



News from Alaska Power Association

March 2008

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Focus is on energy in Juneau

Yesterday, APA got word that Steve Haagenson was appointed by Governor Palin to be the State's Energy Coordinator. We are excited to have another opportunity to work with him on energy policy issues and are looking forward to his leadership of the Alaska Energy Authority.



Not to be overshadowed by AGIA, electric energy issues have been a main topic of discussion by lawmakers in Juneau. There have been recent hearings on the Susitna hydro bills (SB 246 and HB 336) and several new energy bills were recently introduced. We'd like to see some forward movement on the renewable energy fund bill (HB 152) that passed the House last session. There have also been different proposals presented for how the State should help Alaskans offset the high cost of energy (SB 217).

I think we can all agree that there is no reason Alaskans throughout the state should be suffering economically from high fuel and utility bills at the same time that the State is experiencing a budget surplus from oil revenue.

APA members are working hard to find solutions to this situation and to proactively communicate energy issues to their member-owners and customers.

Several utilities are banding together to explore long-term generation solutions. Several more have developed green power commitments to help them lessen their dependency on diesel and gas. Others are studying renewable projects like hydro, wind and tidal to see if they pencil out

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economically and are environmentally responsible. And some are doing all of these things. Some utilities, however, have fewer options because of their size, location and economic situation. These utilities are struggling with high fuel prices and their members, in turn, are struggling to pay their monthly electric bills.

I was encouraged to hear Steve Haagenson's pragmatic approach to solving the short-term problems now and working with energy stakeholders to chart a course for a brighter future.

Until next time,
Marilyn Leland, Executive Director

Governor names Haagenson Energy Coordinator

Governor Sarah Palin appointed Steve Haagenson of Fairbanks as Energy Coordinator. Haagenson will also serve as Executive Director of the Alaska Energy Authority.



Haagenson retired from his position as Golden Valley Electric Association's President and CEO in November 2007 after a 32-year career with the Interior Alaska electric cooperative.

During his tenure at GVEA, Haagenson worked his way up through the ranks, working first in a part-time summer position as a staking

technician before moving into positions in engineering and operations. The GVEA Board named him President and CEO in 2001.

Haagenson served on the Alaska Energy Policy Task Force and has been a longtime leader in the Alaska electric industry. In 2007, Alaska Power Association presented him with its Mason Lazelle Achievement Award, the highest level award conferred by the trade association membership, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to electrification efforts in Alaska.

As energy coordinator, Haagenson will lead the state's

efforts in developing a strategic energy plan. "Steve is a proven leader, known for his strategic planning ability," Governor Palin said. "As chair of the Fairbanks Cost of Energy Taskforce, he was instrumental in the development of a strategic business plan addressing electric generation, heating and transportation. His skills will be invaluable as we work toward a statewide strategic plan that will meet the unique challenges of the Railbelt, the Interior and Southeast Alaska and help us achieve our goal of affordable and reliable energy for Alaskans."

Haagenson received a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and a master's degree in engineering management, both from the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Railbelt utilities join forces on generation planning, project

Chugach Electric Association, Golden Valley Electric Association and Homer Electric Association want to explore the costs and benefits of creating a unified power system, called a Unified Power Provider (UPP). The entity would be responsible for providing transmission and generation services for the Railbelt area.



The creation of such an entity was one of the recommendations made in the 2004 Alaska Energy Policy Task Force report. The three cooperatives envision the governance of the Unified Power Provider will consist of

representation from each of the Railbelt utilities along with the State of Alaska.

In a joint statement, Chugach Board President Elizabeth Vazquez, Homer Electric Board President Dave Carey, and Golden Valley Board President Bill Nordmark said the UPP is an attempt to unify the Railbelt and provide reliable electric service at the lowest cost possible.

"We look forward to working with other Railbelt electric utilities and the State's Regional Electric Grid Authority (REGA) study group to analyze the potential benefits of a Unified Power Provider. It is our hope that the unified system will result in both increased reliability and cost savings for our members," said the board presidents.

