Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project
(FERC No. 14241)

Regional Economic Evaluation Study
Study Plan Section 15.5

Initial Study Report
Part C: Executive Summary and Section 7

Prepared for
Alaska Energy Authority

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June 2014
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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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7. COMPLETING THE STUDY

7.1. Proposed Methodologies and Modifications

To complete this study, AEA will implement the methods in the Study Plan (RSP Section 15.5.4), with no modifications. These activities include development of the REMI model to analyze changes in regional economic conditions resulting from the power-related effects of the Project, together with conducting associated executive interviews with business interests in the Railbelt region.

7.1.1. Decision Points from Study Plan

There were no decision points in the FERC-approved Study Plan to be evaluated for this study following the completion of 2013 work.

7.1.2. Modifications to Study Plan

No modifications to the Study Plan are needed to complete the study and meet Study Plan objectives.

7.2. Schedule

In general, the schedule for completing the FERC-approved Study Plan is dependent upon several factors, including Project funding levels authorized by the Alaska State Legislature, availability of required data inputs from one individual study to another, unexpected weather delays, the short duration of the summer field season in Alaska, and other events outside the reasonable control of AEA. For these reasons, the Study Plan implementation schedule is subject to change, although at this time AEA expects to complete the FERC-approved Study Plan through the filing of the Updated Study Report (USR) by February 1, 2016, in accordance with the ILP schedule issued by FERC on January 28, 2014.

With regard to this specific study, AEA is to further develop the REMI model in 2014. Additional key informant interviews will be conducted in 2014 to support the assumptions and further development of the model. Work on production cost modeling, part of the REMI work will also be undertaken in 2014. AEA plans to complete all remaining data collection and modeling during the 2015 study season, which will be reported in the USR.

7.3. Conclusion

Much of the information collected for the REMI model used in this study will also be required for the Social Conditions and Public Goods and Services Study (ISR Study 15.6) and data collection efforts will be coordinated between the two studies. In addition, cost estimates, construction and operations employment, cost of power, and a number of other items will be required from the engineering and other feasibility studies that are underway as inputs to the REMI model.