

SEAPA

Southeast Alaska Power Agency

COMMUNITY FLYER

March - 2014

By: Trey Acteson, CEO

1900 First Avenue, Suite 318

Ketchikan, Alaska

99901-6059

Tel: (907) 228-2281

Fax: (907) 225-2287

www.seapahydro.org

Reservoir Levels: SEAPA owns two hydropower facilities, Swan and Tyee. We often get questions regarding reservoir levels and whether reserves will meet current load demand. Both reservoirs are relatively steep and inflows resulting from rain and snowmelt can be volatile. With this in mind, we need to maintain prudent reserves at Tyee because it serves as the backbone of our interconnected system, providing critical load following and voltage support.



SEAPA conducting snow survey

Reservoirs are managed following SEAPA's Board approved operations plan. The guidelines are established based on historical inflow data, long-term weather predictions, and system load forecasts. The actual day-to-day reservoir management is a dynamic process that uses real-time system data and current weather information to maximize water resource efficiency. As part of this process, SEAPA chairs a weekly meeting with our three member utilities and provides load tables to shape power generation output across the system. It's important to note that we get more energy out of the same amount of water when there is higher head pressure (reservoir level). When long-

term weather forecasts indicate a prolonged dry cycle, more energy can be extracted out of the existing known water reserves by utilizing preemptive diesel generation to help preserve head. Fortunately, recent storms have brought strong inflows and reservoir levels are currently above average. Snowpack depth and water content will be measured over the next couple of months to forecast expected spring run-off. This data will be modeled to help optimize resources going into summer.

Tyee Lake Operations: Petersburg and Wrangell have both passed formal resolutions paving the way to transition operations of the Tyee Lake hydro facilities to SEAPA. Rather than simply terminating the existing O&M agreement, the parties have agreed to work together to craft a transition plan. This will require navigating through the details of three unique healthcare and retirement plans. There are also overlapping governing documents and labor contracts that add complexity to the process. The goal is to facilitate a smooth transition that consolidates management of the Tyee Lake hydro facilities under a single entity.



Tyee Lake Power House

Legislative Affairs: SEAPA represented Southeast Alaska during the Alaska Power Association's (APA) Legislative Lunch & Learn event on January 29th in Juneau. We presented a PowerPoint showcasing regional energy challenges, potential solutions, and offered perspective on the State's role in major infrastructure development in our region.



Swan Lake Dam

SEAPA continues to actively pursue funding for the Swan Lake Reservoir Expansion Project. We submitted a capital appropriations request through CAPSIS on February 7th for \$12.3MM. We also traveled to Juneau on February 24th with Ketchikan's executive lobbying committee to help promote the project. The Swan Lake Reservoir Expansion Project has broad regional support. It was selected as Ketchikan's #1 community priority and has supporting resolutions from both Petersburg and Wrangell. We are making every effort to reduce the financial impact of this important storage enhancement project.

Please visit the SEAPA website at www.seapahydro.org for further information on these and other interesting topics. Thank you.