



2023 NHA ALASKA REGIONAL MEETING

Anchorage, Alaska

DRAFT AGENDA – More speakers are being confirmed!

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Hydro Project Tours – all day

- Eklutna Hydroelectric Plant
- South Fork Hydroelectric Project

Networking Welcome Reception – 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

- Beer & wine and light hors d'oeuvres included

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Welcomes:

Representatives from:

- Alaska Energy Authority
- Alaska Power Association
- National Hydropower Association

Keynote Speech:

Quest to Lower Cost of Electricity in Alaska: The Role of Waterpower

- Speaker is in process of being confirmed

Session 1:

Licensing Reform

Session Description: This “fireside chat” discussion will provide an overview of the current status of proposed federal legislation to reform the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) licensing process and what next steps are anticipated.

Panelists also will share what they perceive this federal licensing reform would mean for Alaskans ... What are the practical implications? Will reform make an actual difference? How many hydro projects (both existing and proposed) could be affected? Is additional reform on the state level also needed?

Moderator:

Michael Purdie, Director of Regulatory Affairs and Markets, National Hydropower Association (NHA)

Panelists:

1) Consultant:

Heidi Wahto, Principal, Stantec (confirmed)

2) Licensee:

Jeremy Bynum, Ketchikan Public Utilities (confirmed)

Session 2:

Grants and Loans: Part 1) Tips on What's Available; Part 2) Tricks on How to Write Applications

Session Description: There is abundance of funding opportunities being offered by the federal government. Part 1 of this two-part session answers questions about: What is most relevant to Alaskans? How to get actual funding? Part 2 offers ideas of how to overcome challenges of applying, which can require considerable time and expertise.

Moderator: Joel Groves, Alaska Independent Power Producers (confirmed)

Speakers:

- Dan Smith, State Energy Coordinator – Alaska, U.S. Department of Agriculture – Crystal Enkvist recruited (confirmed)
- Karen Bell, Alaska Energy Authority (confirmed)
- Dr. Erin Whitney, DOE Office of Arctic Energy – Crystal Enkvist (confirmed)
- Jim Thrasher, Thompson | HCMS (confirmed by Rod Graybeal)

Session 3:

Displacing Diesel: Showcasing Successes Using Innovation and Technology

Session Description: Case studies focusing on the use of small-scale storage, marine energy, and/or new technologies to enable displacement of diesel-powered generation, especially in off-grid environments.

Moderator: **Audrey Alstrom, Alaska Energy Authority (AEA)**

Speakers:

- Jodi Mitchell, Inside Passage Electric Cooperative (IPEC) (confirmed)
- Merrick Jackinsky, ORPC (confirmed)

Session 4:

Leveraging New Technologies and Methodologies to Enhance or Improve Existing Projects

Session Description: Hear practical applications of technologies and methodologies that are leading to success in: improving maintenance practices at hydro plants; lowering operations and maintenance costs; and applying small pumped-storage technology.

Moderator: Matt Pavarnik, GE Renewable Energy

Speakers:

- Best Hydro Construction Practices - Rod Graybeal, Director of Western Operations, Thompson HCMS – (confirmed)
- Prospects for pumped storage hydropower in Alaska – HydroWires, Argonne National Lab, DOE – (organization confirmed – getting details on actual speaker)

Session 5:

Hydro Development: Status Report and Lessons Learned about Permitting/Licensing

Session Description: New hydro development continues in Alaska – hear about what’s happening throughout the state. Great opportunity to engage with developers who have important insight and perspective about getting regulatory approval for new development.

Moderator: Michael Rovito, Alaska Power Association (confirmed)

Panelists:

- Nuyakuk Hydro Project – Will Chaney, CEO, Nushagak Electric and Telephone Coop (confirmed)
- Dixon Diversion – Bryan Carey, Alaska Energy Authority (confirmed)
- Sweetheart Lake – Duff Mitchell, Juneau Hydroelectric (confirmed)

Session 6:

State Energy Task Force – Status Report; What This Means for Waterpower

Session Description: Upcoming

i. Moderator: Duff Mitchell, Juneau Electric

Panelists:

- Alaska Lt. Governor Nancy Dahlstrom (invited)
- Curtis Thayer, Alaska Energy Authority, Vice Chair of Task Force (confirmed)
- Clay Koplin, CEO, Cordova Electric Cooperative (invited)