

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Legislators Inspect Critical Hydroelectric Project

\$46.2 million Capital Appropriation Request Contemplated

(KETCHIKAN) - Today, Senator Bert Stedman (R-Sitka), Representative Kyle Johansen (R-Ketchikan) and three members of the House Finance Committee completed a half day aerial tour of the Swan Lake-Lake Tyee electrical transmission corridor.

The Four Dam Pool Power Agency has requested a \$46.2 million state capital appropriation to complete the 57-mile project, which connects the Tyee Lake hydro facility south of Wrangell with the Swan Lake hydro facility near Ketchikan. The trip provided legislators with a first hand look at the project prior to beginning their capital budget deliberations.

"I'm grateful to the Four Dam Pool board for facilitating today's tour. I think my colleagues gained a real appreciation for the scope and value of this project. It's critical that we complete the work that's been started," said Stedman.

The project is fully permitted, the Right-of-Way has been cleared and 50% of the micropile foundations have been installed. A combination of federal, state and local funds have financed the project so far. When complete, the line will enable 63 million kilowatt-hours of surplus Tyee Lake power to be delivered to Ketchikan.

The Swan-Tyee intertie is the first component of a planned regional power grid which when complete, will provide Southeast Alaska with reliable, renewable energy and enable the region to export excess hydropower. The Southeast Conference has named the project one of its top economic development priorities.

Stedman, who is responsible for writing the FY08 capital appropriation bill in the Senate, said he is working with the House and the Palin administration to get the project funded.

DISTRICT A

*Ketchikan • Sitka • Petersburg • Wrangell
Pelican • Elfin Cove • Port Alexander • Saxman • Meyers Chuck • Thorne Bay • Coffman Cove • Hollis*

“The Four Dam Pool has a good plan. They know what needs to be done, how much it will cost and what the long-term benefits will be. Now it’s our job as legislators to make sure they get the financial resources they need to get the job done” Stedman said.

If funds are appropriated this year, the project would become operational in the last quarter of 2009.

Joining Stedman and Johansen on the tour were House Finance Co-Chair Rep. Kevin Meyer (R-Anchorage), Rep. Mike Kelly (R-Fairbanks), Rep. Bill Stoltze (R-Chugiak) and Dave Carlson, CEO Four Dam Pool Power Agency.

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