

From: [sara thomas](#)
To: [Sam Owen](#)
Subject: Eklutna Hydro project comment
Date: Friday, January 19, 2024 4:24:56 PM

Good afternoon,

I would like to submit a comment on the Eklutna dam restoration project draft proposal. As a Chugach Electric & AWWU user and resident of Anchorage, I appreciated the presentation at Arctic Rec Center the other day. I was struck by the brief reasoning given for why the “project owners” did not support the Eklutna tribe’s stated directive to eventually restore the river to its original water flow. All the financial considerations aside, the right thing to do for equity and for wise practices for living on Earth is to listen to the Indigenous people whose lands have been sacrificed for our (often wasteful) use of power and water.

One way the loss of this power could be mitigated is to lead a real city-wide effort to eliminate wasting electricity, at the very least. That could easily bring down the need for that 3% of electricity that the hydro plant currently provides our municipality.

One other thing I’d like to point out is that in the cultural resources inventory, instead of saying there were no pre-contact cultural resources found in the area, which upon questioning is not entirely true, it should be simply stated that there were findings of cultural significance in the area but that they were kept confidential due to cultural sensitivity. It is worth acknowledging the truth as it is.

Respectfully,
Sara Thomas

Sent from my iPhone