Anchorage Municipal Light & Power, Chugach Electric Association and Homer Electric Association are interested in joining together to build a new power plant. The three utilities will jointly pursue the development of an efficient, gas-fired generation project near Chugach headquarters in South Anchorage.

Homer Electric currently purchases its power requirements from Chugach Electric under a wholesale power agreement that expires December 31, 2013. Homer Electric intends to acquire its own generation sources following the expiration of the contract.

ML&P generates its own power with a variety of resources, including gas-fired generation plants along Ship Creek near its headquarters complex, and at its Plant 2 near the Glenn Highway and Muldoon Road.

Chugach is presently in the process of developing a gas-fired generation project in South Anchorage and has offered ML&P and HEA the opportunity to be participants in the project. All three utilities foresee needing additional generation resources at about the same time.

The proposed 260-megawatt generation plant would be located near Chugach's headquarters in South Anchorage. Under the terms being discussed, ML&P, Chugach and HEA would work together on the planning and construction of the plant and associated transmission facilities. While there are still many details to be worked out, the plant could be on line by 2012.

The utilities hope to have a project agreement completed and ready for presentation to their respective boards and commission later this year.

Caption:

Representatives from Anchorage Municipal Light & Power, Chugach Electric Association, Golden Valley Electric Association, and Homer Electric Association held a press conference to announce their plans on February 22 at Chugach headquarters in Anchorage. Shown l to r: Bill Nordmark, GVEA; David Carey, HEA; Uwe Kalenka and Bradley Evans, Chugach; James Posey, AML&P; Alex Gimarc, Chugach; Mike Nugent and Brad Janorschke, HEA; and Elizabeth Vazquez, Chugach.

DOE names AVEC 'Wind Cooperative of the Year'

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced, in partnership with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), its selection of **Alaska Village Electric Cooperative** (AVEC) as the winner of the 2007 Wind Cooperative of the Year Award. This annual award, in its seventh year, recognizes AVEC for leadership, demonstrated success and innovation in its wind power program.

AVEC provides electricity service to 53 small, native villages in rural Alaska and is specifically using wind power to reduce its dependence on diesel power. In collaboration with the wind industry, DOE aims to develop and bring online more clean, domestic, and advanced wind energy technologies to help meet the rapidly growing demand for energy.



"With Department of Energy support, unprecedented growth rates in emissions-free, affordable wind production will increasingly help meet the nation's rapidly growing demand for energy," DOE Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Andy Karsner said. "We applaud the Alaska Village Electric Cooperative for its commitment to wind power development, and for

building upon President Bush's commitment to dramatically increase the use of this clean and abundant source of energy."

AVEC currently has 990 kilowatts (kW) of installed wind-generating capacity in four of the communities it serves. Two of these communities, Toksook Bay and Kasigluk, represent the first field deployment of the Northwind 100/20 wind turbine: a 100kW, 20-meter rotor diameter turbine specifically designed for deployment in cold and harsh climates. This turbine, designed and developed in conjunction with DOE, received an R&D 100 award in 2000. AVEC wind turbines are producing up to 25 percent of the Toksook Bay and Kasigluk communities' annual electricity needs.

"Alaska Village Electric Cooperative is very pleased that DOE and NRECA are recognizing our efforts to meet the challenges of developing wind power in remote Alaskan villages," AVEC President and CEO Meera Kohler said. "We share our success with Senator Ted Stevens. His vision and dedication have allowed AVEC's wind program to develop. Without his support and the support of the Denali Commission, we would not have succeeded. We see a drop of diesel not burned as a drop of diesel saved. AVEC will continue to pursue wind as aggressively as we can afford to."

AVEC was one of six rural member-owned utilities nominated this year for the award, which was presented at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's TechAdvantage 2008 Conference and Expo in Anaheim, California.

DOE's Wind Powering America program aims to help the nation achieve targeted regional economic development, enhance power generation options, protect the environment, and help increase our energy security.

In 2007, the United States installed 5,240 mw of new wind power, a 45 percent increase over 2006. The US has had the fastest growing wind power capacity in the world for the last three years in a row, and is anticipated to become the world leader of total installed wind capacity by the end of 2009.

