

**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



**SUSITNA-WATANA HYDRO**

*Clean, reliable energy for the next 100 years.*

Prepared by

AECOM & ERM

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## 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.

Title	Date	Description	Link
12.7. River Recreation Flow and Access Study (Revised Study Plan)	12/14/2012	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.	<a href="#">RSP for Study 12.7</a>
FERC Study Plan Determination for Study 12.7	2/1/2013	This document presents FERC approval of Study 12.7, which approved AEA's Revised Study Plan with recommended adjustments.	<a href="#">FERC SPD for Study 12.7</a>

Title	Date	Description	Link
Draft Initial Study Report for Study 12.7	2/3/2014	This draft of the ISR summarized the study methods and variances during the 2013 study season, and presented preliminary data collected for Study 12.7. This draft ISR was later republished as Part A of the final ISR.	<a href="#">Draft ISR for Study 12.7</a>
Initial Study Report for Study 12.7	6/3/2014	This document is the Initial Study Report (Parts A, B, and C) for Study 12.7. Part A republishes the Draft ISR. Part B identifies supplemental information and errata in Part A. Part C presents study modifications and plans for completing the study.	<a href="#">ISR Part A for Study 12.7</a> <a href="#">ISR Part B for Study 12.7</a> <a href="#">ISR Part C for Study 12.7</a>
Initial Study Report Meetings, October 23, 2014 (Parts A and B)	11/15/2014	Transcripts and AEA's agenda and PowerPoint presentations for the ISR meeting on the Project recreation studies.	<a href="#">Transcripts from ISR Meeting</a> <a href="#">Materials from ISR Meeting</a>
River Recreation Flow and Access Study (12.7) – Study Implementation Report	11/4/2015	Study Implementation Report: a summary of survey results in 2013-2014.	<a href="#">2014 SIR for Study 12.7</a>

## 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.

ISR Reference	Description
Part A, Section 4	This Section is updated and supplemented by the Study Implementation Report Section 4, describing 2013-2014 Study Plan implementation.
Part A, Section 5	This Section is updated and supplemented by the Study Implementation Report Section 5, describing the results of 2013-2014 Study Plan implementation.

## 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.