

memo

MEA Appeals Committee

To: Tony Zellers, Senior Director of Power Supply, MEA
From: Franci Havemeister; Eric Bushnell; and Tor Anderzen, P.E.
CC: William Klatt P.E. MEA Site Engineer; and Jennifer Castro, MEA PR
Date: May 23, 2022
Re: Fishhook to Pittman Power Improvement Project Appeals

The appeals committee has reviewed the Decisional Document and the six appeals received by MEA. None of the appeals claim that MEA is in non-compliance with the Matanuska Susitna Borough municipal code for public involvement; MSB 17.05 Essential Service Utilities. The appeals committee has found that MEA has met the requirements.

Over all Comments

The appeals committee recommends that MEA responds to each Appellant's question/comment.

MEA should recognize/address the Appellants concern that public testimony was not heeded.

Below are comments specific to each appeal:

Appeal #1 – MEA Transmission Line Northern Route – NW Corner Appeal

Comments:

Did MEA consider the appellants' three proposed alternate routes? How did/do they rank compared to the current Northern Route?

These are great comments for the next phase of the corridor study. For each alternative: consider impact on salmon spawning streams, wetlands, and recreational areas. consider methods to minimize the impact on environmental resources. We suggest that the design team respond to the merits and drawbacks of alternative routes presented

Sidebar comment - instead of trying to block people out from using utilidor as a trail, make it a trail. Trail access could create financial burden to all parties.

Appeal #2 – FISHHOOK – PITTMAN POWER IMPROVEMENTS

Comments:

Did MEA consider the appellants' proposed alternate route? How did/does it rank compared to the current Northern Route?

These are great comments - provide a link to information behind the West A vs. West E alternative whitepaper on your website. For the next phase of the corridor study, I understand that the exact location for a Parks Highway Crossing is still to be determined. Explain this in a response.

Appeal #3 – Appeal of MEA Decisional Document for the Fishhook to Pittman Power Improvement Project: Russet Road – Altra Drive Alternative Segment Link

Comments:

The appellants are challenging the lack of field work done in the current siting study. Is this standard practice? Clarify that at this stage of a corridor study the normal practice is to perform a “desk study” of existing improvements, environmental and historic resources. This is a best practices cost savings step to narrow down the alternatives to be studied in more detail, including field studies.

Did MEA consider public concern/preference when choosing the Northern Route over the other routes? Respond by explaining how the northern route alternative was developed, and what public comments led to its development.

Did MEA consider the appellants' proposed alternate routes? How did/do they rank compared to the current Northern Route? We suggest that the design team respond to the merits and drawbacks of alternative routes presented

Appeal #4 – APPEAL OF MEA DECISIONAL DOCUMENT FOR FISHHOOK TO PITTMAN POWER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT: Best Hybrid Alternative Route

Questions:

The appellants are challenging the lack of field work done in the current siting study. Is this standard practice? Clarify that at this stage of a corridor study the normal practice is to perform a “desk study” of existing improvements, environmental and historic resources. This is a best practices cost savings step to narrow down the alternatives to be studied in more detail, including field studies.

Did MEA consider public concern/preference when choosing the Northern Route over the other routes? Respond by explaining how the northern route alternative was developed, and what public comments led to its development.

Did MEA consider the appellants' proposed alternate routes? How did/do they rank compared to the current Northern Route? We suggest that the design team respond to the merits and drawbacks of alternative routes presented.

Appeal #5 – Meadow Lakes Community Council

Comments:

Did MEA consider the appellants' proposed alternate routes? How did/do they rank compared to the current Northern Route? Suggest that the design team respond to the merits and drawbacks of alternative routes presented.

Depending on the state of implementation of the Meadow Lakes Senior Housing master plan; cost for redesign of the master plan should be taken into consideration to the acquisition negotiation of the easement.

Appeal #6 – Chickaloon Village Traditional Council (Nay'dini'aa Na'Kayax)

Comment:

These are great comments for the next phase of the corridor study. For each alternative: consider impact on cultural and historic resources, salmon spawning streams, wetlands, and recreational areas. Consider methods to minimize the impact on environmental resources. We suggest that the design team respond to the merits and drawbacks of alternative routes presented.