

**From:** [Tisa Becker](#)  
**To:** [Sam Owen](#)  
**Cc:** [mc@salmonstate.org](mailto:mc@salmonstate.org)  
**Subject:** Re: Free the Eklutna River  
**Date:** Monday, January 29, 2024 4:17:28 PM

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I hope the comments are headed. As I work towards my NEPA certification, the importance of indigenous rights and representation is put front and center in healthy natural resource conflict resolution.

I am an Alaskan resident and familiar with the people of Eklutna and Kinik, I hope to hear more concerning their work with salmon restoration. I also ask that you research Washington damming, particularly the damming referenced (Lee, 1994) in *Compass and Gyroscope*, a book referencing the devastation of damming and salmon runs. It is a common case study shared by University of Alaska professors.

In terms of sustainability, I question why Alaskans do not have more geothermal and wind energy options.

Best Regards,  
Tisa Becker B.E.D., M.E.D., M.P.A.  
Commercial Boat Owner, Alaska Seine, Halibut/Black IFQ, Shrimp, and Crabber

On Mon, Jan 29, 2024 at 4:15 PM Sam Owen <[info@eklutnahydro.com](mailto:info@eklutnahydro.com)> wrote:

Hello,

Thank you for your comments. They have been added to the record and will be taken into consideration by the Project Owners.

Regards,

Samantha Owen  
Senior Regulatory Consultant  
[info@eklutnahydro.com](mailto:info@eklutnahydro.com)

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**From:** [tisabecker@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:tisabecker@everyactioncustom.com) <[tisabecker@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:tisabecker@everyactioncustom.com)> on behalf of Tisa Becker <[tisabecker@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:tisabecker@everyactioncustom.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, January 29, 2024 1:06 PM

**To:** Sam Owen <[info@eklutnahydro.com](mailto:info@eklutnahydro.com)>

**Subject:** Free the Eklutna River

Dear Operators of the Eklutna Hydroelectric Project,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Fish and Wildlife Plan proposed for the Eklutna River. Thriving salmon runs are essential to the majority of Alaskans — whether as a source of income, a way to practice culture or a way of filling the freezer. Unfortunately, the Eklutna River has been disrupted for nearly 70 years, causing salmon to significantly struggle, impacting the Peoples of Eklutna and Southcentral residents. The proposed plan, unfortunately, omits a complete mile between the lake and the portal valve which would continue to prohibit salmon from returning to the lake and upper tributaries to spawn. The plan would also fail to return the river to its historic flow levels, further impacting habitat and wildlife.

I strongly urge you to heed the recommendations of the Native Village of Eklutna to remove the dam and fully restore the Eklutna River. Not only would removing the dam restore salmon to the river, it would avoid financially burdening utility ratepayers and MOA taxpayers with a short-term, insufficient plan. Instead, the dam removal costs could be covered by two nonprofit organizations who have agreed to pay for it.

You have the opportunity to be leaders in learning from historic mistakes of damming rivers, in restoring a wild salmon run, and in righting a historic wrong on the Eklutna River.

Sincerely,  
Tisa Becker  
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[tisabecker@gmail.com](mailto:tisabecker@gmail.com)