

Presented by: Assemblyman Aase
Introduced: 10-08-75 (Recessed
Meeting of 10-02-75)

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Serial No. 336

A RESOLUTION URGING THE ADOPTION OF THE ALIGNMENT OF THE SNETTISHAM TRANSMISSION LINE PROPOSED BY THE U. S. CORPS OF ENGINEERS AND THE REJECTION OF THE ALIGNMENT PROPOSED BY THE U. S. FOREST SERVICE.

WHEREAS, the citizens of the city and borough of Juneau have looked forward to the completion of the Snettisham Power Project as a source of reliable, low cost power for many years; and

WHEREAS, completion of the Snettisham Power Project has not provided dependable power because improper initial placement of transmission lines has led to frequent power outages and surges which have burned out motors and electrical controls of homeowners, businesses and government agencies and continually plunged the area into darkness and freezing cold at the height of winter; and

WHEREAS, power failures disrupt the education of our young people, endanger the safety of residents, restrict commerce and governmental activity in addition to causing problems of freezing of heating plants, plumbing and perishables; and

WHEREAS, the local electric light and power company must maintain diesel generated back-up power sources out of proportion to normal needs due to the total unreliability of Snettisham transmission lines; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the city and borough of Juneau must bear such direct costs as losses through burned out motors and controls as well as the indirect costs contained in rate base structures and passed on by the businessman because of injured commerce; and

WHEREAS, the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers once adopted a transmission line alignment which proved unreliable and has since held public hearings and proposes a new routing based on public testimony and recommendations of consultants; and

WHEREAS, at the Corps of Engineers public hearings this body, for the community, through its mayor, went on

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public record as wanting and needing reliable power at the earliest possible date; and

WHEREAS, the U. S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, now proposes a routing different from that recommended by the Corps of Engineers; and

WHEREAS, we find the Forest Service proposal unsatisfactory and not in the best public interest for the following reasons:

1. Unreliability: Routing follows the coast enhancing the probability of damage from salt water contamination. Further, repair of damage would be more costly and take longer to complete because of problems of accessibility.

2. Delay: Proposed alignment will require further detailed engineering studies which would delay construction for at least another year exposing us further to intolerable power outages.

3. Cost: The cost of the proposed alignment exceeds by over one million dollars the routing now recommended by the Corps of Engineers, not considering inflation in the interim.

4. Esthetics/Land Use: The Forest Service routing proposal would run the transmission lines along a beach corridor leaving the unsightly poles and transmission lines in full view of all on the only major water access and egress route to the community. Further, such routing would despoil valuable beach property for any potential recreational, residential or commercial land use.

and

WHEREAS, we are well aware, due to the problems with the transmission of Snettisham power, that Mother Nature is not forgiving of human errors in judgment when she decends upon us with an Alaskan winter.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA:

1. After a full and open public hearing, that we oppose the Snettisham transmission line corridor proposed by the U. S. Forest Service and endorse the routing now recommended by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers.

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2. That we urgently request that those public servants in the Federal government who will participate in the final decision give full weight to our plea for fair and reasonable treatment, and our basic need for reliable power.

Adopted this 8th day of October, 1975.

Wm R Macomber
Mayor

Attest:

Elmer J Emery
Clerk