



Solutions for the Future
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NUYAKUK RIVER HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT: 2021 YEAR-END SUMMARY AND 2022 ANTICIPATED MILESTONES

Over the course of 2021, NETC has made substantive progress in collaboratively developing the appropriate process for assessing the feasibility of the proposed Nuyakuk River Hydroelectric Project. While the current pandemic created a series of unforeseen obstacles, we are happy to report that the federally approved abeyance period has afforded us the opportunity to have the necessary and requested technical dialogue with local and regional experts prior to moving forward with the licensing process. This collaboration has resulted in what has collectively been characterized as a much more comprehensive and technically robust natural resource study program proposal. Given this progress and based on feedback from technical experts and the local and regional public, NETC is happy to report that they will be re-entering the formal FERC licensing process in early 2022.

As is the case with any hydroelectric feasibility assessment, appropriate and proactive planning are key for a successful assessment period. Given this, our primary intent in 2022 is to implement all necessary process, document, and field preparations to allow for two robust natural resource and engineering feasibility study seasons in 2023 and 2024. What follows is an itemized and detailed list of anticipated primary efforts to be executed in 2022.

- **Site Visits with ARWG Technical Experts** – Per commitment during our Aquatic Resource Working Group meetings, NETC is committed to coordinating a site visit to the Nuyakuk Falls Project Area to allow for the appropriate amount of site-specific context and refinement to certain aquatic study methods that will ultimately be detailed in the Revised Study Plan (RSP). These site visits are likely to take place in June 2022.
- **Salmon Life Cycle Model Development** – In preparation for the study seasons in 2023 and 2024, NETC plans on continuing work on the framework for the agreed upon Chinook and Sockeye salmon life cycle model. Once created and populated with data (both field-collected data and existing regional datasets), this model will be fundamental in assessing potential impacts (positive and negative) associated with potential project development.
- **Stream Gage Installation** – In an effort to further define the site-specific hydrologic record and inform a series of aquatic assessments that will be performed in 2023 and 2024, a stream gage will be installed and maintained at the project site. As is typical, it is anticipated that this stream gage will remain in place through the entirety of the study program, and potentially beyond.

- **Initiation of Comprehensive Cultural Resources and Section 106 Processes** – NETC fully recognizes the cultural and historical value of this region. As such, we want to proactively initiate technical conversations related to the development of an appropriately scaled comprehensive cultural resources study program that not only meets the needs of the mandated Section 106 process but also the expectations of the public in the region. We will solicit input from regional technical experts as well as the local public to ensure the study is as high quality and robust as possible.
- **Preliminary Geotechnical Evaluation** – While preliminary site visits have been very positive, an assessment of rock quality at the site will be conducted to confirm expectations and establish the appropriate design path for project infrastructure, assuming natural resource feasibility studies allow for project development in the future. Not only will the information provided by this study inform our conversations on the viability of the physical project, but it will also have a significant impact on construction cost estimates, allowing refinement in cost projections.
- **Completion of Study Program Housing** – The two cabins and associated facilities for housing biologists and engineers while on-site conducting studies will be completed in 2022.
- **Filing of the Proposed and Revised Study Plans** – As mentioned above, re-entrance into the FERC licensing process will commence with the filing of the collaboratively developed Proposed Study Plan (PSP). Upon review of all comments received from the public and local and regional technical experts, NETC will revise the document accordingly, and file the Revised Study Plan (RSP) with FERC. After FERC’s review and response to any of their technical questions (along with the public’s) FERC will ultimately issue a Study Plan Determination (SPD). This SPD will ultimately be the federal approval for conducting robust study seasons in 2023 and 2024.
- **Development of all Requisite Natural Resource Permit Applications** – In the late summer/early fall of 2022, NETC anticipates beginning dialogue and developing all requisite natural resource permit applications to allow for an on-time initiation of studies in 2023 and 2024.
- **Regularly Scheduled ARWG Meetings** – Per our commitment and consistent with the past year, NETC will continue to regularly meet with the ARWG to discuss study planning, status updates and prepare for study seasons in 2023 and 2024. It is notable that the ARWG will be a fundamental component of the licensing and feasibility process throughout the study program and well beyond, assuming the project moves past the feasibility assessment phase.

- **Consistent Stakeholder Engagement** – Very simply, NETC wholly commits to continuing its efforts to consistently keep the local and regional public informed on project updates, study results and schedules. The Cooperative believes that public input is a fundamental key to a successful process, regardless of the ultimate outcome. NETC values and will continue to seek out public input through a variety of forums.

We at NETC continue to be excited about the potential of the Nuyakuk River Hydroelectric Project and look forward to carrying out the necessary studies to determine its ultimate feasibility and value to the region. With the understanding that it is our genuine intent to keep you updated throughout the process, if there are any questions or comments you have along the way, do not hesitate to reach out and let us know.