

Susan Bell  
Commissioner

P.O. Box 110800  
Juneau, AK 99811-0800

[www.commerce.alaska.gov](http://www.commerce.alaska.gov)

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STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE,  
COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Leslye Langla  
Special Assistant

907.269.8159  
[leslye.langla@alaska.gov](mailto:leslye.langla@alaska.gov)

## Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### Yukon-Alaska Economic Corridor Feasibility Contract Awarded

ALASKA—The governments of Yukon and Alaska have jointly awarded a contract to assess the feasibility of developing electrical and telecommunications connections between Yukon and southeast Alaska.

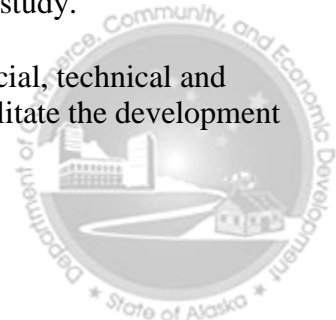
*A consortium of four consulting companies, led by Morrison Hershfield Limited, Whitehorse, partnering with Dryden & LaRue, Anchorage, Access Consulting Group, Whitehorse, and InterGroup Consultants, Winnipeg - was the winning bidder in a competitive tendering process led by the Yukon Government.*

The new \$250,000 contract continues a recent history of steady progress. “The contract award is yet another milestone in developing increased economic opportunity and communication capacity for both the Yukon and Southeast Alaska,” said Susan Bell, Alaska Commissioner of the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development.

“In our latest budget, Premier Pasloski recommitted our government to stimulating private sector growth by building and maintaining modern and efficient telecommunications and energy infrastructure,” Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources Scott Kent said. “This contract marks the next big step toward achieving this goal in both jurisdictions.”

In October 2013, both parties signed a Memorandum of Understanding to fund a feasibility study for a combined electrical transmission and telecommunications connection between Whitehorse, Yukon and Skagway, Alaska. In February 2014, both governments agreed to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the study.

The winning consortium of consultants will also examine the financial, technical and economic viability of creating an economic corridor that could facilitate the development of new electrical generation options near Skagway.



The consultant's final report is due to be presented to the joint Yukon-Southeast Alaska Economic Development Corridor Working Group by December 31 of this year.

The development of this economic corridor is part of an ongoing partnership resulting from the Alaska-Yukon Intergovernmental Relations Accord signed in June 2012.

**Learn more about:**

The Yukon-Southeastern Alaska Economic Development Corridor from the Alaska Energy Authority, <http://www.akenergyauthority.org/> or by contacting Gene Therriault, Deputy Director, [gtherriault@aidea.org](mailto:gtherriault@aidea.org) and through the Yukon at [www.gov.yk.ca/tenders/tms.html](http://www.gov.yk.ca/tenders/tms.html) Catherine Young, Communications, Energy, Mines and Resources [catherine.young@gov.yk.ca](mailto:catherine.young@gov.yk.ca)

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