



News from Alaska Power Association

April 2008

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 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
 Northwest Public Power Association
 Renewable Energy Alaska Project

Associate Member:

Dryden & LaRue



Pace quickens in Juneau

As you've likely read in the newspapers or APA's legislative updates, there is a lot going on with energy issues in Juneau.

House and Senate concurrent resolutions were introduced that call for adding an in-state natural gas pipeline to the special session agenda.



The Senate approved its version of the capital budget, SB 221, that contained many items of interest to APA members.

There have also been hearings on bills we are tracking including: House Bill 152, the renewable energy fund; House Bill 233, Internet advertising of unclaimed capital credits; HB 336, Susitna Hydroelectric Project; HB 386, energy subsidy for schools; and HB 396, increasing the Permanent Fund Dividend to allow for energy payments.

I plan to be in Juneau next week for the fast-paced action at the close of Session, and I hope to have good news to report in next month's newsletter.

Until next time,
Marilyn Leland, Executive Director

Gropp and Leland honored for business achievements

The Anchorage ATHENA Society, a program of the

Dryden & LaRue, Inc. (D&L) has been providing total project services to Alaska's utilities in the discipline of electrical engineering since its founding in 1977. These services range from initial system planning and studies, evaluation, engineering and design, to on-site construction.

The principal business goal of D&L is to provide a team of professional engineers that can respond to the needs of Alaskan utilities with competence, quality, and efficiency. D&L has a staff of professional engineers with the experience of many successful Alaskan design projects.

Dryden & LaRue, Inc. has been finding innovative solutions to engineering, design, and construction problems throughout Alaska for more than 25 years. D&L offers a broad range of experience for Alaska electrical projects.

[Dryden & LaRue, Inc.](#)

Anchorage Chamber of Commerce and a chapter of the ATHENA International Society, inducted two Alaska Power Association members and seven additional business leaders during its annual luncheon on April 4.

The two honorees are: **Dora Gropp, P. E.**, Manager, Transmission Services, **Chugach Electric Association Inc.** and **Marilyn Leland**, Executive Director, **Alaska Power Association.**

In accordance with the ATHENA international mission, "Supporting, developing and honoring women leaders; inspiring women to achieve their full potential; and creating balance in leadership worldwide," the Anchorage ATHENA Society recognizes exceptional individuals for their efforts to promote women in business.

Society members are men and women, nominated by members of the community and their peers, chosen for their business accomplishments, community service outside of their responsibilities, and dedication to encouraging the leadership potential of women in business.

CVEA files for preliminary permit on Allison Lake

Copper Valley Electric Association (CVEA) recently filed an application for a preliminary permit with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to undertake an Allison Lake Hydroelectric Project.

For CVEA, the project holds the potential for increased hydro power generation that could displace over 20,000 MWH of fossil fuel generation and provide members of the cooperative long-term, sustainable, environmentally clean energy.

Allison Lake has been studied as a potential source of hydroelectric power since the 1980s. The Allison Lake drainage, which sits west of the Solomon Gulch hydroelectric project, has long been seen as a promising location for hydro power development.



Photo by Steve Hart, CVEA

Since 2004, soaring oil prices have dramatically raised the cost of electricity in Valdez and the Copper River Valley. This led CVEA to look at potential alternatives for power generation.

In 2006, the electric cooperative prepared a reconnaissance level study of power supply alternatives. This study, titled the Alternative Generation Review, evaluated the potential for geothermal, fuel cells, solar, wind, coal, and hydro via Allison or Silver Lake. The study recommended Allison Lake be further evaluated.

In 2007, CVEA completed a pre-feasibility study of Allison Lake alternatives. As part of the study, previous reports prepared by the Army Corps of Engineers and HDR Engineers were reviewed and a field reconnaissance site visit was conducted.



The pre-feasibility study identifies three potential alternatives for using Allison Lake water to generate

electricity. The alternatives include a tunnel option to divert Allison water to Solomon Gulch and two standalone options to move Allison water to a new power house near tidewater.

The conclusions of the study indicate that each of the three alternatives appears to be technically feasible and each appears to deliver power to CVEA at less than the current cost of fossil fuel generation, assuming the project is commercially financed. Grants or other attractive financing products would enhance the economics of each of the three alternatives. The recommendation of the study was to proceed with the initial steps toward licensing a hydropower project at Allison Lake.

CVEA's application to FERC for the preliminary permit immediately follows the expiration of the permit recently held by Green Power Development, which expired on February 29, 2008.

The purpose of a preliminary permit is to secure and maintain priority to allow CVEA to study the power potential of Allison Lake and to develop information necessary to support a license application. The term of the requested permit is three years. During this time, CVEA will study the potential regulatory and environmental considerations associated with developments of this type.

GVEA's newest power plant hits one-year milestone

Golden Valley Electric Association's newest power plant, the North Pole Expansion Power Plant, celebrates its first full year of commercial operation this year after coming online in March of 2007.

"The plant is more efficient than the 30-year old North Pole units," said GVEA President & CEO Brian Newton. "For example, the new plant burns 3,500 gallons per hour to generate 60 megawatts (MW), while the older plant burns 4,300 gallons per hour to generate the same amount of power. In 2007, this saved members \$16 million."



The plant utilizes jet engine technology in the form of a 47 MW General Electric LM6000

combustion turbine. Waste heat from the exhaust stack makes steam to feed a steam turbine which produces an additional 13 MW of power.

"The plant has proven to be extremely reliable," said Gas Turbine Plant Manager Lynn Thompson.

