculated inflows from 2011-2020 to fill the reservoir, with the releases based on a stage discharge relationship for the constriction at the outflow of the lake (with the dam removed). Note that AWWU is not taking withdrawals in this analysis.

Note – Winter flows in certain dry years are less than 30 cfs. This means that AWWU may need to restrict withdrawals in some winters to prevent the river running dry.
Note – Historical AWWU Withdrawals (30 – 40 cfs) cause the river to run dry in dry years
Average Eklutna River Flows with no Dam/Hydro Project and with Historical AWWU Withdrawals

This graph looks at the average flow in the Eklutna River without the dam, including AWWU pulling their historical average flow rate.

Note – With AWWU pulling their historical average flow rate, the river would drop below 20 cfs in an average winter.
Average Eklutna River Flows with no Dam/Hydro Project but with Maximum AWWU Withdrawals (based on current water right)

This graph looks at the average flow in the Eklutna River without the dam, including AWWU pulling their maximum water right.

Note – With AWWU pulling their maximum water right of 41 MGD (63.4 cfs). The river would run dry most winters.
Eklutna Lake Levels in 2011-2020 if there had been no Dam/Hydro Project but there had been Historical AWWU Withdrawals

Due to the constriction at the outlet where the old dam was, including the bend where the new dam currently sits, the lake will fluctuate seasonally, raising about 5-ft each year, 7+ feet during larger flood events.
Average Eklutna Lake Level with no Dam/Hydro Project but with Historical AWWU Withdrawals
Governor must give equal consideration to:

1. Purposes of efficient and economical power production
2. Energy conservation
3. Protection, mitigation of damage to, and enhancement of fish and wildlife
4. Protection of recreation opportunities
5. Municipal water supplies
6. Preservation of other aspects of environmental quality
7. Other beneficial public uses
8. Requirements of State law