



News from Alaska Power Association

November 2008

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Associate Member: Precision Power LLC

Precision Power LLC, established December 1996, is wholly owned by Peak Oilfield Service Company.

Precision Power LLC is a licensed general and electrical contracting company with more than 200 years combined experience in the engineering, manufacture, sales and service of power generation equipment.

This includes project histories with Cummins-Onan Northwest, NC Machinery, Caterpillar, Pacific Power Products, John Deere engines, New Horizons Telecom, Kinetic Energy Systems, Woodward Governor Company, and Alaska

APA membership survey reveals top three issues

A recent survey of the Alaska Power Association membership reflects the three top goals of Alaska electric utilities--stability of price, moving toward more renewable energy, and lowering electricity costs.



Although this data comes as no surprise to many of us in the industry, what is significant about it is the commonalities that now exist between Railbelt and rural utilities. The energy crisis in Alaska has created a tremendous opportunity for us to work together to solve the challenges of providing safe, reliable, and affordable power.

The trade association will soon submit comments to Steve Haagenson, Executive Director of the Alaska Energy Authority (AEA), in hopes that he will include our feedback in his recommendations to the Governor and the legislature. An update on AEA's energy planning progress is posted on our [web site](#).

Until next time,
Marilyn Leland, Executive Director

GVEA launches new renewable energy program

Golden Valley Electric Association is introducing a new renewable energy program. The Experimental Renewable Resource Purchase Program, available for projects up to 2,000 kilowatts, was created to further promote member-

Diesel Electric.

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owned renewable resource generation and assist the co-op's efforts to meet its Green Power Pledge.



In 2005, GVEA was the first utility in the state to offer the Sustainable Natural Alternative Power program, or SNAP, to promote renewable resource generation.

Today, the Interior Alaska co-op is the first to offer a renewable energy program for facilities with ratings greater than the capacity allowable under the SNAP program, but less than what would affect GVEA utility system operations.

"The new program, a recommendation from GVEA's Green Power Advisory Committee, will bridge the gap between a renewable resource facility providing power to GVEA under the terms of SNAP and large-scale renewable resource generation," said President & CEO Brian Newton.

Program specifications include:

- Approved facility - an electric generation facility using water, biomass, geothermal, wind or solar
- Capacity - single unit not to exceed 2,000 kilowatt nameplate capacity
- Pricing - choice of GVEA's avoided cost or a fixed contract rate
- Developer qualification - owner-operator must be a GVEA member-owner

Because of the considerable unknowns additional larger-scale renewable generation may introduce to an electrical transmission system, GVEA is initially making the program available to its members on a limited basis. Maximum program capacity is 12,000 kilowatts.

"All utilities face challenges when integrating renewable generation into its utility system operations because it's an intermittent resource," said Kate Lamal, GVEA Vice President of Power Supply. "We're hopeful this program will yield useful data for managing such circumstances."

Chugach Electric sets goal for reducing energy consumption

Chugach Electric Association recently approved a policy on energy efficiency and conservation. The policy calls for the establishment of programs to help members reduce energy consumption and demand. The programs will incorporate education, information, energy audits, rebates, and incentives.

The policy sets an initial goal of reducing energy consumption by Chugach residential members by 10 percent below the 2008 monthly average in the next two years, with new goals to follow every five years.



The policy also recognizes the need for a regional approach to issues, and calls for Chugach to participate in local and state planning of energy efficiency and conservation.

The utility won't be starting from scratch. For years the Anchorage area co-op has had a number of programs and services in place to help customers interested in saving energy and lowering their bills. However, with the passage of the policy, Chugach staff will be developing new programs and devoting additional resources to help members interested in using energy more wisely.

In 2006, the Chugach board created a Renewable Energy Committee and populated it with member-volunteers interested in helping the cooperative evaluate options and opportunities for renewable energy projects, conservation, and efficiency. The new policy resulted in part from the work of the committee.

For more information on Chugach's energy programs, visit the [co-op's web site](#) or call Carol Heyman at 762-4707.

Movers & Shakers



Dave Smith (*pictured left*) was named Senior Vice President, Administration, for Chugach Electric Association.

He will oversee the member services, information services and administrative services activities. In addition, Smith is responsible for

the safety, commercial and community relations functions. He is also charged with implementing the electric cooperative's energy conservation and efficiency program.