Burning naphtha from the nearby Flint Hills refinery, the power plant produces one-tenth the emissions than plants burning less efficient fuels. Should natural gas make its way into the Interior, it would take a relatively simple retrofit and the plant would be able to utilize that, as well.

Training available for electric co-op directors, commissioners

Alaska Power Association will host the NRECA Fast Track Training for electric utility directors and commissioners in Anchorage at the BP Energy Center May 12-16. The cost will be \$2,250 for the week of training or \$450 per day.

Directors may obtain the Credentialed Cooperative (CCD) status by completing the five courses and passing a learning assessment at the end of each session. Individuals may attend any of the sessions independently and receive credit toward their CCD. The instructors are from NRECA and the following courses are included:

- 2600.1 Directors Duties and Liabilities
- 2610.1 Understanding the Electric Business
- 2620.1 Board Roles and Relationships
- 2630.1 Business Planning
- 2640.1 Understanding Business Planning

For more information, log on to the APA web site or call Tom Johnston, Director of Loss Control and Training, at 907-771-5707 or e-mail tjohnston@alaskapower.org.

Movers & shakers

Alaska Village Electric Cooperative (AVEC) announced the Top Ten Power Plant Operators of 2007 during its annual meeting held March 25 in Anchorage. The following plant operators received recognition for their outstanding achievements: **William Koso** of Anvik;

Frank Brown of Eek; **Francis Nollner** of Huslia; **Lucy Jordan** of Kalskag; **Edgar Solomon** of Kaltag; **Lewis Wesley** of Kivalina; **David Peterson** of Mt. Village; **Warren Booth** and **Floyd Wesley** of Noatak and **Rudy Hamilton** of Shageluk. Lewis Wesley won this award three years in a row and William Koso and David Peterson won for two consecutive years.

AVEC has more than 100 plant operators who are hired by the cities to handle the day-to-day operation of the power generation plants and make sure the lights stay on in their communities.

The Top 10 Operators of the Year are selected based on some of the following criteria: responsiveness to requests for assistance from consumers and AVEC personnel; performing duties satisfactorily, including routine maintenance; running the most efficient generator to maximize fuel efficiency; keeping the day tank full of fuel; total hours of unscheduled power outages; keeping the plant clean and an inventory of normal routine maintenance materials on hand; and turning in completed paperwork.

Sponsorships sought for APA Annual Meeting in Barrow

Alaska Power Association is hosting its 57th Annual Meeting in Barrow, Alaska August 13-15, 2008. The organization seeks sponsorships for its largest membership event.

Each year, individuals representing Alaska's electric utilities gather at this special meeting of the statewide trade association to learn more about new technologies and discuss state and national issues affecting the industry.



With the help of sponsors, APA will be able to host the meeting at a reasonable fee so as many industry members as possible may take advantage of the educational and networking opportunities.

Several types of sponsorship opportunities are available to

suit various budgets and they are outlined in a flyer posted on the APA web site. For more information, contact Crystal Enkvist, Director of Member and Public Relations, at 907-771-5711 or cenkvist@alaskapower.org.

▶ [APA Annual Meeting sponsorships](#)

Meetings & events calendar

REAP Bimonthly Forum: April 15, 2008, Anchorage Museum of History & Art

International Wind-Diesel Workshop: April 23-25, 2008, Girdwood, Alaska

NRECA Legislative Conference: May 4-6, 2008, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Washington, DC

NWPPA Annual Meeting: May 18-22, 2008, Hilton Anchorage Hotel

CFC Financial Workshop: June 3-4, 2008, Alaska Power Association

REAP Renewable Energy Fair: August 9, 2008, Anchorage Park Strip

APA and AIE Annual Meeting: August 13-15, 2008, Barrow, Alaska

NRECA Region IX Meeting: September 15-17, 2008, St. George, Utah

▶ [APA Meetings and Events](#)

Employment opportunities

Chugach Electric Association, Alaska's largest electric cooperative, is recruiting for the following positions, which report directly to the Chief Executive Officer:

Sr. Vice President, Power Delivery

This executive level position provides the overall direction and control of the transmission and distribution functions of Chugach. It participates in the planning, approving, revising and implementing overall policies and strategies of the Association. BS degree in Engineering or

Business Administration required. This individual must have 15 years progressively responsible mgmt exp in electric utility operation, maintenance, design and construction. Experience of directly supervising union craft work teams and departments, labor contract negotiations, engineering design, contract administration, and oversight of major construction projects and related budgets required.

Sr. Vice President, Strategic Planning & Corporate Affairs

This executive level position provides direction and control of Chugach's corporate planning and corporate affairs departments. It designs and leads the integrated resource Plan and strategic planning efforts among all departments. It directs the public relations activities and interactions with elected officials at the federal, state, local and neighborhood levels. This individual must have 15 years progressively responsible management experience in the electric utility industry with five years at a senior level. Candidate must be familiar with distribution, transmission, and generation of electric power and fuel supply matters. Candidate must be experienced in contract negotiations, strategic planning and team building. Experience in government relations, public speaking, organizational mgmt, HR management, finance and marketing desired.

Full position descriptions and application are located at www.chugachelectric.com. Please submit resume with an application in confidence to:

Chugach Electric Association, Inc.
Recruitment Specialist
5601 Electron Drive
Anchorage, AK 99518
Phone: (907) 762-4428
Fax: (907) 562-8703
E-mail: recruitment@chugachelectric.com
Equal Opportunity Employer for all.

► [Employment opportunities](#)

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