

ALASKA ENERGY AUTHORITY

BRADLEY LAKE HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

Bryan Carey, PE, Former AEA
Director of Owned Assets (Retired)

Alaska Forum
February 5, 2026



50 YEARS OF SERVICE





CAPACITY

120MW

Bradley Lake generators are rated to produce up to 120 MW of power.

ENERGY

10%

Bradley Lake generates about 10 percent of the total annual electrical energy used by Railbelt electric utilities.

GENERATION COST PER KWH

\$0.04

From 1995 through 2020, the project averaged 392,000 MWh of energy production annually at \$0.04 per kWh.

Bradley Lake Hydroelectric Project

- **Online since 1991**, the **Bradley Lake Hydroelectric Project** is Alaska's largest renewable energy source, located **27 air miles northeast of Homer**.
- The **120-megawatt facility**—funded by the State of Alaska and Railbelt utilities—delivers low-cost power to **approximately 75 percent of Alaska's population served by the Railbelt**.
- Bradley Lake generates about **10 percent of Railbelt electricity** at an **average cost of 4.5 cents per kilowatt-hour**—powering **roughly 54,400 homes annually** and **saving Railbelt utilities more than \$20 million each year** compared to natural gas.



- Includes three miles of road, a concrete diversion dam, and a **five-foot-diameter pipeline** conveying water to Bradley Lake
- Delivers **about 10% more energy**—enough to power **approximately 5,100 homes annually**—at **lower cost** to ratepayers
- **Completed in 2020** at a cost of **\$47 million**

West Fork Upper Battle Creek Diversion Project

The project diverts glacial water from the West Fork of Upper Battle Creek into Bradley Lake—expanding Alaska’s largest hydroelectric facility.



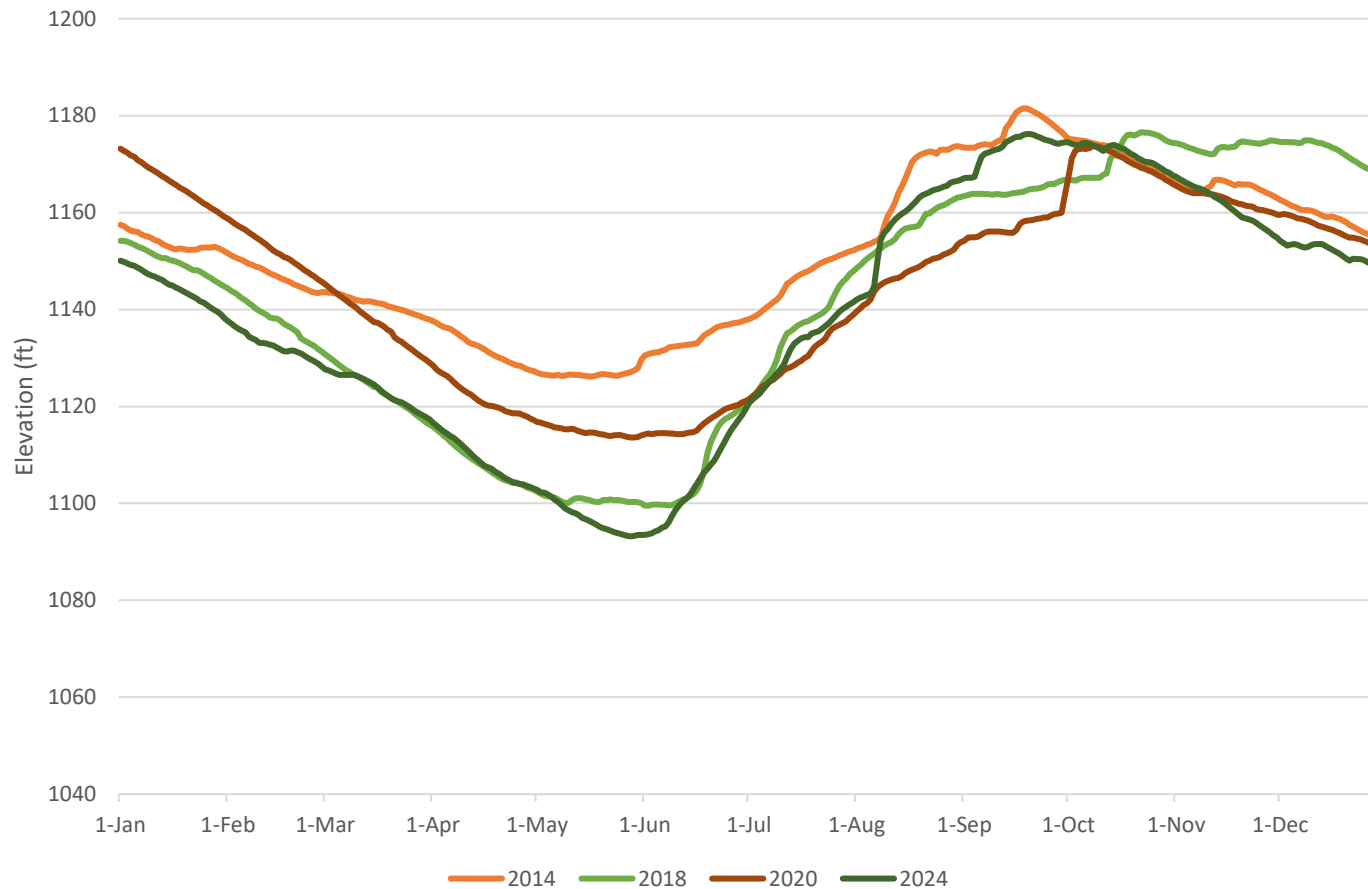
Bradley Lake Hydroelectric Project Components