Caption:

Meera Kohler, President and CEO of Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, accepted the U.S. Department of Energy's Wind Cooperative of the Year Award from Steve Lindenberg at the NRECA TechAdvantage Expo in

Anaheim, CA.

GVEA meets green power milestone for 2007

Golden Valley Electric Association met the 2007 goals of its Green Power Pledge utilizing a combination of conservation, hydro-electric power and power contributed by SNAP producers. The Green Power Pledge, adopted by GVEA's Board of Directors in 2005, sought a goal of 10 percent of the peak system load being supplied by green power.

The co-op's peak system load in 2007 was 223 megawatts, with over 22 megawatts supplied by green power. Hydroelectric was the primary source of renewable energy, with increasing gains from conservation and GVEA's Sustainable Natural Alternative Power (SNAP) program. GVEA currently has 19 SNAP producers.

But the challenge doesn't end here. Now that Golden Valley has met this goal it must be maintained as the next goal, 20 percent by 2014, is aimed for. With demand for electricity increasing by around three percent each year, this is no easy task.

"It's a challenge we have to keep on meeting. It's going to be a scramble, but I'm confident we'll meet the goal," said Vice President of Power Supply Kate Lamal.

GVEA is looking into a number of different projects to meet the 20 percent mark. Among these are the viability of wind generation, small scale hydroelectric projects, increasing the number of SNAP producers, bio-fuels and increasing conservation.

GVEA is currently researching wind generation potential near Healy, Delta and on Murphy Dome. Data collected from these sites will help determine the best location for future wind turbines that could add another green resource to GVEA's generation. Several private groups are also evaluating wind and solar in several other areas.

"The GVEA board is committed to protecting the environment," said Board Chairman Bill Nordmark. "We believe we can continue to meet these goals with continued development of these efforts and other programs in the works."

Golden Valley Electric Association is a member-owned cooperative owning and operating five power plants that provide power to over 90,000 Interior residents. In 2005, GVEA became the first utility in the state to adopt a Green Power Pledge and to offer SNAP.

Movers & shakers

Mary Schonberger recently joined Alaska Power Association as Executive Coordinator, Administration and Planning. Schonberger was previously the Anchorage office manager of the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council.

She holds a bachelor's of science degree in business administration from Bryant College in Rhode Island. After completing her degree, she worked for a decade in the financial industry.

In her position at the electric utility trade association, Schonberger provides administrative support to the Executive Director. She also works closely with the member and public relations department on event coordination.

Madeline Davis was hired by ARECA Insurance Exchange for the position of Administrative Assistant. She is responsible for providing administrative support to ARECA Insurance Exchange and Alaska Power Association. Davis' duties include supporting the insurance company's multimedia resource center, producing reports for the loss control and underwriting departments, maintaining facility records, and providing administrative support to the ARECA Training Council.

This position was held by **Amy Paxson** who was recently promoted to Administrative Assistant, Loss Control and Underwriting. Paxson is responsible for providing administrative and technical support to the Director of Loss Control and the Underwriter. Paxson also prepares reports for the insurance company and is responsible for administering the safety awards program.

Mai Thao was hired by ARECA Insurance Exchange for the position of Claims Assistant. Thao was previously employed with Alaska Southcentral Urology Specialists. She is responsible for providing administrative support to the Claims Adjustor.

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.

It's never too early . . .

The Alaska Power Association and ARECA Insurance Exchange Annual Meeting is scheduled for Aug. 13-15 in Barrow, Alaska.

Rooms in Barrow are at a premium, so it is not too early to plan your lodging and travel to Barrow.

For more information, visit the APA meetings and events web page or contact Crystal Enkvist, Director of Member and Public Relations, at 907-771-5711 or cenkvist@alaskapower.org.



Sponsorships for the meeting are now available and there are many benefits at each level of support from \$1,000 to

\$10,000. Contact APA by April 30 if you are interested in helping underwrite the meeting.

Meetings & events calendar

Governor's Safety & Health Conference: March 20-21, 2008, Sheraton Anchorage Hotel

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

NRECA Legislative Conference: May 4-7, 2008, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Washington, DC

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

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

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

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