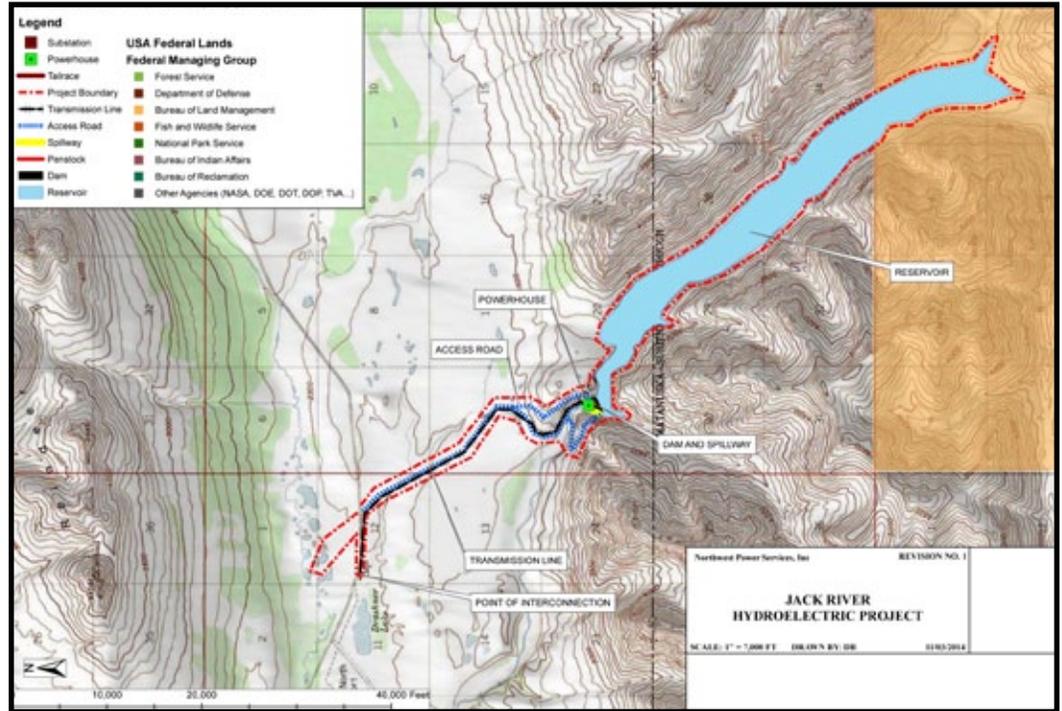


THREE HYDROELECTRIC PROJECTS UNDER STUDY IN DENALI BOROUGH

by Hannah Ragland

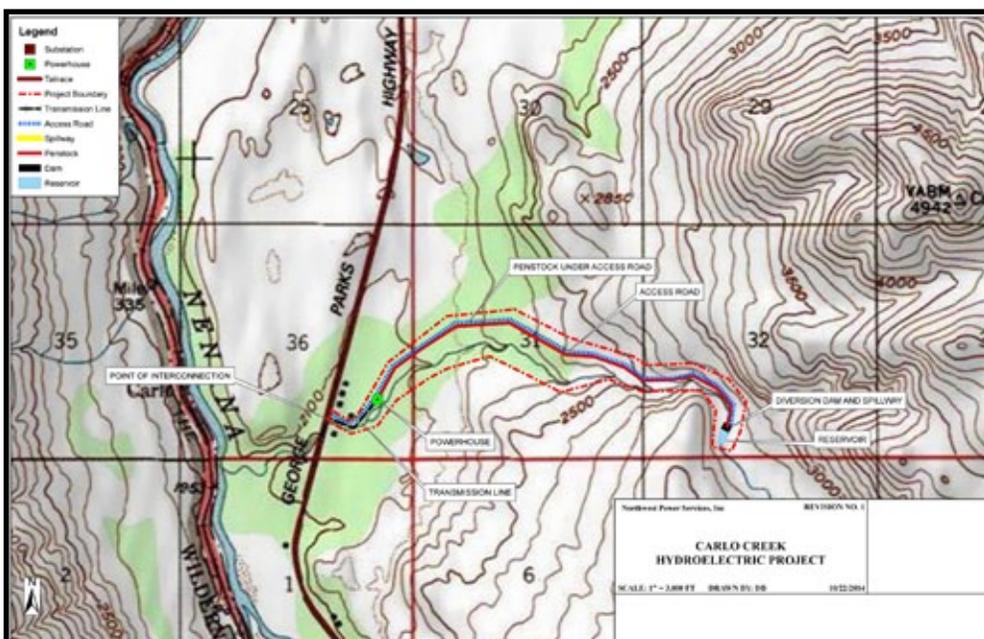
This past fall, three related corporations filed requests for preliminary permits with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to study the possibility of building three hydroelectric projects in the Denali Borough. They would be located on Bruskasna Creek, a popular fishing and boating destination off the upper Nenana River; the Jack River, one of the larger tributaries of the Nenana River, flowing northwest from the Talkeetna Mountains into the Nenana at Cantwell; and Carlo Creek, a steep creek flowing into the Nenana River from the Alaska Range, popular for hiking and close to several private parcels.