- **Original dam, power tunnel, and power plant**
- **Bradley to Bradley Junction and Sterling to Kenai Lake** transmission lines
- **West Fork Upper Battle Creek Diversion** (completed)
- **Dixon Diversion Project** (future)
- **Cook Inlet PowerLink** (future)

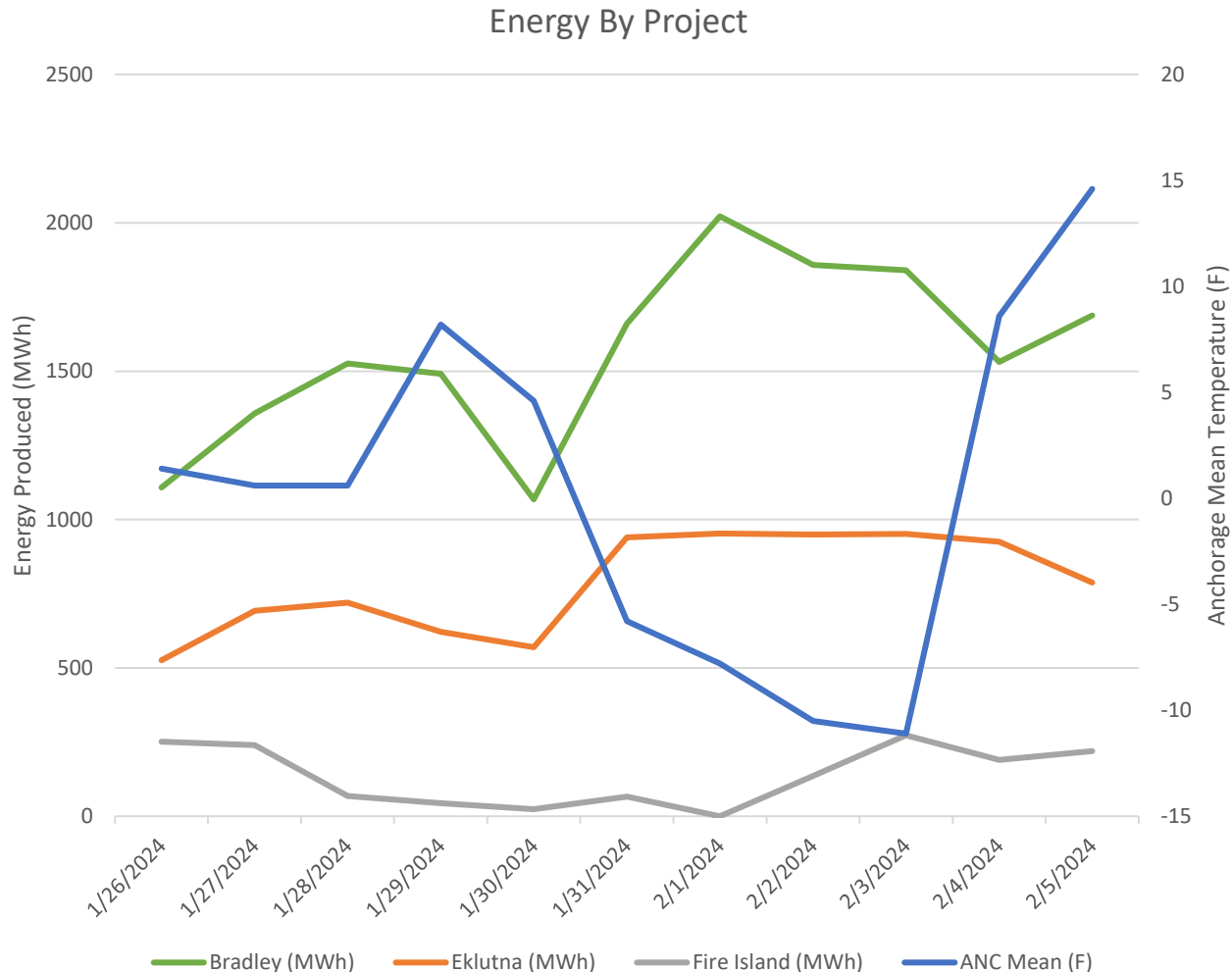
The Value of Traditional Hydropower

Bradley Lake Level



- Lake level lowest in **early May**.
- The lake refills from **May through October**, driven by snowmelt, ice melt, and storm events.
- Water levels are drawn down **during winter and spring** to meet peak energy demand.

