

Sitka Tribe of Alaska

Tribal Government for Sitka, Alaska

November 23, 2010

Dean Orbison
Electrical Department
City and Borough of Sitka
105 Jarvis Street
Sitka, Alaska 99835

RE: Blue Lake Hydro Project Comments

Dear Mr Orbison

After considering the information that was disseminated at the November 2, 2010 stakeholders meeting, the Sitka Tribe of Alaska (STA) staff have concerns regarding timber removal, potential supersaturation of discharge water, and the mitigation process.

Timber Removal

Although the soils in the area to be inundated would migrate into the lake over time, there is concern among STA staff that the proposed shovel logging could cause these soils to migrate at an elevated rate that could be detrimental to fish stocks. STA would prefer that the type of logging that will be used be the least disruptive to the soil.

Gas Supersaturation

STA staff have concerns that water being discharged at the upper Saw Mill Creek mitigation valve ("fish valve") and the effluent from the power plant may be super saturated to the point that resident fish stocks are adversely affected. STA requests that the water discharged from both these sites be monitored for gas supersaturation. Should the discharges prove to be supersaturated to the point that resident fish stocks are adversely affected, STA requests that measures be taken to degas the discharge water prior to returning it to the creek. If no effective measure exists for degassing the discharge then STA would entertain some form of mitigation for the loss of fish habitat.

Mitigation

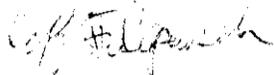
STA staff does not fully support a solely analytical approach to the mitigation process. The staff feel that a social or human aspect in terms of lost or reduced sport or subsistence opportunities should be factored into the mitigation process. STA firmly believes that the mitigation process

should not take place between just the city, state, and federal agencies but that it should be a transparent process that is open to the public. The mitigation process should also take into account that the full effects of the project on the aquatic and terrestrial wildlife may not be realized until years after the completion of the project.

STA supports the partial funding of the Redoubt Lake fertilization project in the amount of \$10,000 per year for 10 years as mitigation for the loss of subsistence opportunities caused by the project's impacts.

If you have any questions regarding these comments I can be reached at (907)747-7469 or emailed at jeff.feldpausch@sitkatriben.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Feldpausch". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Jeff Feldpausch
Resource Protection Director
Sitka Tribe of Alaska