

From: [Mark Hansen](#)
To: [Sam Owen](#)
Subject: The Eklutna hydro project
Date: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 10:11:46 AM

Gentlemen,

Removal of the Eklutna dam makes no sense at all. This is by far the most cost effective power source contributing to the southcentral grid. Hydro projects typically have high capital cost but very low operating cost. The longer these projects operate, the more cost effective their continued operation becomes. It is absolute nonsense to decommission this paid-for hydro project now.

What will replace the lost power? People say natural gas, but there is a looming shortage of natural gas in the Cook Inlet area. The MEA generating station at Eklutna currently operates on natural gas, but is designed to use multiple fuels if necessary. Care to pay for running it on petroleum to replace the lost hydro power? How about a new coal-fired plant? All these alternatives will be more expensive and more polluting than hydro power.

The tailrace of the hydro plant provides more salmon than could ever be expected from Eklutna River. I understand that based on study of the sediments in Eklutna Lake, there is no evidence that salmon ever spawned in Eklutna Lake.

Keep the dam. Keep the hydro plant.

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