



News from Alaska Power Association

December 2008

Watts Inside

NRECA Safety
Accreditation

ANGDA awards EIS
contract

CVEA initiates school
program

Rate relief for GVEA
members

Tank farm regulations

Movers and shakers

Meetings & events
calendar

Employment opportunities

Season's Greetings from APA

As we close the book on this year and look ahead to the promise of a new year, I'd like to share with you some of the activities of Alaska Power Association in 2008:



Policy development - APA worked on its energy planning effort throughout the year. This effort is nearing completion as we have submitted comprehensive and substantive input on the development of the Alaska Energy Plan to Steve Haagenson, State Energy Coordinator. We are mobilizing an advocacy effort to ensure APA members have a seat at the policymaking table as important decisions are made about our energy future.

Regulatory - APA held several work sessions on the Regulatory Commission of Alaska's consideration of PURPA regulations as part of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and reported on various other dockets of importance to APA members.

Networking - The energy crisis in Alaska galvanized the efforts of the APA Managers Forum. The forum, comprised of APA Active and Contributing Member general managers, met frequently this year to analyze and form positions on legislative issues such as fuel cost relief, the State energy plan, and regulatory issues like net metering.

Multimedia Resource Center - The resource center features more than 600 quality safety and training videotapes and DVDs. Our members often use this resource as part of their safety programs.

Information - APA works hard to keep members informed of industry issues, activities, and legislation. The association's

Welcome new APA Associate

Members: MWH Global and R.W. Beck

MWH Global

Janet Sheldon, Vice President

1835 S. Bragaw Street, Ste. 350
Anchorage, AK 99508

Phone: (907) 248-8883

[MWH Global](#)

R.W. Beck

Richard Cuthbert, Principal
1001 Fourth Avenue, Ste. 2500
Seattle, WA 98154
Phone: (206) 615-4434

[R.W. Beck](#)

Industry Links

Alaska Power Association

Alaska Energy Authority

Energy Information Administration

National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

Northwest Public Power Association

Renewable Energy Alaska Project

communications include: twice-monthly Executive Director Reports, monthly e-newsletters, periodic APA "e-flash" government relations updates, postings to our updated web site, and weekly bill tracking reports during the legislative session.

Representation - APA represents the industry to several groups including: Renewable Energy Alaska Project, Governor's Climate Change Subcabinet energy supply and demand and infrastructure work groups, and the NWPPA energy advisory group to the Western Area Governors' Association.

These are a few of the programs and services designed to help our members provide safe, reliable, and affordable electric power to Alaskans.

Happy Holidays.

Marilyn Leland, Executive Director

New observers for NRECA Safety Accreditation program in Alaska

Five new observers were recently added to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Safety Accreditation program in Alaska.

They are: **Bill Caynor**, Copper Valley Electric Association; **Andy Gentry**, Cordova Electric Cooperative; **Olaf Hansen**, Naknek Electric Association; **Amy Paxson**, ARECA Insurance Exchange; and **Eddie Taunton**, Homer Electric Association. These observers are qualified to take part in safety accreditation observation teams that conduct inspections of electric cooperatives seeking accreditation or reaccreditation.



Pictured (left to right): Olaf Hansen, Tom Johnston, Eddie Taunton, Bill Caynor, Andy Gentry, and Ken Thomas.

The training course was led by **Tom Johnston** of ARECA Insurance Exchange and it included instruction from **Jim Cooper**, formerly of Homer Electric Association; **David Gardner** and **Phil Newton** of Golden Valley Electric Association; and **Ken Thomas** of Chugach Electric Association.

The NRECA Safety Accreditation Program is a tool for ensuring that an electric cooperative is on an organized path of excellence and has a commitment to achieve and maintain higher safety standards for its employees and the community serviced. Utilizing peer review, accreditation guidelines are established by job training and safety professionals and affiliates of the rural electric community that, in some cases, exceed local, state and federal requirements.

Electric utilities undergo two evaluations during a three-year review period. The evaluations consist of an on-site field observation and a committee review of safety policies and procedures. NRECA Safety Accreditation addresses everything from board participation to inspection of tools and equipment. Utilities must demonstrate that management and employees are committed to providing a safe and healthful work environment.

