

This updates the information that was provided in June 2014.

Permitting and preliminary design work continues for a proposed new electrical transmission line intertie extending west across the Tongass National Forest, from the Petersburg area to Kake on Kupreanof Island. The Kake–Petersburg Intertie (KPI) would transmit power to Kake at either 69 or 138 kilovolts (kV) and consist primarily of single wood pole structures.

Studies: An intertie has been discussed for many years and has been the subject of a number of studies dating back to the 1970s. More recent studies include the Southeast Alaska Intertie Study prepared in 2003 and a follow-on study of the KPI Project completed in 2005 and 2010. The 2010 study has been recently updated and is now available.

Environmental Impact Statement: The USDA Forest Service is the lead agency for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that assesses the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act. The Notice of Availability seeking public review will be published in the Federal Register on December 26, 2014 and begins a 45-day comment period. The Draft EIS describes and analyzes four alternatives, including a no action alternative. All three action alternatives follow exist-

ing NFS system roads to the extent possible. No new roads would be built under any of the alternatives. Construction access in areas without existing roads would be via temporary shovel trails and matting panels, with helicopter support, as needed. Shovel trails would be temporary and decommissioned following project construction.

The updated study and the Draft EIS links are now available on the SEAPA web site. Go to www.seapahydro.org and then the project tab and click on Kake-Petersburg Intertie.

Next Steps:

- Two public meetings on the Draft EIS are scheduled for January 13 and 14 in Kake and Petersburg, respectively. The comment period for providing formal comments will end February 10, 2015. More information regarding these meetings will be available using the SEAPA web site.
- The Final EIS and Draft Record of Decision (ROD) is scheduled for early August of 2015.

