

NEWSLETTER OF THE KNIK-WILLOW
TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT
(TEELAND-DOUGLAS TRANSMISSION LINE UPGRADE)
WWW.DRYDENLARUE.COM/07-0263



INSIDE:

<i>Public Involvement in 2008</i>	2
<i>Continuing Public Involvement</i>	2
<i>Formal Public Hearing Comments</i>	3
<i>Upcoming Public Involvement</i>	3
<i>Project Contacts</i>	4

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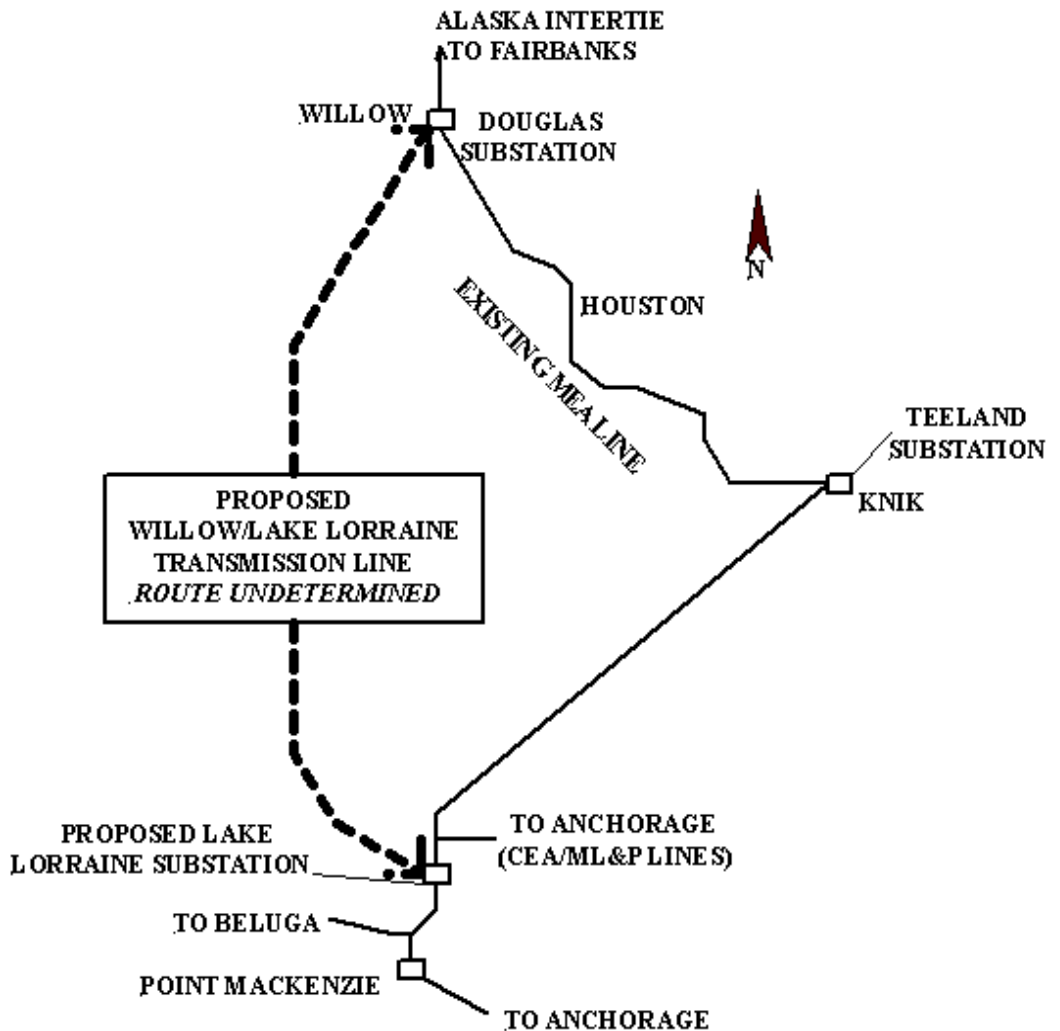
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PROJECT TEAM CONSIDERS AN EXPANDED SCOPE

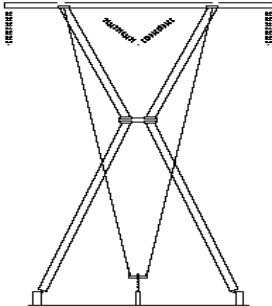


The Knik-Willow Transmission Line project area.

The Knik-Willow Transmission Line Project Team prepared this newsletter to provide a status update on the project. The project initially involved building approximately 25 miles of new electrical transmission line between the Teeland (Knik) and Douglas (Willow) substations

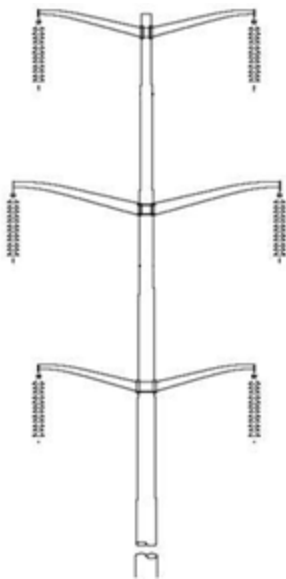
for the Alaska Intertie. The Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) requested that the Project Team expand the scope of the project to investigate constructing a 230 kilovolt (kV) circuit from the Lake Lorraine area near Point Mackenzie to Willow rather than from Knik to Willow.

