



News from Alaska Power Association

October 2008

Watts Inside

KEA receives \$38 mill. loan for Terror Lake Hydro Plant

Nome wind farm under construction

GVEA offering SNAP corporate sponsorships

Movers & Shakers

APA directors on Renewable Energy Advisory Committee

Co-op directors earn certifications

Meetings & events calendar

Co-op Month



Each October, cooperatives all across America observe National Co-op Month by celebrating the role, accomplishments, and contributions of our nation's cooperatives.

Cooperative Principles

Voluntary and Open Membership -

Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

Democratic Member Control -

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions.

Electric industry facing challenges, developing opportunities

Although it was a little warm for the taste of the Alaskans attending the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Region 9 meeting in St. George, Utah last month, it was well attended by our members and I think everyone found the sessions and the opportunity to network with boards and staff from other co-ops in the West to be extremely valuable.



Most of the sessions revolved around the challenges the energy industry is facing now with increased costs and climate change issues.

Immediately upon my return to Anchorage, I headed to Girdwood to attend the last part of the Alaska Rural Energy Conference. Although I was only there for a day, I was very encouraged to learn about the combination of established technologies and innovative new ones being deployed in projects throughout the state. There was a lot of information sharing and networking among utility representatives, policy makers, regulators, funders, and vendors.

The conference, sponsored by the US Department of Energy, Alaska Energy Authority (AEA), and University of Alaska Fairbanks, is typically held every 18 months, although there is talk of having them more often with the next one possibly as early as January 2009 for AEA to roll out its state energy plan.

I spent two days the following week at the University of

Men and women serving as elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.

Member Economic Participation

- Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the cooperative. They usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

Autonomy and Independence

- Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.

Education, Training and Information

- Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public - particularly young people and opinion leaders - about the nature and benefits of cooperation.

Cooperation among Cooperatives

- Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

Concern for Community

Alaska Anchorage participating in the Adaptation and Mitigation Advisory Groups as part of the Governor's Sub-Cabinet on Climate Change. The groups are continuing their process of winnowing through a catalog of more than 200 options for addressing climate change. Of course, not all, but many, of these options would affect utilities.

APA is currently surveying its members to identify core concerns, common themes and consensus on the issues we would like addressed in the Alaska Energy Authority's energy plan to be released in December. Steve Haagenson, State Energy Coordinator, met with the APA Managers Forum recently and provided an update on the status of the state's energy plan. I look forward to sharing with you our input to AEA and keeping you informed on energy policy development.

Until next time,
Marilyn Leland, Executive Director

Kodiak Electric to receive \$38M USDA loan for Terror Lake Hydro

USDA Rural Development will provide a \$38 million loan to Kodiak Electric Association (KEA) to fund the purchase of the Terror Lake Hydroelectric Plant, James Andrew, Administrator of USDA Rural Development's rural utilities programs announced.

Located about 25 miles from Kodiak, Terror Lake is the only hydro facility inside a national wildlife refuge. It is a two-unit, 20 megawatt facility and delivers power through a 17-mile long transmission line. The system also includes three substations and 11 miles of distribution lines. Funding of the project is contingent upon the recipient meeting the requirements of the loan agreement.

"It's expected that when this plant is acquired by KEA from the Four Dam Pool Power Association, cooperative members will benefit through a projected reduction in overall costs," Andrew said. He announced the loan after touring the Terror Lake facility with KEA officials and with Acting Rural Development Alaska State Director Chad Padgett.

Since 2001, USDA Rural Development has awarded approximately \$28 billion in electric loans to utilities

While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.

Associate Member: City Electric Inc.



City Electric has served the needs of Alaskans since 1946. The company has constructed projects in all kinds of challenging weather conditions throughout Alaska.

City Electric's capabilities include facilities electrical construction; outside plant telephone and installation services; fiber optic systems installation, splicing, and testing; outside plant power systems for distribution and transmission, both overhead and underground; and directional drilling.

It also provides design-build services utilizing in-house and industry partner experience.

To support its capabilities, the company maintains an extensive inventory of equipment and tools valued at approximately \$9 million dollars, and offices in Anchorage and Fairbanks, AK; Portland, OR; and Snohomish, WA.

