

From: [Michelle Beadle](#)
To: [Sam Owen](#)
Subject: Comment from Irene Bembenek
Date: Saturday, February 17, 2024 12:40:52 AM

This comment is being submitted on behalf of Irene Bembenek

Eklutna Power Companies & Alaska Governor,

As ratepayers, we believe affordable electricity and abundant drinking water are possible alongside healthy wild salmon runs in the Eklutna River. Removing the Lower Eklutna Dam in the summers of 2017-18 was the first step in restoring the Eklutna River. The second step is to restore streamflow and provide access for salmon to their historic spawning and rearing areas so wild salmon populations can flourish once again.

Eklutna River salmon have been strained by inadequate water flows and blocked migration for nearly a century. As ratepayers and residents of the area, we encourage you to move quickly to restore this important river.

We recognize and appreciate the efforts the utilities have taken to study the impacts of the Eklutna Project. We hope you recognize the unique opportunity for the Eklutna River and encourage you to develop and implement a comprehensive mitigation plan that fully restores the river and its wild salmon by restoring streamflow and providing fish passage past the remaining Eklutna dam.

The Eklutna River is important to the people of the Native Village of Eklutna and the neighboring communities and nearby cities. Restoring robust wild salmon populations to the Eklutna will help restore subsistence opportunities, promote new recreation opportunities, and rebuild a wild salmon population in the heart of Southcentral Alaska that we can all be proud of.

Sincerely,

Irene Bembenek
Anchorage, AK 99508