

From: [Tony DeGange](#)
To: [Sam Owen](#)
Subject: Eklutna Hydroelectric Preferred Alternative
Date: Saturday, February 17, 2024 12:37:06 PM

To the Operators of the Eklutna Hydroelectric Project:

I am resending my letter from yesterday that corrects a minor error.

This is a momentous opportunity to do something grand for natural resources conservation in the Anchorage area - restoration of what might have been the biggest salmon fishery in the entire Municipality. We owe it to the Native Village of Eklutna and to all the residents of the Municipality. Unfortunately, the preferred alternative of the Operators falls short. It is the least expensive option and has the smallest impact on current renewable power generation, but also produces the smallest gains in water flows and fish habitat. And because it relies on the AWWU portal it does not restore connectivity to the lake which means restoration of a modest sockeye salmon run will not occur. I could probably be talked into supporting an alternative that relies on the AWWU portal provided it was an interim solution that would eventually be eclipsed, in say 10 years, by a better alternative that restores full connectivity from the lake to the Inlet. An interim solution involving the portal would also provide additional time to bring other sources of renewable energy on line to replace that lost through reduced hydro generation especially in the winter. There are a number of other alternatives proposed by the Native Village of Eklutna, Trout Unlimited, The Conservation Fund, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Marine Fisheries Service that do a far better job of improving fish habitat and restoring fish populations. Dam removal is also something that should be evaluated. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said it well in their comments, "The Program should provide connectivity to the lake, release year-round flows to support salmon spawning and rearing habitats throughout the river corridor, and accommodate periodic high-volume flows for maintaining characteristics through a self-sustaining dynamic equilibrium between the hydrograph and natural sediment supply."

This is our opportunity to do something right, to right a wrong, and treat a neglected and abused river in a way that we can all be proud.

Sincerely,
Anthony R. DeGange
Chugiak, Alaska