



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

National Marine Fisheries Service

P.O. Box 21668

Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

February 1, 2006

Mr. Glen Martin, Project Compliance Manager
Otter Creek Hydroelectric Project
Alaska Power and Telephone Co.
P.O. Box 3222
Fort Townsend, WA 98368

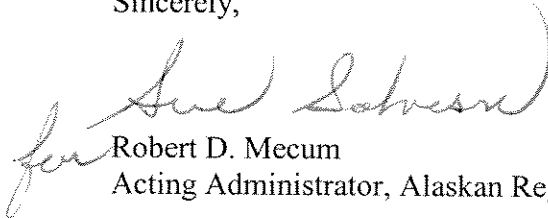
Dear Mr. Martin:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has reviewed Alaska Power and Telephone Company's January 19, 2006 request to clarify the in-water work closure window for construction of the Otter Creek Hydroelectric Project in northern Lynn Canal, southeast Alaska.

The in-water work closure window is from April 1 through June 15, to protect schools of outmigrating salmon fry from disturbance including sedimentation of nearshore waters. NMFS agrees with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that the closure applies only to in-water work. Work within the intertidal zone, including placement of fill material, can occur during this closure window if this work is conducted during low tides when the construction site is dewatered. The use of filter fabric within the jetty structure will contain any fines, and thus any suspended sediments during high tides. Migrating juvenile salmonids should be adequately protected through these actions.

Please contact Susan Walker with any questions or concerns regarding this clarification.

Sincerely,



for Robert D. Mecum
Acting Administrator, Alaskan Region

CC: Secretary Salas, FERC Washington DC
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