Smith most recently served as Vice President, Administration. He started working at Chugach in June 1994.

Dave Carey, former President of the Homer Electric Association (HEA) Board of Directors and former HEA director **Hugh Chumley** resigned from the HEA Board. Carey was recently elected to serve as Mayor of the Kenai Peninsula Borough. After the election, he selected Chumley to be his Chief of Staff. The two long-time HEA board members discussed their dual roles with the borough attorney and came to the conclusion that it was best for all concerned that they resign from the HEA Board. The Homer Electric Board will appoint two members from District 2 (Soldotna-Sterling-Kasilof) to fill the vacant seats. The appointments will be for the length of the term of each of the seats (May 2009-Carey and May 2011-Chumley).



Tim Barnum (*pictured left*), Electric Utility Manager for the City of Seward, accepted a position at Matanuska Electric Association as Line Superintendent. His last day at his current job is December 9.

Charlie Walls, Director of the City and Borough of Sitka Electric Department, is retiring from the electric industry at the end of the month after a career of nearly 40 years. Walls retired as President and CEO of Alaska Village Electric Cooperative in 2000. He was then tapped to manage several other rural Alaska electric utilities including Nushagak Electric and Telephone Cooperative in Dillingham where he served as Interim General Manager. He also served as the Energy Program Advisor for the Denali Commission. Walls' replacement at the Sitka utility is Chris Brewton who recently managed the electric utility division of Ketchikan Public Utilities.

Electric utility systems operation

course coming to Anchorage in February

Anchorage Municipal Light & Power (AML&P) and Alaska Power Association are hosting an electric utility systems operation training course on February 3-4, 2009 at AML&P.



This popular two-day course, offered by the Northwest Public Power Association and taught by veteran trainer Skip Collier, presents a clear understanding of the technical heartbeat of the utility by providing electric utility employees with a comprehensive understanding of electrical system operations.

Operations explained in the training include fossil fuel-fired power, hydroelectric power, and nuclear generation, and transmission and distribution. In addition to technical information, the course also covers the economics of operation, system and equipment protection, and safety.

The course assumes no electrical background and builds on the basics to provide a comprehensive understanding of the equipment and operation of an electric system. For more information, contact [Wendy Carlson](#) at (360) 254-0109.

[On-line course registration](#)

Alaska co-ops garner regional communications awards

The communications work of Golden Valley Electric Association and Chugach Electric Association received Excellence in Communications Awards from the Northwest Public Power Association.

The Excellence in Communications contest recognizes the top communications efforts from NWPPA's service area, which includes eight western states and two Canadian provinces. This year, NWPPA received 145 entries from 40 member utilities. Categories were divided into four

groups based on the utilities' number of customers.

Golden Valley, in group C, received a first place award for a media/ad campaign and a second place award in the wild card category. Chugach Electric, in group D, received second place awards in the web site and wild card categories.

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](#)

You could be America's next Electric Co-op Idol: here's how

Recognizing the tremendous reservoir of singing talent that exists throughout the electric co-op network, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association will conduct an "American Co-op Idol" contest during its

upcoming 67th annual meeting, February 15-18, 2009, in New Orleans, LA.

The show will be a mix of comedy, professional performances, and it will showcase the talent of electric cooperative employees and directors.



The American Co-op Idol competition hosts are Brooke White, from a previous American Idol competition, and Greg Schwem, a comedian who has appeared on The Tonight Show and other stages across the nation.

To be considered for the competition, audition tapes and forms must be received at NRECA offices by January 6, 2009. Entrants will be selected based on ability, presentation, and overall sound. Selected contestants will receive an all-expense-paid trip to the NRECA Annual Meeting and perform during entertainment night festivities on February 16.

The competition is open to electric cooperative employees, directors and officers of NRECA voting member systems.

At the conclusion of the event, a panel of judges, with input from the audience, will name a grand-prize winner who will take home \$5,000. Second and third place finishers will receive \$2,500 and \$1,000, respectively.

For more information, visit the [Cooperative.com web site](http://Cooperative.com).

Meetings & events calendar

ARECA Training Council: December 4, 2008,
Anchorage, AK

APA/AIE December Meeting Series: December 5, 2008,
Anchorage, AK

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 2-6, 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](#)

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