

PRESS RELEASE

Brandy M. Dixon
Public Engagement Officer
(907) 771-3078

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 5, 2021

**AEA West Fork Upper Battle Creek Diversion Project to
Receive Top Honors for 2021 ACEC of Montana Engineering Excellence**

(Anchorage) — The Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) is pleased to announce the American Council of Engineering Companies of Montana (ACEC of Montana) has selected the West Fork Upper Battle Creek Diversion (WFUBCD) Project for the 2021 Montana Grand Project Award.

Designed by DOWL, the WFUBCD Project will increase the Bradley Lake Hydroelectric Project annual energy production by 10 percent through diverting more water to Bradley Lake. WFUBCD will provide about 37,000 MWh of renewable energy per year — enough electricity for 5,000 homes.

"We'd like to thank ACEC of Montana for this recognition, it is truly an honor," **said AEA Board Chair Dana Pruhs**. "This project is an excellent example of the benefits associated with the design-bid-build delivery construction method. I want to thank DOWL for its involvement and excellent participation in the project."

"What we were able to accomplish in collaboration with our project partners Chugach Electric Association, Homer Electric Association, Matanuska Electric Association, and the City of Seward is something to be proud of," **said AEA Executive Director Curtis W. Thayer**. "The diversion of water from Battle Creek to behind the Bradley Lake dam will allow the project to deliver more lower-cost energy to the ratepayers, an accomplishment squarely with AEA's mission."

The WFUBCD Project consists of a diversion dam and two miles of pipeline to divert waters from the Upper Battle Creek Basin to the Bradley Lake Reservoir, increasing the amount of water available to the Bradley Lake Hydroelectric Project. The Bradley Lake Reservoir provides over 1,100 feet of head to the Bradley Lake Powerplant — one acre-foot of added water supply increases electric production by approximately one megawatt-hour.

The ACEC of Montana Engineering Excellence Awards recognizes a firm's project that has applied unique or innovative technologies, enhanced awareness for the engineering profession, utilized social, economic, and sustainable design, and successfully fulfilled the client/owner's needs, including schedule and budget.

The Alaska Energy Authority is a public corporation of the State of Alaska governed by a board of directors with the mission to "reduce the cost of energy in Alaska."

###