The contacts for all three corporations are Brent Smith (907-414-8223) of Wasilla and Gordon Carlson (907-768-2591) of Cantwell. Carlson has promoted hydroelectric projects as a way for the village of Cantwell to obtain a sustainable source of revenue, because much (but not all) of the projects' infrastructure would rest on Ahtna lands. The FERC permits recently applied for (and already granted in the case of Jack River) authorize the project sponsors to conduct a variety of studies on the conditions and impacts of these projects. DCC intends to request meetings with project sponsors and affected citizens as studies move forward. 



Map of proposed Jack River Hydroelectric Project. North is to the left on this map.

Map from Preliminary Permit Request



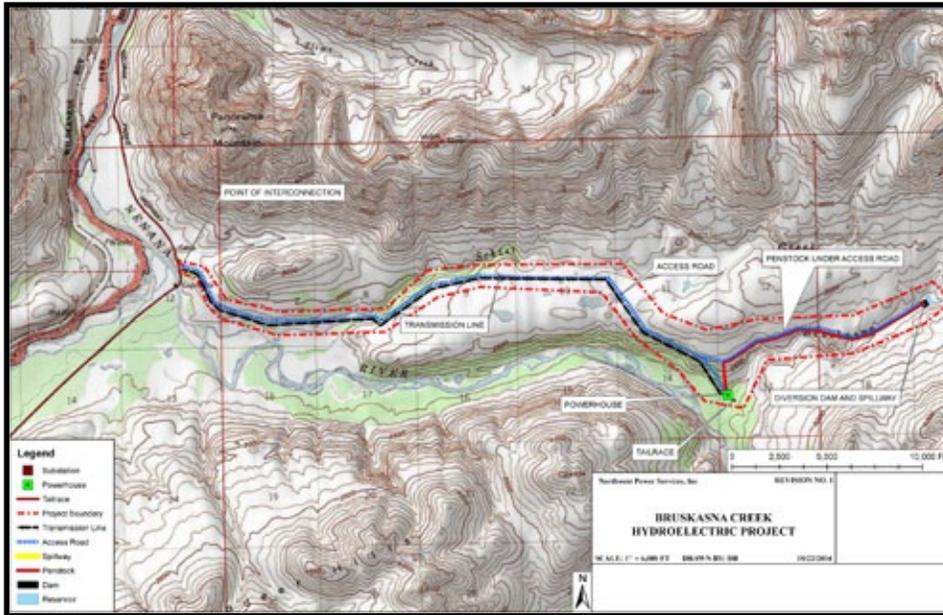
Map of proposed Carlo Creek Hydroelectric Project. The Preliminary Permit for this project would authorize studies covering environmental, engineering, social and economic factors. Studies are expected to last up to three years.

Map from Preliminary Permit request

continued on next page

THREE HYDRO PROJECTS SEEK PERMITS

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Map of proposed Bruskasna Creek Hydroelectric Project. This project would involve the building of a 7 mile road from the first bridge on the Parks Highway north of Cantwell to the site along Bruskasna Creek, a tributary of the Nenana River.

Map from Preliminary Permit Request

To read DCC's comments on the Preliminary Permit applications for each of these projects, visit our website, <http://www.denalicitizens.org>.

TABLE COMPARING CARLO CREEK, JACK RIVER AND BRUSKASNA DAM PROPOSALS WITH SUSITNA-WATANA PROPOSAL

	Carlo Creek (P-14645)	Jack River (P-14646)	Bruskasna Creek (P-14652)	Susitna-Watana On Hold
Dam dimensions	50-foot-long, 10 foot-high diversion weir traversing Carlo Creek	750-foot-long, 250 foot-high with a 250-foot-high spillway built into the crest of the dam	50-foot-long, 10 foot-high diversion weir traversing Bruskasna Creek	2,700 foot-long, 700-800 foot-high earth embankment, roller compacted concrete or concrete faced rockfill dam
Reservoir size	Approximately 1 acre, 10-acre-feet of storage capacity	865 acres, 50,700 acre-feet of storage capacity	Approximately 1 acre, 10-acre-feet of storage capacity	20,000 acres, 2,400,000 acre-feet of storage capacity
Penstock Delivers water from reservoir to turbines	One 10,500-foot-long, 2.5-foot-diameter steel	Two 300-foot-long, 4-foot-diameter steel	One 13,500-foot-long, 30-inch-diameter steel	To be determined
Tailrace Delivers water from turbines to creek or river	10-foot-wide, 5-foot-deep, 10 foot-long concrete tailrace emptying into Carlo Creek	20-foot-wide, 20-foot-deep, 25-foot-long concrete tailrace emptying into the Jack River	10-foot-wide, 5-foot-deep, 10 foot-long concrete tailrace emptying into Bruskasna Creek	To be determined
Other facilities Powerhouses, transmission lines, access roads	1,500-foot-long, 15-kilovolt transmission line, approximately 12,000 feet of new access roads, 25' x 35' powerhouse	8,000 foot-long, 15-kilovolt transmission line, approximately 28,000 feet of new access roads, 75' x 125' powerhouse	34,000-foot-long, 15-kilovolt transmission line, approximately 46,000 feet of new access roads, 25' x 35' powerhouse	40-50 mile-long (211,200-264,000 feet), 230 kilovolt transmission line and road, powerhouse size to be determined
Purpose of generated power	Estimated annual generation of 6.3 gigawatt-hours	Estimated annual generation of 23.4 gigawatt-hours	Estimated annual generation of 5.2 gigawatt-hours	Estimated annual generation of 2,500,000 gigawatt-hours