

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20426
January 24, 2025

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 2818-025 – Alaska
Green Lake Hydroelectric Project
The City and Borough of Sitka

VIA FERC Service

Kord Christianson
City and Borough of Sitka
Project & Regulatory Engineer
105 Jarvis Street, Sitka, Alaska 99835

Reference: Study Plan Determination for the Green Lake Hydroelectric Project

Dear Mr. Christianson:

Pursuant to 18 C.F.R. § 5.13(c) of the Commission's regulations, this letter contains the study plan determination for the Green Lake Hydroelectric Project located on the Vodopad River, in the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska. The determination is based on the study criteria set forth in section 5.9(b) of the Commission's regulations, applicable law, Commission policy and practice, and the record of information.

Background

On September 6, 2024, The City and Borough of Sitka (CBS) filed its proposed plan for three studies on recreation resources, access road water crossing structures,¹ and cultural resources in support of its intent to relicense the project.

CBS held an Initial Study Plan Meeting on October 3, 2024. Comments on the Proposed Study Plan (PSP) were filed by the Commission, the State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and the Alaska State Historic Preservation Office.

¹This study would assess the current project access road condition and develop a long-term maintenance strategy that considers projected precipitation levels and stream processes to minimize the road's adverse impacts on water quality and aquatic habitat.

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On January 3, 2025, CBS filed a Revised Study Plan (RSP) that included the same three proposed studies included in the PSP and addressed all filed comments. No comments on the RSP were filed.

Study Plan Determination

As indicated in Appendix A, all studies are approved as filed and must be completed as described in the RSP. Pursuant to section 5.15(c)(1) of the Commission's regulations, the initial study report for all studies in the approved study plan must be filed by February 4, 2026.²

Nothing in this study plan determination is intended, in any way, to limit any agency's proper exercise of its independent statutory authority to require additional studies. In addition, CBS may choose to conduct any study not specifically required herein that it feels would add pertinent information to the record.

If you have any questions, please contact Jeffrey Ackley at jeffrey.ackley@ferc.gov.

Sincerely,

for
Terry L. Turpin
Director
Office of Energy Projects

Enclosures: Appendix A – Summary of studies subject to this determination

² Although this determination is being issued ahead of schedule (February 4, 2025), it does not accelerate the published process plan for the project issued in scoping document 2 on August 29, 2024. Therefore, the due date for issuing the initial study report is February 4, 2026.

APPENDIX A

SUMMARY OF DETERMINATIONS ON PROPOSED AND REQUESTED STUDIES

Study	Recommending Entity	Approved	Approved with Modifications	Not Required
Recreation Study	CBS FERC	X		
Access Road Water Crossing Structures Study	CBS FWS	X		
Cultural Resource Study	CBS	X		