

From: [Emily Cohen](#)
To: [Sam Owen](#)
Subject: New Message From Eklutna Hydro - CONTACT US
Date: Wednesday, January 31, 2024 4:26:22 PM

Hello,

I am in strong favor of dam removal, once other renewable energy sources are in place. The AWWU Portal option is insufficient; it would not allow sockeye salmon to spawn in Eklutna Lake, it will leave a mile of the river dry, and there are large amounts of habitat in the waters above the dam that will not be restored. After speaking with some of the experts you brought to the public comment meetings, they told me that they believe this is a good "first step" toward restoring adequate habitat and salmon populations. I am not interested in a "first step," as the time to act to restore Alaska's salmon counts and natural areas is now.

Hearing Chief Leggett of the Native Village of Eklutna (NVE) speak at the public meeting and express his displeasure in this plan should be enough to inform your decision. If you pride yourself on listening to the NVE, as you appear to by how many times it is mentioned in the Draft Fish and Wildlife Program and in your public meeting presentations, then please listen and act in accordance with NVE's wishes. This is a beautiful opportunity to engage in some small act of justice for the NVE, whose lands and waters were largely taken away and mismanaged through projects like the Eklutna Hydroelectric Dam. It is because of projects like the Dam that fish and wildlife populations are depleted, and it is through choosing to remove the dam and restore the river that healing can happen.

Please remove the dam and restore Eklutna River and Eklutna Lake. Please do so once other renewable energy sources are in place. Renewable energy, like the hydroelectric dam, is meant to help the environment. I believe in the Project Owners' ability to have renewable energy that does not come at the expense of salmon, wildlife, and Indigenous Peoples.

Thank you,
Emily Cohen, resident of Anchorage