The Value of Traditional Hydropower



- During a cold snap in early 2024, **natural gas supplies for heat and power were constrained.**
- **Peak electricity demand** occurs during calm, cold periods, typically in January.
- **Wind and solar generation is often limited** during these conditions.
- **Traditional and stored hydro can increase output** to meet demand.

Bradley Lake: Ownership, Operations, and Governance



- Owned by **the Alaska Energy Authority**
- Operated by **Homer Electric Association**
- Energy dispatched by **Chugach Electric Association**
- **Utilities** manage the project to the maximum extent practicable
- The **Bradley Lake Project Management Committee** provides overall project governance

Bradley Lake Expansion Project

AEA is advancing the Bradley Lake Expansion Project, which includes the **Dixon Diversion** and **Bradley Pool Raise** sub-projects. This project will divert water from Dixon Glacier to increase Bradley Lake's annual energy production by **50 percent**.



ESTIMATED ANNUAL OUTPUT

180,000 MWh

≈ 30,000 homes powered



NATURAL GAS OFFSET

1.5 Billion cu ft

7.5% of unmet demand (2030)



TARGET COMPLETION

2031

Shovel-ready status




ESTIMATED COST

\$400 Million

Class IV Estimate

SOUTHCENTRAL ALASKA

📍 Bradley Lake Hydroelectric Project



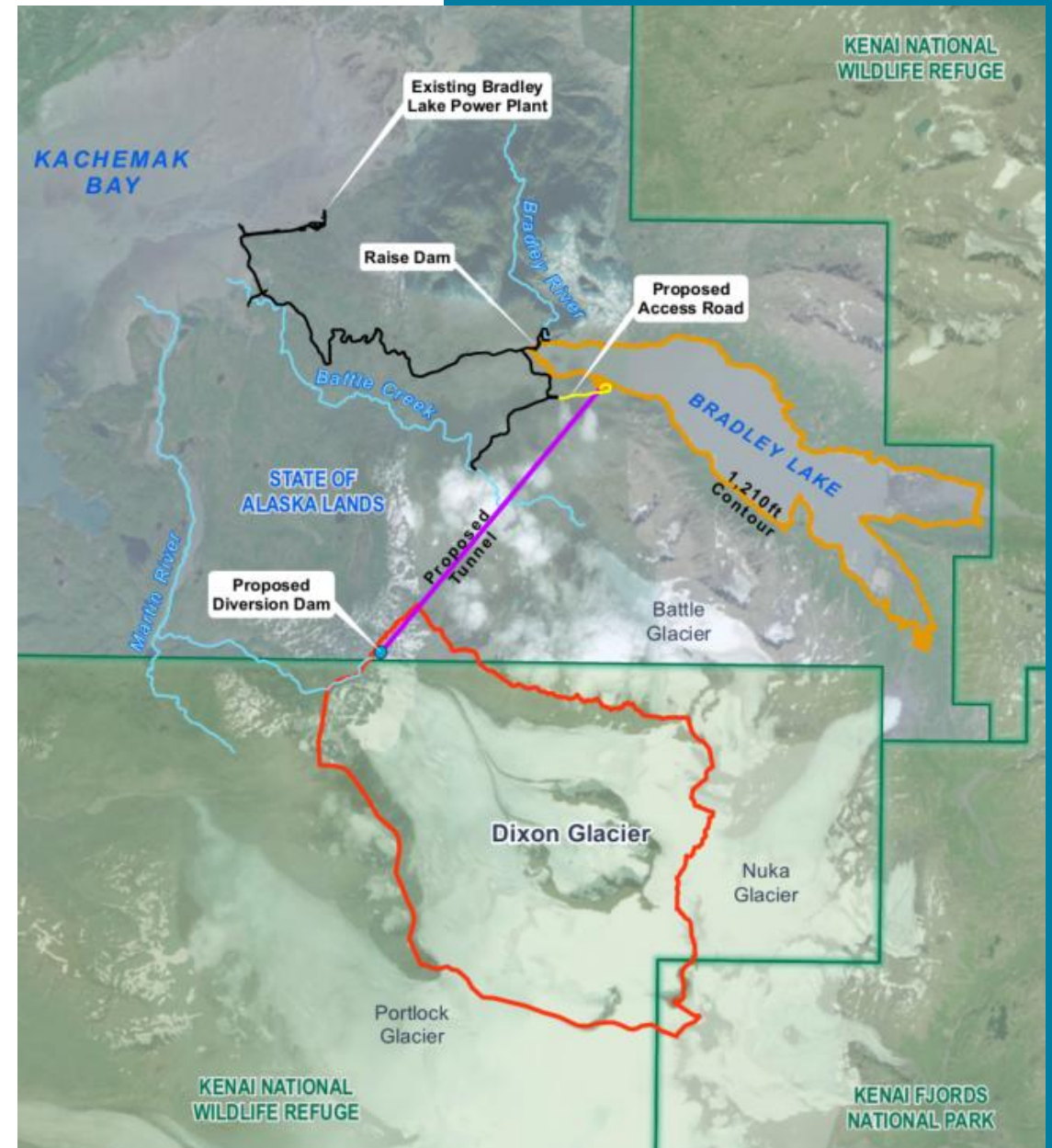
BRADLEY LAKE EXPANSION PROJECT

Dixon Diversion

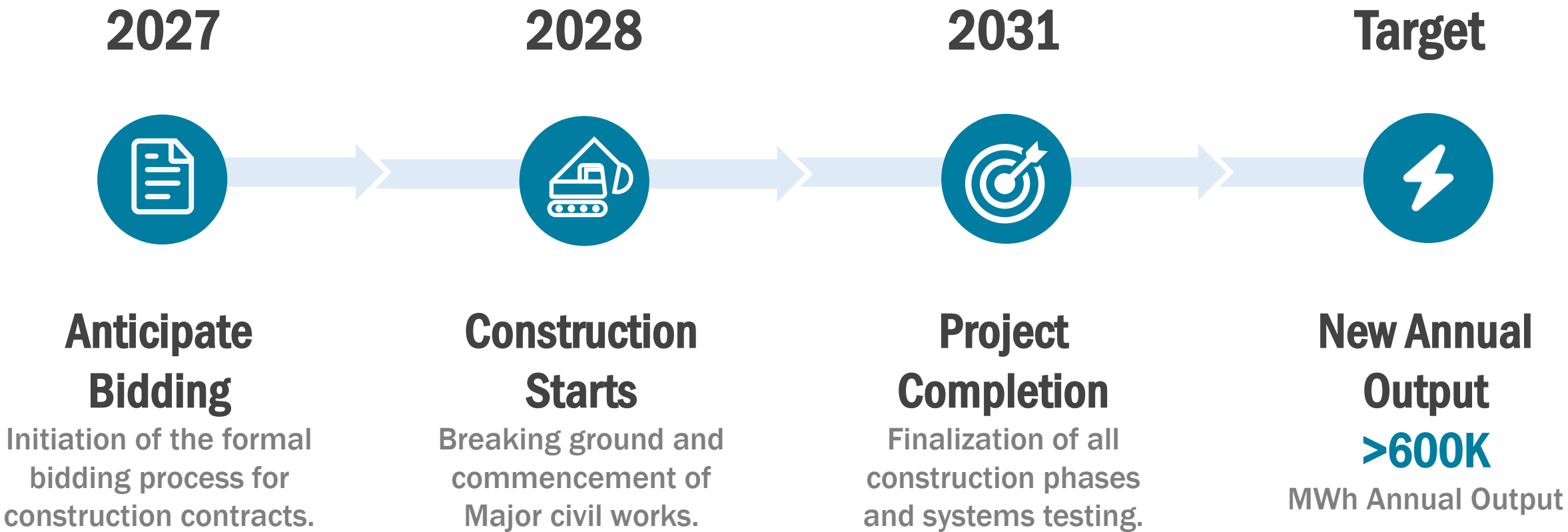
The **Dixon Diversion** represents Alaska's largest new renewable energy development since the Bradley Lake Hydroelectric Project was completed in 1991.

Major Infrastructure Elements:

- Diversion dam at the toe of Dixon Glacier
- 4.7 mile tunnel (~14-foot diameter) conveying water to Bradley Lake
- Bradley Pool Raise up to 16'
- Approximately one mile of new access road




Bradley Lake Expansion Project Timeline



Dixon Glacier





AEA provides
energy solutions
to meet the
unique needs of
Alaska's rural
and urban
communities.

Alaska Energy Authority

813 W Northern Lights Blvd.
Anchorage, AK 99503



Main: (907) 771-3000
Fax: (907) 771-3044



akenergyauthority.org



[@alaskaenergyauthority](https://www.facebook.com/alaskaenergyauthority)



[@alaskaenergyauthority](https://www.linkedin.com/company/alaskaenergyauthority)

