

From: Brad Smith [mailto:brad.smith@noaa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2005 1:08 PM
To: Reich, Robin
Cc: Barbara Mahoney; Ken Hollingshead
Subject: Re: Knik Arm Crossing Update and Reminder

Thanks Robin; we would like to request that NMFS become a cooperating agency for preparation of the NEPA document. This status will allow us to include as part of the action the authorization of small takes under the MMPA. In doing so we will avoid a duplicative EA or EIS for this related action.

Reich, Robin wrote:
ID Team Members:

Here's an update on the Knik Arm Crossing EIS.

During our last meeting on July 14, we presented information on:

- Scoping Comments Received and How They Were Addressed
- Final Draft Statement of Purpose and Need
- Alternatives Development and Screening Process
- Corridor Options (in Mat-Su, across Knik Arm, and Anchorage)

We provided a copy of the Final Draft Statement of Purpose and Need and the PowerPoint presentation that we used during the meeting, among other information.

During the meeting, we requested that ID Team members provide written comments on the alternatives under consideration and any other aspects of the project. **These comments were due August 12th.** To date, we have not received many comments.

As you know, our next step is narrowing down the alternatives to consider in the EIS. We are also moving ahead with the many other aspects of the project including writing the interim Scoping Summary Report and the affected environment section of the EIS. Some of the technical memoranda we are working on include wetlands, cultural and historical sites, contaminated sites, potential indirect and cumulative impacts, land use forecasting, noise and air impacts, traffic patterns, community cohesion, and socioeconomic impacts. We are also completing reports on our beluga whale and fisheries work.

Your comments are very important to this aspect of the project development, and of course, all written comments will be added to the official scoping record. If you have comments at this point in the project, we are very interested in hearing from you. While this is not the end of the scoping period, we want to make sure that we have all the information we need to move forward.

Thanks for your involvement in this project. We appreciate your work.

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