Anchorage, Alaska:
819 Orca Street
Anchorage, AK 99501
Office: (907) 272-4531
Fax: (907) 264-6491

Fairbanks, Alaska:
3540 Holt Road
Fairbanks, AK 99701
Office: (907) 452-7158
Fax: (907) 451-0141

Snohomish, Washington:
City Pacific Services
512 Maple Avenue
Snohomish, WA 98290
Office: (360) 563-0642
Fax: (360) 563-9367

[City Electric Inc.](#)

Industry Links

across the nation.

Kodiak Electric Association directors and managers receive the ceremonial check for \$38 million from USDA Rural Development.



Nome wind farm under construction by STG, Inc.

STG Inc., headquartered in Anchorage, Alaska, began construction of Nome's Banner Ridge Wind Farm. An STG construction crew broke ground at the site in late August to begin work on the 18-turbine, 900 kilowatt project on the northern outskirts of Nome.

Crews are on location improving site access, constructing foundations, installing the turbines, and developing transmission infrastructure.



STG is constructing Nome's wind farm for Bering Straits Native Corporation and the project will become the largest wind farm in operation on Alaska's Seward Peninsula once connected to the city's electrical grid.

Similar to other wind energy systems installed by STG, the Banner Ridge project will be completed through the use of cranes to pick up and set the wind towers that are designed to support commercially sized wind turbines.

Construction at Banner Ridge follows STG's recent installation of a 200 kW wind farm in the St. Lawrence Island community of Savoonga, which was completed

Alaska Power
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Alaska Energy
Authority

Energy Information
Administration

National Rural Electric
Cooperative
Association

Northwest Public
Power Association

Renewable Energy
Alaska Project

earlier this summer. STG is also currently constructing a 225 kW wind installation at the Tin City Long Range Radar Station for TDX Power.

"We take great pride in our ability to efficiently implement a wide variety of infrastructure projects that are specific to the needs of rural Alaska," said STG President James St. George.

"Wind energy installations are no exception and we approach these projects as partnerships. By offering our experience with the technology, we are not only able to free up time for project owners to focus on operational aspects, but also play a vital role in the development of more economically and environmentally sustainable communities."

Construction at the site is scheduled to be complete by October and the wind farm is expected to be fully operational by the end of the year.

GVEA offering sponsorships of renewable energy program

Golden Valley Electric Association (GVEA) is now offering SNAP (Sustainable Natural Alternative Power) corporate sponsorship opportunities in response to businesses' requests to participate at a greater level. SNAP corporate sponsorships allow Interior Alaska businesses to promote their company and renewable energy at the same time.

"The SNAP program has been very successful with nearly 600 individuals contributing," said GVEA President and CEO Brian Newton. "Offering the SNAP program to businesses is another way of promoting SNAP and supporting GVEA's renewable energy pledge."

Sponsorship opportunities are \$10, \$25, \$50, and \$100 per month. Sponsors receive a window decal promoting their participation and placement of their corporate logo on GVEA's website.

There are currently 24 SNAP power producers online. In the past year, SNAP producers generated 67,781 kilowatt-hours--enough to power seven average Interior homes for a year. SNAP power producers are paid from voluntary contributions to the SNAP fund.

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

Movers & Shakers



The Chugach Electric Association Board of Directors recently named **Brad Evans** as the member-owned cooperative's Chief Executive Officer.

"In December of 2007, Brad Evans accepted the job of interim CEO, hit the ground running and immediately began to make a positive impact," said Rebecca Logan, Chugach

Electric Board Chair.

"Brad's 23 years of utility experience include strategic and resource planning, interconnected utility operation, fuel negotiations, power plant operation and maintenance, and utility process efficiency analysis. This experience has served Brad well as he has begun to lead Chugach in its efforts to build new generation, to consider consolidation of missions with ML&P, and to begin identifying responsible, renewable energy projects for Chugach to become involved in."

Evans was raised in Fairbanks and has lived in Anchorage for 15 years. He holds an electrical engineering degree from the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Ed Jenkin, P.E. was named Vice President, Power Delivery for Chugach Electric Association. He oversees the engineering and operations functions associated with all distribution and transmission activities. Jenkin previously served as director of the co-op's engineering services division. He started working at Chugach in March 1989. He is a registered professional engineer with an electrical engineering degree from the University of Alaska Fairbanks.





Teresa Kurka was promoted to the position of Director, Member Services for Chugach Electric Association. She has been with Chugach for 17 years, and has experience in customer service, credit and collections, and customer accounting. Kurka formerly held the position of Manager, Customer Service.

