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Report Released on Viability of Yukon–Southeast Alaska Economic Development Corridor

WHITEHORSE—A report assessing the viability of electrical and telecommunications connections between Yukon and Southeast Alaska was released today.

“As neighbours we have always been linked by trade and tourism, and this corridor is an opportunity for us to advance and continue our historical partnership,” Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, Scott Kent said.

The report concludes that the economics of a telecommunication connection is independent of electrical transmission. The findings also conclude that an electrical connection, while technically and economically feasible, is initially dependent on the growth of power consumption in the Municipality of Skagway. Cruise ships purchasing electricity while in port would be key future customers.

“This effort builds on a long-standing relationship of collaboration and cooperation between Alaska and Yukon,” Deputy Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development Fred Parady added.

The report states that a cross-border electrical connection, once established, could enable development of additional power generation along the transmission corridor, including possible hydroelectric generation at West Creek, a project currently being explored by Skagway.

The report findings will be used by municipalities, businesses and utilities in planning for the energy and telecommunication needs of this binational region. This economic corridor study is one result of the partnership created by the Alaska-Yukon Intergovernmental Relations Accord signed in June 2012.

The report was produced by a consortium of four consulting companies led by Morrison Hershfield Limited, Whitehorse, partnering with Access Consulting Group, Whitehorse, Dryden & LaRue, Anchorage and InterGroup Consultants, Winnipeg.

The Alaska Energy Authority is the Lead Administrative Agency for Alaska with the U.S. Department of Energy State Energy Program and a public corporation of the state with a mission to reduce the cost of energy in Alaska. This mission is achieved by investing in Alaska’s infrastructure; diversifying Alaska’s energy portfolio; energy planning and policy; and training and technical assistance.

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