The X-style tower proposed in Alternative 1



TYPICAL

The tall tower proposed in Alternative 2



TYPICAL

This expansion will also require a new switchyard near Lake Lorraine, about three miles northwest of the new Point MacKenzie port.

This configuration would increase the reliability of the entire electric grid, decrease the chance of a system-wide blackout and could provide power to the Matanuska Valley and Interior Alaska.

This will allow Matanuska Electric Association (MEA) to reclaim their 20-mile segment of the existing system, which the State of Alaska currently uses to move power between Southcentral Alaska and the Interior. The team is still evaluating possible alignments for the line. Regardless of the route, the revised design will be about 45 miles long.

EXPANDED SCOPE

Under the expanded project scope, two existing 230 kV transmission lines from the Point Mackenzie Substation and one existing 230 kV line from Anchorage would serve the new Lake Lorraine Substation. With the completion of the new lines, the Lake Lorraine Substation would become a hub for the Railbelt

grid, connecting Chugach Electric Association and Municipal Light and Power lines with lines serving MEA and the Alaska Intertie. In addition to significantly strengthening this critical link in the Railbelt electrical system, the new hub could also be used to serve surrounding areas.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN 2008

In 2008, the Project Team held scoping meetings with public officials and community stakeholders, attended community council and city council meetings, and held open house forums on the original Knik-Willow project. The purpose of the meetings was to understand and address community concerns with the project. Each session began with the Project Team presenting the nature and history of the Intertie and the 2004 routing study which generated the initial

series of potential routes. Twelve meetings and open houses were conducted as part of the first Public Involvement Plan the Project Team filed with the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB) Planning Department. The last meeting was a formal public hearing held on August 6th, 2008 at the Wasilla Sports Complex, and was devoted to receiving formal public testimony addressing the project routing choices.

FORMAL PUBLIC HEARING

The route proposed at the August 6, 2008 formal public hearing featured new transmission lines constructed along the existing MEA corridor. Within that route, the Project Team presented two alternatives. The first would construct a set of parallel lines running through an enlarged right-of-way. This alternative featured new X-style towers and would also require additional right-of-way. The second alternative would construct taller poles which could hold

two sets of lines and would reduce the required right-of-way.

In general, public comments opposed parallel sets of lines and recommended taller poles which could support two sets of lines. Comments noted that two sets of lines would not be aesthetically pleasing, recommended that construction impacts be reclaimed, and emphasized maintaining recreational

opportunities within the corridor. Public comments also supported slowing the process to ensure that the project was constructed in the public's best interest, but also to keep project delays and inflation in mind. MEA expressed its opposition to the project.

The Houston/Willow Resolution supported a single-pole design and acknowledged that Alaskan communities need to tolerate growth and accommodate the needs of neighboring communities, so long as that growth included respect for the impacts on all communities involved. The Resolution also acknowledged many other points, and is available in its en-

tirety on the project website.

A resident of the West Sunset subdivision stated that people live in the area because they value a pristine environment and that the double-pole configuration would impact that pristine character. The resident also noted that the new poles could create a safety hazard in a recreational area, and that he preferred a route along the Parks Highway.

A complete transcript of the formal public hearing is available on the project website.

UPCOMING PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

In the coming year, the Project Team will attend community council meetings to describe changes in the project, discuss the expanded scope, address questions and concerns about the new routing analysis, and gather further input from the community. The new routing analysis will include the area between the Douglas Substation and the proposed Lake Lorraine Substation. The Team will hold at least one additional open house in the project area.

The Team will update the stakeholder contact list based on prior interest and participation in the project. The team expects to omit some stakeholders and to include some new ones. The final stakeholder list will be included in the decisional document following the public review process.

The Project Team will hold another formal public hearing. The hearing will be held in the location judged most convenient to the greatest number of participants. The hearing will be advertised in local newspapers, public postings in affected communities, and public service announcements or advertisements on local radio stations. The Project Team intends to notify all stakeholders, com-

munity councils, MSB assembly representatives, and property owners within 600 feet of the preferred project corridor at least 15 days ahead of time by mail, fax, or email.

In addition to increasing public involvement opportunities, the Team has developed this newsletter to explain the changes in project scope. The newsletter is distributed to all property owners along the existing MEA route and the Lake Lorraine area.

Following the next phase of the public involvement process, the Project Team will use the information gathered from the public meetings and hearing to select a route and a design.

At the conclusion of the public review process, the Project Team will present a decisional document containing a formal recommendation to the AEA on the final routing selection and line design for the new portion of the Intertie. The new routing study should be complete in 2009.

To submit written comments on the proposed project, visit the project website or write to one of the points of contact listed on the back page.

We're on the Web!

Project updates will be available on the project website at www.drydenlarue.com/07-0263

or through the AEA website at www.akenergyauthority.org under the Teeland Douglas Intertie Upgrade Project.

The Project Team greatly appreciated the opportunity to introduce the Knik-Willow Transmission Line project to the public. People in attendance raised relevant issues regarding the Project. The Team looks forward to the same participation in the future.

In addition to the meetings, open house, and hearings described in the previous pages, written comments can be submitted through the project website or to either:

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