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Advisory Committee Members,

Thank you for your ongoing participation in the Juneau Douglas North Crossing Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) project. We appreciate your sharing your time and talent with the project team in order to make this a better project for our community.

Given the time elapsed since the last Advisory Committee meetings, the large number of comments that we received, and the on-going effort to complete responses, we understand there may be questions about where we are in the process.

The PEL team has been working through the level 2 screening process addressing comments received, and are looking forward to sharing information with you as we make progress on that front. Since we met last, we have received additional information from Alaska Electric Light and Power (AEL&P) regarding the characteristics of the Salmon Creek dam, and the damaging impacts that could happen in the event of a dam breach or failure. AEL&P shared the Hydrologic Engineering Center's (CEIWR-HEC) River Analysis System (HEC-RAS) modeling results showing that in the event of a dam breach, high velocity damaging flooding would occur throughout the Salmon Creek drainage including inundating the Salmon Creek area and the existing connections at Egan and Glacier highways.

The impacts and likelihood of such an event has to be carefully considered. Because dams such as the Salmon Creek dam are considered critical infrastructure by the Division of Homeland Security, we are seeking special permission from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to view secured data and analysis. As you can imagine, this is a long process and not without bureaucratic hurdles. However, further information about the probability of such an event, will be important in the alternative consideration.

The PEL study team recognizes some groups' preference for an alternative that does not impact the refuge. Given the new information, we must obtain this additional information in order to fully assess this as an alternative. Once additional information is available, and processed through the screening criteria, we'll be able to share more information with the advisory committees.

Other Updates to Share:

New information posted on the website includes:

- Level 2 Screening GIS Maps are available, please see the “What’s New!” section.
- Meeting summaries from a small group meeting with Alaska Department of Fish & Game and a presentation to CBJ Public Works and Facilities Committee are also posted. Please find the summaries under the “Meetings” tab on the website.
- A summary of findings from the 2023 Geophysical Survey has been added. Please find the document on the “Documents” tab of the website.

We will be conducting an additional joint Advisory Committee meeting in the upcoming months to provide a progress update and create an opportunity for questions to be asked and comments to be shared. We will inform you of the date as soon as it is scheduled. The draft PEL will not be issued to the public for comment until after the Advisory Committees have had an opportunity to meet, discuss, and comment.

Thanks for your continued participation on the advisory committees.

Sincerely,

The Juneau Douglas North Crossing PEL Study Team

Date: 9/4/2024