Hunter Creek Hydroelectric Project

Grantees	Eklutna, Inc. (Independent Power Producer)
Technology Type	HYDRO
Region	Railbelt
AEDG Project Code	10267

REF Grants Received

Round	App	Grant Title	Grant #	AEA Project #	Phase	Start Date	End Date	Status
4	690	Hunter Creek Hydroelectric Project	7040060	407080	Feasibility	7/1/11	6/30/13	Closed

Grant 7040060: Hunter Creek Hydroelectric Project

Project Scope: Eklutna, Inc., an Alaska Native Corporation and an independent power producer, will perform a reconnaissance study of a potential run-of-river hydroelectric power plant on Hunter Creek near Palmer. With widely varying seasonal flows, Hunter Creek has an estimated installed capacity of up to 6.5 MW. The reconnaissance study will investigate the resource to determine if the project is viable and also to perform preliminary investigations to determine project location, size and resource availability. Funding for this work is from a combination of $84,000 in grant funding and grantee match with $12,000 cash and $4,000 in-kind contributions. Tasks include: investigation of land ownership; permitting and environmental analysis; resource identification and analysis through stream gauging and site inspections; preliminary design; cost estimating and reconnaissance level economic analysis. Eklutna, Inc. will evaluate business structures and concepts during the reconnaissance study. As an Independent Power Producer, Eklutna, Inc. will be subject to the provisions of paragraph 7 of Appendix B1. In preparing their Business plan, various aspects of this section will be explored, including affirmation from prospective utilities that they are interested in this opportunity to purchase power, cost-based rates and need for CPCN. The data collected and analysis performed will be documented with recommendations in a final report. Eklutna, Inc. has contacted Polarconsult, Inc. regarding the project and Polarconsult has agreed to contract for the reconnaissance work.

Hunter Creek has an East Basin and a West Basin whose total area is approximately 59 square miles. A preliminary configuration would involve a 2 and a half mile long cross basin pipeline and a larger main pipeline which would carry flow from both basins to a powerhouse. The estimated capacity of this scheme would be 6.5 MW. Eleven miles of transmission line would be needed to interconnect to the MEA electrical grid. The status of the land the project would be located on is to be investigated in the grant scope of work. If it is under federal Bureau of Land Management ownership, jurisdiction for future hydropower project licensing may be with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Environmental issues are undefined for this project. The Alaska Department of Natural Resources has noted potential conflicts with other users of this land and the proximity of the project to the Castle Mountain Fault.

Project Status: The project is complete. The grant completed the report titled "Hunter Creek Hydroelectric Reconnaissance Study", prepared by Polarconsult Alaska, Inc., and dated April 2013.

As of Nov. 30, 2013	Budget	Expenditures
Renewable Energy Funding	$84,000.00	$84,000.00
Other State Funding	$0.00	$0.00
Total State	**$84,000.00**	**$84,000.00**
Required Local Match	$16,000.00	$16,000.00
Federal Grant Funding	$0.00	$0.00
Total Project Costs	**$100,000.00**	**$100,000.00**