

## PRESS RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **AEA Files Draft Amendment Application for Bradley Lake Expansion Project**

ANCHORAGE, Alaska—The Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has submitted its Draft Amendment Application (DAA) to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for the Bradley Lake Expansion Project, a key milestone in advancing one of Alaska’s most significant long-term energy investments. The filing proposes to amend AEA’s existing FERC license, describes the proposed project and how it would operate, and includes a Preliminary Draft Environmental Analysis outlining the potential effects of the project.

The Bradley Lake Expansion Project would divert water from the Dixon Glacier into the existing Bradley Lake reservoir by creating a small diversion dam at the toe of the Dixon Glacier, drilling a 4.6-mile tunnel to convey water from Dixon into Bradley Lake, and raising the existing dam and spillway by 16 feet to accommodate the new inflows and provide energy storage to the Railbelt.

#### **A meaningful step forward**

AEA’s submission of the DAA marks an important planning milestone for the Bradley Lake Expansion Project. It reflects years of engineering, environmental studies, and coordination with federal agencies, utilities, and other stakeholders to responsibly advance the project. The filing allows regulators and stakeholders to review the proposal and provide input before AEA finalizes the application.

“The Bradley Lake Expansion Project reflects Alaska’s commitment to responsible energy development and long-term planning,” **said Governor Mike Dunleavy**. “By advancing this project, we are strengthening energy security, protecting affordability for families and businesses, and positioning Alaska for a more resilient energy future.”

“The filing reflects careful, disciplined progress,” **said AEA Board Chair Clay Koplín**. “It represents the dedication of AEA’s project team, whose technical work, stakeholder coordination, and long-term perspective have brought the project to this important milestone.”

“Bradley Lake has proven its value to Alaskans for generations,” **said AEA Executive Director Curtis W. Thayer.** “This expansion is about making smart, forward-looking investments that use proven infrastructure to support reliability and manage costs over the long term.”

### **Why the Bradley Lake Expansion Project matters**

The Bradley Lake Expansion Project is designed to strengthen the Railbelt by increasing reliable, low-cost hydropower using existing Bradley Lake infrastructure. The proposed expansion represents an estimated \$400 million, shovel-ready investment that would increase annual hydropower production from the project by up to 50 percent, generating roughly 165,000 megawatt-hours each year—enough electricity to power up to 30,000 households.

Beyond its energy benefits, the project would deliver significant economic returns for Alaska. During construction, the expansion is expected to generate more than \$584 million in total economic output, support approximately 3,250 jobs, and produce \$260 million in labor income, creating substantial near-term benefits for workers, contractors, and businesses across the state. By increasing access to long-term, low-cost hydropower, the project also helps stabilize electricity rates for the Railbelt, improving affordability for households and businesses alike.

By diverting additional water through the Dixon Diversion and increasing the level of the Bradley Lake reservoir, the project is expected to displace approximately 1.5 billion cubic feet of natural gas annually, offsetting about 7.5 percent of projected unmet Railbelt demand by 2030. The additional hydropower would be delivered through the existing Bradley Lake Power Sales Agreement and provided to Railbelt partner utilities—Chugach Electric Association, Golden Valley Electric Association, Homer Electric Association, Matanuska Electric Association, and Seward Electric—benefiting communities from Homer to Fairbanks. By building on a facility that has served as a cornerstone of Alaska’s energy system for decades, the expansion improves reliability, reduces exposure to fuel price volatility, and supports the state’s long-term energy strategy focused on affordability and resilience.

### **What happens next**

With the DAA now submitted, participating agencies will review the proposal and provide feedback as AEA continues coordinating with utilities, Tribes, regulators, and other stakeholders to address comments, refine project details, and prepare a Final Amendment Application for submission in June 2026.

The filed DAA is available on AEA’s website at: [akenergyauthority.org/blep](https://akenergyauthority.org/blep).

Learn more about the project by watching the [Bradley Lake Expansion Project Video](#).

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**About the Alaska Energy Authority**

The Alaska Energy Authority is a public corporation of the state. Its mission is to reduce the cost of energy in Alaska. To achieve this mission, AEA strives to diversify Alaska's energy portfolio, increasing resiliency, reliability, and redundancy. To learn more, visit [akenergyauthority.org](http://akenergyauthority.org).