Currently, Chugach Electric Association, Golden Valley Electric Association, Homer Electric Association, Kodiak Electric Association, and Naknek Electric Association are nationally safety accredited.

ANGDA awards contract for Beluga to Fairbanks pipeline EIS

In its continuing efforts to bring natural gas to Alaskans, the Alaska Natural Gas Development Authority (ANGDA) recently awarded the contract for the preparation of its environmental impact statement to URS Alaska. The statement is the fundamental component required to permit and construct the pipeline system from Beluga to Fairbanks.



"We are happy to be starting the last major permitting process on the Beluga to Fairbanks pipeline," said Harold Heinze, ANGDA Chief Executive Officer.

"We look forward to working with the Army Corps of Engineers as the lead agency and URS as the independent third-party contractor under the Corps' direction. ANGDA will fully participate in the public scoping and hearing process, and looks forward to hearing the public's input," Heinze said.

The Beluga to Fairbanks (B2F) natural gas pipeline is a 20-24" high-pressure, bi-directional buried steel pipeline linking the main pipeline to Cook Inlet consumers and utilities. As a stand-alone interim project, ANGDA will build the B2F pipeline and run an 8" high-density plastic pipeline from Delta Junction to Fairbanks utilities.

Prior to the completion of the main pipeline, a small volume of Cook Inlet gas will flow north. Upon completion of the main pipeline, the flow will be reversed to move gas to Southcentral Alaska from the North Slope.

In the longer term, ANGDA expects that feeder lines and take-off points will be built as the system grows to meet Alaska's needs. Approximately 90% of the proposed 480-mile pipeline is in existing rights-of-way and easements.

Photo caption: Pictured (left to right) at a press conference are: Kaye Laughlin, ANGDA; Serena Sweet, Army Corps of Engineers; Harold Heinze, ANGDA; and Joe Hegna, Taylor Brelsford, and John Isaacs, URS. Photo courtesy of ANGDA.

CVEA energizes communities with innovative school program

Approximately 650 students and parents from Valdez and the Copper Basin filled auditoriums and gymnasiums on November 11 and 12 as Rachel's Challenge, the largest school program in America took center stage.

Attendees were riveted as they heard the story of Rachel Scott, the first young lady to be killed during the Columbine tragedy in 1999. Students quickly understood how their words and actions can dramatically change someone's life. Students and parents heard stories of how Rachel's kindness and compassion impacted the lives of others, and they were given five challenges that she left behind.



Brandie Orozco, a passionate presenter, challenged students to eliminate prejudice from their lives, surround themselves with positive instead of negative

influences, start writing their goals and dreams, treat others with kindness and compassion, and to start a chain reaction by telling five people close to them how much they mean to them.

Approximately 150 students decided to join their school's Friends of Rachel Club. Students indicated their acceptance of the challenges by signing their school's banner.

Rachel's Challenge was brought to the Valdez and Copper River School District by the Copper Valley Electric Association (CVEA) Community Foundation with financial support from Copper Valley Telephone Cooperative.

"The CVEA Community Foundation couldn't be happier with the program's success," said Sharon Crisp, CVEA Director of Communications. "It was very rewarding to see the excitement on the students' faces after they saw the program. We now look forward to watching as our young people continue the chain reaction of kindness and compassion in their schools and in their lives."

Photo caption: Students from Glennallen and Kenny Lake Middle and High Schools packed the Glennallen auditorium for the Rachel's Challenge presentation. Photo courtesy of CVEA.

▶ [Rachel's Challenge](#)

GVEA delivers rate relief

Golden Valley Electric Association's fuel adjustment decreased by four cents per kilowatt-hour, effective December

1, 2008.

"For the past couple of months we've all watched the price of oil and prices at the gas pump drop. We heard from many members who are frustrated by not seeing a corresponding decrease in electric bills," said GVEA President and CEO Brian Newton.

Newton explained the three major reasons for this. First, the fuel adjustment calculation encompasses a 12-month projection and a three-month true-up of actual fuel and purchased power costs. This creates a lag in timing and pricing.

