Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project
(FERC No. 14241)

River Recreation Flow and Access Study
Study Plan Section 12.7

Part D: Supplemental Information to June 2014 Initial Study Report

Prepared for
Alaska Energy Authority

Prepared by
AECOM & ERM

November 2015
TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Introduction ........................................................................................................................................ 1

2. Background ........................................................................................................................................ 1
   2.1. Purpose of Study .......................................................................................................................... 1
   2.2. Study Components ....................................................................................................................... 2

3. Status, Highlighted Results, and Achievements ............................................................................. 2

4. Summary of Study 12.7 Documents ............................................................................................... 2

5. New Study Documentation Supplementing the ISR ...................................................................... 3

6. Variances .......................................................................................................................................... 3
   6.1. 2013 Study Season ....................................................................................................................... 3
   6.2. 2014 Study Season ....................................................................................................................... 4

7. Study Plan Modifications .................................................................................................................. 4
   7.1. Modifications Identified in ISR .................................................................................................... 4
   7.2. Modifications Identified since the June 2014 ISR .................................................................... 4

8. Steps toComplete the Study ............................................................................................................. 4
1. **INTRODUCTION**

Section 1 (Part A) of the June 2014 ISR for this River Recreation Flow and Access Study (Study Plan 12.7) details the development of this study from the Revised Study Plan (RSP) in 2012, through the end of the 2013 study season. Section 7 of the ISR (Part C), filed in June 2014, sets forth AEA’s plan and schedule, at that time, for completing this study and meeting the objectives of the RSP.

As detailed in Section 2.2 of the ISR Part D Overview, various circumstances have required AEA to extend the original timeframe for completing the Commission-approved Study Plan. However, AEA has made meaningful progress with Study 12.7 since the filing of the ISR in June 2014. As detailed below, AEA’s activities for Study 12.7 have consisted of the following:

- The study team conducted the river recreation internet survey through the 2014 field season.
- On October 23, 2014 AEA held an ISR meeting for the River Recreation Flow and Access Study.

The primary purpose of this Part D Supplemental Information to the ISR is to report on the implementation of the Study Plan from the filing of the ISR in June 2014, through the filing of this ISR Part D. In light of this additional implementation, this Part D also identifies AEA’s plans for completing Study 12.7 in a manner that meets the objectives of the Commission-approved Study Plan.

2. **BACKGROUND**

2.1. **Purpose of Study**

The goal of the study is to contribute data to the Recreation Resource Study (Study 12.5) concerning the relationship between river flows and river recreation opportunities and uses.

The study objectives are established in RSP Section 12.7.1:

- Document river recreation use and experience for the respective river recreation and transportation opportunities on three mainstem Susitna river reaches.
- Describe potential effects of altered river flows on existing and potential boating activity and other river recreational uses of the Susitna River.
- Understand river ice preferences for the respective river ice dependent winter recreation and transportation on the Susitna River.
- Describe new boating or other flow-dependent recreational opportunities that may be created by Project construction and operation.
2.2. Study Components

This study consists of the following components:

- River recreation surveys.
- Executive interviews for river recreation and ice-dependent winter recreation.
- Focus group discussions.

3. STATUS, HIGHLIGHTED RESULTS, AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The following tasks were completed in 2013 and reported in Part A of the ISR for Study 12.7:

- Developed and implemented river recreation surveys.
- Developed and implemented river ice-dependent winter recreation surveys.

The study team has completed the following activities for Study 12.7 since the June 2014 filing of the ISR:

- Conducted the river recreation internet survey through the 2014 field season.
- On October 23, 2014 AEA held an ISR meeting for the River Recreation Flow and Access Study.

4. SUMMARY OF STUDY 12.7 DOCUMENTS

Since filing of the RSP in 2012, AEA and FERC have prepared several documents pertaining to this study. To aid review by FERC staff and licensing participants, each of these documents is listed below. Each of these documents is accessible on AEA’s Project licensing website (http://www.susitna-watanahydro.org/type/documents/) by clicking on the entry in the “Link” column in the table. In addition, these documents are available on FERC’s eLibrary system (http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/elibrary.asp), in Docket No. P-14241.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Link</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12.7. River Recreation Flow and Access Study (Revised Study Plan)</td>
<td>12/14/2012</td>
<td>This document presents the plan for this study, including goals, objectives, the study area, and proposed study methods for the river recreation flow and access study.</td>
<td>RSP for Study 12.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FERC Study Plan Determination for Study 12.7</td>
<td>2/1/2013</td>
<td>This document presents FERC approval of Study 12.7, which approved AEA’s Revised Study Plan with recommended adjustments.</td>
<td>FERC SPD for Study 12.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. **NEW STUDY DOCUMENTATION SUPPLEMENTING THE ISR**

The following table identifies and describes additional reports and other documents that update, refine, or otherwise supplement certain sections of the ISR pertaining to this Study 12.7, during AEA’s continued implementation of the Study Plan since the ISR was filed in June 2014.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ISR Reference</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Part A, Section 4</td>
<td>This Section is updated and supplemented by the Study Implementation Report Section 4, describing 2013-2014 Study Plan implementation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part A, Section 5</td>
<td>This Section is updated and supplemented by the Study Implementation Report Section 5, describing the results of 2013-2014 Study Plan implementation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. **VARIANCES**

6.1. **2013 Study Season**

The following variance was reported in the June 2014 ISR:

- AEA did not convene the focus group discussions in 2013 due to scheduling challenges relative to the winter season.
6.2. 2014 Study Season

The following variance occurred following the filing of the June 2014 ISR:

- AEA did not convene the focus group discussions in 2014 so this component remains to be completed.

7. STUDY PLAN MODIFICATIONS

7.1. Modifications Identified in ISR

As detailed in Section 7 of the ISR (Part C), AEA plans no modifications of the methods for this study.

7.2. Modifications Identified since the June 2014 ISR

As detailed in the Study Implementation Report, AEA plans no modifications of the methods for this study.

8. STEPS TO COMPLETE THE STUDY

In light of the variances described above, the steps necessary for AEA complete this study are summarized below. As necessary and appropriate, these steps have been updated from those appearing in Section 7 of the ISR (Part C):

- Conduct focus group discussions for: (1) whitewater boating, and (2) winter ice and snow travel in the river corridor for motorized and non-motorized users. Once completed, information obtained from the focus discussions will be summarized for flow preferences for whitewater boating and ice conditions needed for motorized and non-motorized travel.