CDR Tony Stobbe is the new United States Coast Guard Liaison to the Kodiak Electric Association Board of Directors. Most recently, he was the Commanding Officer of the USCG cutter SPAR in Kodiak. Stobbe is Facility Engineer for Integrated Support Command Kodiak.



Carol Harbeson (left), ARECA Insurance Exchange Underwriter, and **Diana Imlay** of Homer Electric Association recently achieved the designation of Certified Risk

Manager. The CRM designation recognizes individuals who have demonstrated advanced risk management knowledge and expertise by attending five, 20-hour courses and passing rigorous examinations in the areas of principles and practice of risk management, risk control, analysis, and finance.

Amy Paxson, Administrative Assistant for Loss Control and Underwriting for ARECA Insurance Exchange, now holds a Certificate of General Insurance from the Insurance Institute of America. The certificate is awarded upon the successful completion of examinations based on material covered in three courses: property and liability insurance principles, personal insurance, and commercial insurance.

Three APA directors appointed to Renewable Energy Advisory

Committee

Governor Sarah Palin recently appointed several individuals to the state's Renewable Energy Advisory Committee.

The committee is responsible for working with Alaska Energy Authority Executive Director Steve Haagenson to establish criteria for evaluating applications for grants from the renewable energy fund. It will also evaluate grant applications from utilities, local governments and housing authorities, and recommend which grants the legislature should fund.

The advisory committee includes representatives from small rural and large urban electric utilities, Alaska Native organizations involved in renewable energy, the Denali Commission, and two members of the state legislature. Legislative leaders appointed Sen. Lyman Hoffman of Bethel and Rep. Bill Thomas of Haines.

The governor's appointments to the renewable energy advisory committee reflect a broad range of experience and innovation in providing energy to Alaskans. Three of them are directors on the Alaska Power Association Board.

Jodi Mitchell of Juneau became Chief Executive Officer of Inside Passage Electric Cooperative, Inc. in Juneau in January. She is Vice President of KWAAN Electric Transmission Intertie Cooperative and a director on the Alaska Power Association Board.



James M. Posey (*shown left*) of Anchorage has been General Manager of Municipal Light and Power, Anchorage's city-owned electric utility, since 2003. He is a director on the Alaska Power Association Board. Posey served on the Alaska Public Utilities Commission from 1997-99.

Brad Reeve (*shown right*) of Kotzebue has been General Manager of Kotzebue Electric Association since 1988. He is a leader in using federal grants to research and develop alternative energy generation in cold climates. Reeve is



President of the Alaska Power Association Board of Directors.

Chris Rose of Palmer is the founder and Executive Director of the Renewable Energy Alaska Project, a coalition of urban and rural Alaska utilities, businesses, conservation and consumer groups, and Alaska Natives interested in developing renewable energy resources in Alaska.

Electric co-op directors achieve industry certifications

Seth Jensen of Cordova Electric Cooperative, **John Sloan** of Golden Valley Electric Association, and **Donald Seelinger** of Homer Electric Association received Credentialed Cooperative Director certificates at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Region IX meeting in St. George, Utah this month. **Elizabeth Vazquez** of Chugach Electric Association and **Ron Acarregui** of Kodiak Electric Association received Board Leadership Certificates at the meeting.

The educational accomplishments of these locally-elected directors were recognized at the regional meeting for their commitments to education and the attainment of the director certifications before an audience of more than 400 electric cooperative officials from ten states, including Alaska.

The NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director, or CCD, program requires attendance and demonstrated understanding of the basic competencies contained in five core courses: director duties and liabilities, understanding the electric business, board roles and relationships, strategic planning, and financial decision making.

The NRECA Board Leadership certificate recognizes individuals who continue their professional development after becoming a Credentialed Cooperative Director. Directors who have attained the Board Leadership certificate have completed 10 credits in advanced, issues-oriented courses.

Meetings & events calendar

APA Communicators Forum: November 13, 2008, Alaska Power Association

Investment Review Committee: November 13, 2008, Alaska Power Association

ARECA Educational Foundation Investment Review Meeting: November 13, 2008, Alaska Power Association

APA/AIE December Meetings: December 5, 2008, Anchorage, Alaska

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

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

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

NRECA Legislative Conference: May 2-6, 2009, Washington, DC

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

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

▶ [APA Meetings and Events](#)

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