Another factor relates to the co-op's fuel mix: naphtha, diesel, coal and natural gas. In recent years, the cost of all fuels has increased. These increases are factored into the 12-month projection and can partially offset decreases in the oil market.

Third, oil prices rose rapidly during the fall and winter of 2007. Because GVEA adjusts the fuel adjustment charge on bills quarterly, costs outpaced what was collected and created a deficit of nearly \$8 million. It has taken the co-op much of this year to recoup that amount.

All three of these factors are reflected in the fuel adjustment amount on members' bills. The average residential bill of 750 kilowatt-hours will see a decrease of \$30 per month.

This is the second consecutive quarter the fuel adjustment decreased. It went down more than half a cent in September 2008.

New EPA regs impact fuel tanks: implementation deadline July 1, 2009

By Kimberlie Payne, O.E.S. Inc.

The Environmental Protection Agency's oil pollution prevention regulation (40CFR112) states that owners and operators of facilities with specific oil storage capacities must implement Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) Plans by July 1, 2009. The SPCC Plan must be certified by a professional engineer.

A facility is subject to the SPCC rule if its above-ground oil storage capacity totals 1,320 gallons (to include 55 gallon and larger containers). These capacities must be found compliant with government recognized standards such as those of the

Steel Tank Institute, American Petroleum Institute, and Underwriters Laboratory. These are among the primary industry standards by which most above-ground welded storage tanks are designed, constructed, and maintained. The standards address newly constructed and existing above-ground storage tanks.

Owners and operators of facilities subject to the SPCC rule must also conduct periodic inspections as described by their professional engineer. Above-ground tanks must also be integrity tested on a regular schedule and whenever material repairs are made. Internal and external integrity testing must combine a non-destructive testing examination method along with visual inspections. The EPA amendment requires a Certified Inspector perform a baseline integrity inspection regardless of the tank's age.

O.E.S., Inc.'s (OES) Certified Inspectors can assist utilities in becoming SPCC compliant. The company provides a wide range of tank-related services for



military, government, and private sector clients. Services provided by OES meet state and federal regulatory compliance requirements for above-ground tanks, piping, systems, and components. The company's team of inspection experts is knowledgeable in regulatory and industry standards and provides clients thorough and reliable evaluation for code compliance.

OES inspectors are certified in confined space, Hazwoper, and OSHA tank regulations. The inspectors are internationally certified by ASNT, API 653, NACE, AWS-CWI, API 570 and STI. They also hold many national certifications.

OES' services include: API 653 Tank Inspection, API 570 piping inspections, API 650 QA/QC tank construction, STI tank inspection, cathodic protection inspections, OSHA required training, landfill and incinerator remediation, corrosion surveys, engineering consultants, and design systems quality control and assurance inspections.

For more information on [OES](#), log on to its web site or call

907-562-8738. For more information on the SPCC rule amendment, visit the [EPA](#) web site.

Photo caption: Julie Dietz, an OES Certified Inspector, conducts a tank facility examination. Photo courtesy of OES.

Movers and shakers



Dustin Highers was named Director, Power Supply Technical Services at Chugach Electric Association. He will oversee the development of new generation while providing project management and engineering support to the Power Supply Department. He has been the Acting Director, Power Supply Technical Services since December 2007. Prior to that he was the Plant Manager, Peaking & Hydro Plants. Highers started working at Chugach in July 2002. He has a multi-disciplinary marine systems engineering degree with an emphasis on mechanical

engineering from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.

Theresa Quigley joined Chugach Electric as Manager, Plant Accounting. She previously worked as an Associate Controller for Sierra Southwest Cooperative Services, Inc., in Benson, AZ. Quigley worked at Sierra Southwest since 1995. She has a bachelor of science degree in accountancy, with a management accounting emphasis, from Northern Arizona University.



Allan M. Dolynny assumed the responsibilities of company President at NANA/Colt Engineering, LLC, with the retirement of John Minier on December 5, 2008. Dolynny was previously named general manager at NANA/Colt in October 2008. Joining NANA/Colt from WorleyParsons Calgary, Dolynny brings more than 22 years experience in engineering, procurement and construction project management to his new

Alaska office. NANA/Colt Engineering, LLC, is jointly owned through a partnership between Alaska-based NANA Development Corporation and Australia-based WorleyParsons LTD.

