#### ALASKA ENERGY AUTHORITY

## DIXON DIVERSION PROJECT OVERVIEW

Bryan Carey, PE Director, Owned Assets

National Hydropower Association Alaska Regional Meeting August 5, 2024





Bradley Lake and Dixon Diversion Overview













- Located 25 miles northeast of Homer and serves Railbelt
- Completed in 1991
- Funding by State of Alaska and Railbelt utilities
- Owned by AEA and managed to maximum extent by Railbelt utilities
- Largest hydroelectric Project in Alaska
- Averages more than 400,000 MWh/year (~9% - 10%/year Railbelt)

## **Battle Creek Diversion**

- Located 2 miles southwest of Bradley Lake and serves Railbelt
- Completed in 2020
- Funding by State of Alaska and Railbelt utilities
- Diversion of upper Battle Creek to Bradley Lake by two-mile pipe
- Average 40,000 ac-ft (~38,000 MWh)/year







### **Dixon Diversion Project**

- AEA is investigating generating energy from the outflow of Dixon Glacier five miles southwest of the Bradley Lake Hydroelectric Project
- The Dixon Diversion Project would be largest renewable energy project in Alaska since Bradley Lake was completed in 1991
- Entire project on State land.

### Bradley Dam classified as Low Hazard

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### **Diversion to Bradley Lake**

- 4.7 mile tunnel from intake to Bradley Lake
- Water goes through Bradley Lake powerhouse
- Raise Bradley spillway/dam up to 28 feet to capture seasonal flow and allow for additional water storage for winter





### **Dixon Diversion Value**

- Dixon Diversion provides:
  - Energy (Annual Estimated Energy 160,000 190,000 MWh)
  - Bradley power plant efficiency increase ~2% for all non-Dixon water going through power plant (~8,000 MWh)
  - Increased long-duration energy storage (Up to 100,000 MWh depending on height)
  - Demand reduction of 1.5 BCF natural Gas (~7.5% 2030 unmet demand)
- A new turbine/generator could be added at Bradley Lake power plant in the future





# Licensing Schedule

- 2024 Discharge, Geotech, and Aquatics studies
- 2025 Discharge, Aquatics, Geotech, and Terrestrial studies
- 2026 Draft and Final Amendment Application
- 2027 EA/EIS
- 2030 Water flowing

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### **Diversion and Tunnel Inlet**

- Helicopter access for construction; potential for some tunnel access
- Permanent maintenance building serves as man camp for construction; maintenance equipment in building
- Diversion dam alternatives rock fill or rubber dam
- Gated Sluiceway for sediment and MIF
- Geotechnical investigation July 2024





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