

Meeting: Proposed License Amendments Overview for Swan Lake and Tyee Lake Hydroelectric Projects

Date: December 9, 2025, 10am to 11am AKST

Swan Lake Hydroelectric Project Relicensing, FERC License No. 2911; and Tyee Lake Hydroelectric Project Relicensing, FERC License No. 3015

ATTENDEE LIST

Mark Hilson, P.E., Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA) Project Manager
Laura Cowan, Senior Regulatory Consultant, Kleinschmidt Associates
Finlay Anderson, Principal Consultant, Kleinschmidt Associates
Betsy McGregor, Senior Scientist and Regulatory Consultant, Kleinschmidt Associates
Carissa Shoemaker, Licensing Coordinator, Kleinschmidt Associates
Ann Marie Lariquer, Statewide FERC Hydropower Coordinator, Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG)
Carol Mahara, Ecological Services, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Gina Esposito, Supervisory Archaeologist Tongass National Forest, U.S. Forest Service (USFS)
Jason Hass, Sportfish and Streamflow, ADFG
Joel Jackson, President of Organized Village of Kake
John Morgan Stanton, Archaeologist, USFS
Karl Hagerman, Utility Director, Petersburg Municipal Power and Light
Lacey Simpson, City Manager for Ketchikan and Ketchikan Public Utilities

MEETING PURPOSE AND AGENDA

Finlay Anderson

Finlay Anderson explained the agenda and purpose of the meeting. Overview of SEAPA's electrical system; proposed non-capacity amendments; explain concurrent FERC processes.

<Introductions of the attendees listed above>

SEAPA'S SERVICE AREA AND GENERATION SYSTEM

Mark Hilson

Mark Hilson introduced SEAPA, the service area, and generation system including the Swan-Tyee Intertie. Mark introduced the Swan Lake and Tyee Lake Projects.

PROPOSED NON-CAPACITY AMENDMENTS

Betsy McGregor

Betsy McGregor described the difference between Federal Power Act “primary” and “non-primary” transmission lines for both Projects. SEAPA would like to exclude the transmission lines from the FERC Project Boundaries with non-capacity amendments. No changes in ownership or management of transmission lines or right-of-ways. Both Project’s boundaries would end at their respective switchyards, adjacent to the powerhouses.

Carol Mahara and Betsy McGregor discussed the duration of the Projects’ federal special use permits. The permits coincide with the duration of the current FERC license and expire when the license does. There will be a parallel process during relicensing to also renew the federal permits, but the permits will no longer be tied to FERC.

Joel Jackson asked if the village of Kake has been considered for connection to SEAPA’s electric grid. Mark Hilson will connect with Joel separately to discuss further.

Gina Esposito and Finlay Anderson discussed how transmission line removal from the Project Boundary is not considered an “undertaking” for Section 106 because it is administrative. The team will share the letter that the Solomon Gulch (Valdez, Alaska) Project received earlier this year as an example of a similar process. There have been verbal discussions with FERC, but nothing in writing yet, that indicate the Swan and Tyee Lake Projects would follow a similar process to Solomon Gulch.

CONCURRENT FERC LICENSE PROCESSES AND OVERALL SCHEDULE

Laura Cowan

Laura Cowan summarized FERC relicensing process for Swan Lake: next steps, study plans, study implementation, Draft License Application (DLA), and Final License

Application (FLA). Laura will provide the slides to the meeting attendees, for reference.

Laura summarized the relicensing process and monitoring activities for Tyee Lake: early agency consultation, Pre-Application Document, studies for monitoring third turbine, Joint Agency Meeting, study planning, study implementation, DLA, and FLA.

Laura shared the overall schedule of the FERC licensing processes for the project boundary amendments, Swan milestones, and Tyee milestones. Items where agencies are involved are bolded.

Carol Mahara noted that USFWS did not comment on the PAD or proposed study plans yet, as the comment period ended during the government shutdown, but they do intend to be engaged.

Carol Mahara, Mark Hilson, and Betsy McGregor discussed the status of the third turbine at the Tyee powerhouse. FERC should be issuing the environmental assessment by Jan 20, 2026. This will start a 30-day comment period. SEAPA has contracted Canyon Hydro to build the third turbine. SEAPA hopes to install and commission the turbine in late 2027 or early 2028. Monitoring studies happening in 2026 would be pre-installation; studies in 2028-2029 would be post-installation, as environmental conditions allow.

Anne Marie Lariquer and Laura Cowan discussed the processes and timelines for the transmission line removal for both Projects. Initially, for Swan Lake, the transmission line was proposed for removal as part of the relicensing. However, now that SEAPA has discussed it with FERC, SEAPA has gained confidence that the best path forward is to apply for non-capacity amendments for both Projects to remove the transmission lines from the project boundaries before relicensing occurs.

Finlay Anderson explained that the decision was made early on that the Tyee third turbine would be added via a license amendment process rather than during relicensing to expedite the addition of energy to the SEAPA generation system.

Ann Marie Lariquer and Laura Cowan discussed study plans that are being developed. For both Projects, a lake drawdown feasibility study plan is being

developed. For Swan Lake, there are also wetland and botanical study plans being developed.

Mark Hilson thanked everyone and let the group know they can reach out to anyone on the team as questions come up.

Meeting adjourned.