The **Homer Electric Association Board** filled two board vacancies at its meeting on December 9. The vacancies were created when District 2 (Soldotna-Sterling) board members **Dave Carey** and **Hugh Chumley** resigned due to the election of Carey as Kenai Peninsula Borough Mayor and the appointment of Chumley to serve as the mayor's Chief of Staff.

The HEA Board chose Soldotna resident **Bill Tappan** to fill the seat vacated by Carey. Tappan will serve until the term expires in May 2009. The board also selected Sterling resident **Tim Evans** to replace Chumley. Evans will serve out the remainder of the term which expires in May 2011.

Tappan has lived in the Soldotna area for the past four and a half years. He is retired businessman with more than 40 years experience as a corporate level sales and marketing executive in the design, engineering, and construction management industries.

Evans has been a member of Homer Electric Association for 25 years and a resident of Alaska for more than 40 years. He is a retired telecommunications worker who was employed by ACS from 1978 to 2004. Evans has nearly 40 years experience in the electrical industry, serving as manager of electrical wholesale companies in Anchorage and Fairbanks.

A new slate of officers was selected at the Homer Electric Board meeting this month. The new president is **Debbie Debnam** of Sterling. The Vice President is **Don Seelinger** of Seldovia, **David B. Thomas** of Kenai is Secretary/Treasurer, and **Bruce Passe** of Kenai will serve as Deputy Secretary.



Amy Paxson, Loss Control and Underwriting Assistant for ARECA Insurance Exchange (AIE), became certified as an Occupational Hearing Conservationist. She joins the more

than 21,000 certified technicians who conduct audiometric testing as part of organizations' hearing conservation programs to prevent hearing loss among occupational workers. Paxson and **Tom Johnston** of ARECA Insurance Exchange participated November 15 on behalf of AIE and Naknek Electric Association in a health fair held in Naknek. *Paxson (pictured right) conducts a hearing test at a health fair. Photo courtesy of Nannette Pierson.*

Mai Thao, Claims Assistant for ARECA Insurance Exchange, completed the coursework and exam for the Introduction to Property-Liability Insurance program administered by the American Institute for Chartered Property Casualty Underwriters Insurance Institute of America.

Meetings & events calendar

ML&P-APA Electric Utility System Operations Training: February 3-4, 2009, Municipal Light & Power, Anchorage, AK

NRECA Annual Meeting: February 11-18, 2009, New Orleans, LA

APA Legislative Conference: March 10-11, 2009, Juneau, AK

NRECA Legislative Conference: May 3-6, 2009, Washington, DC

APA/AIE Annual Meeting: August 5-7, 2009, Kenai-Soldotna, AK

NRECA Region 9 Meeting: September 23-25, 2009, San Diego, CA

NWPPA-APA Alaska Utility Conference: October 29-30, 2009, Anchorage, AK

▶ [APA Meetings and Events](#)

Employment opportunity

The **Electric Utility Manager** for the **City of Seward** is responsible for planning, directing and evaluating the activities of the city's electrical distribution crew and for performing the necessary design, review and delegated management functions for the operation of the municipal electric utility system.

This position reports to the Seward City Manager and is the department head for the electric department.

The candidate must have a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering, or equivalent experience including a minimum of seven years of electrical project management experience involving responsibility for budgeting, fiscal control and staff supervision, preferably incorporating union contract negotiations.

The candidate must have extensive knowledge of all phases of engineering design, analysis, contract preparation and negotiation, project management, and contract administration.

The salary range is \$72,000 - \$86,000. An application can be downloaded from the documents page of the [City of Seward web site](#). For more information, contact [Sarah Spanos](#) at 907-224-4074.

The City of Seward is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

► [Employment opportunities](#)

Copyright (c) 2008 Alaska Power Association. All rights reserved.

✉ [SafeUnsubscribe®](#)

This email was sent to cenkvist@alaskapower.org by cenkvist@alaskapower.org.
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by



Alaska Power Association | 703 West Tudor Road, Suite 200 | Anchorage | AK | 99503