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News from Alaska Power Association

September 2009

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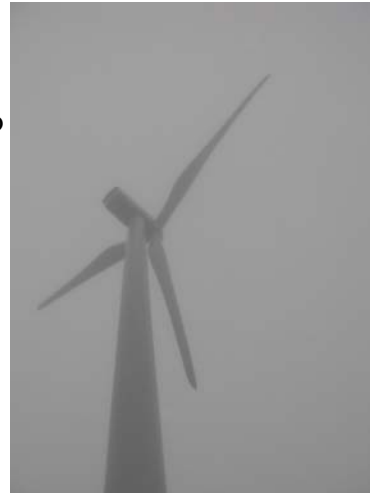
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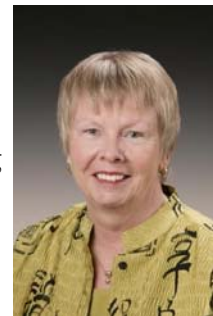
This fall has been an inspirational time for us at APA as we were fortunate to attend dedication ceremonies for renewable energy projects in Naknek and Kodiak.

It is hard not to be awe inspired when you stand at the bottom of a massive wind tower perched on a mountaintop or when you see a geothermal drill rig from the window of an airplane. APA member utilities throughout the state are building sustainable projects that will power Alaska communities for decades.



In addition to commissioning new energy projects, several members in the Railbelt region are ramping up their conservation education campaigns, hosting workshops, and working with retailers to provide good deals on compact florescent bulbs.

As some of you may already know, I have been working to reduce my monthly kilowatt-hour usage. So far, I have achieved a 40 percent overall reduction by using CFLs, making some minor home improvements, and replacing my refrigerator. Seeing the cost reduction in my electric



Associate Member: Commonwealth Associates, Inc.

Commonwealth Associates, Inc. (CAI) is an employee-owned and -managed firm specializing in services related to the transmission and use of electric energy.

CAI's experienced, diverse staff includes engineers, engineering

technicians and experts in environmental sciences, licensing, surveying, right-of-way acquisition, and construction management.

CAI provides engineering and consulting services for power delivery projects throughout the U.S.

The company offers a complete package of services to assist with the successful licensing, design, and construction of electric transmission line and substation projects.

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Industry Links

[Alaska Power Association](#)

[Alaska Energy Authority](#)

[Energy Information Administration](#)

[National Rural Electric Cooperative Association](#)

[Northwest Public Power Association](#)

[Renewable Energy Alaska Project](#)

bill every month is motivating me to continue looking for ways to lower my kilowatt usage.

It's encouraging and rewarding to see first-hand the many opportunities we have in our state for developing renewable energy and for adopting energy efficiency practices in homes and businesses.

Until next time,
Marilyn Leland, Executive Director

Preview of next month's issue:

- Co-op month activities in Alaska
- Gas contingency planning effort
- Unalakleet Valley Electric Cooperative's wind farm

Naknek Electric christens its first geothermal well

Naknek Electric Association, Inc. (NEA) in southwest Alaska is exploring geothermal power production to improve its ability to provide reliable and affordable electricity.

Like many rural Alaska utilities, the member-owned electric cooperative is facing an urgent need to identify and develop sound alternatives to diesel generation. The increasing and unpredictable costs of using fossil fuels are threatening the economic health and sustainability of the Bristol Bay and Lake Region of Alaska.

NEA is meeting this challenge head on by aggressively pursuing geothermal energy. On August 15, it held a spud-in ceremony to christen its first geothermal exploration well, the Naknek G-1, which is augering its way toward possible hydrothermal fluids in rock fractures



thousands of feet deep.

Proposed geothermal project:

- 25 MW geothermal generation facility
- 450 miles of transmission lines to bring electric energy to 25 villages
- Lines would extend from Naknek/King Salmon to Pilot Point; to Iliamna/Port Alsworth; and to Dillingham/New Stuyahok/Togiak
- Initial load: 18 MW with full potential to use 25 MW within two years



Donna Vukich, NEA General Manager, is seen here with Chuck Kleeschulte, a senior staff member of the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.



Henry Strub, Board Vice President of Nushagak Cooperative in Dillingham; Carol Harbeson of ARECA Insurance Exchange; and David Jedlicka, Director, Naknek Electric Association, watch the crew on the drill

rig as the drill augers into the ground. Photos: Crystal Enkvist, Alaska Power Association

Ribbon cutting celebration for KEA Pillar Mountain Wind Farm

Many Kodiak community members and Alaska political and business leaders braved the island's formidable wind and fog on August 28 to help Kodiak Electric Association, Inc. (KEA) celebrate a new era of renewable energy at its Pillar Mountain Wind Farm Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.



Senator Gary Stevens (R-Kodiak) cuts the ceremonial ribbon at the Pillar Mountain Wind Farm Celebration as KEA Directors Michael Brechan, Jay Johnston, Gordon Gould, and Cecil Ranney look on with anticipation. Photo: Nancy B. Sweeney, Kodiak Electric Association.

KEA's three 1.5 MW wind turbines are the first large industrial wind turbines to operate in the State of Alaska. The member-owned cooperative anticipates that the wind farm will provide an estimated eight percent of its power. The GE manufactured turbines are part of the utility's commitment to making Kodiak's power come from 95 percent renewable energy sources by 2020.

The cooperative says the economic and environmental goals of utilizing its wind turbines are to reduce diesel consumption, which reduces emissions, lowers the cost of power, and stabilizes the overall cost of power.



Marilyn Leland, APA Executive Director, poses with Cliff Davidson (left), KEA Chairman, and Bill Nordmark, Golden Valley Electric Association Chairman.

EPA issues final greenhouse gas reporting rule

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a final rule Sept. 22 requiring facilities that emit more than 25,000 tons a year of carbon dioxide (or other greenhouse gases) to file annual reports on their emissions. The monitoring requirements take effect on Jan. 1, 2010, and the first annual reports, covering calendar year 2010, must be submitted to EPA by March 31, 2011.

The new program will apply to roughly 10,000 facilities, covering about 85% of the nation's greenhouse gas emissions, EPA said. EPA estimates that the private sector's expected cost to comply with the reporting requirements is \$115 million for the first year. In subsequent years, the estimated annualized cost for the private sector is \$72 million, the agency said.

Source: Robert Varela, American Public Power Association

Unalaska awarded nearly \$1M grant for geothermal power

Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) recently announced a

\$951,500 grant awarded to the City of Unalaska for geothermal work. The U.S. Department of Energy grant is directed at finding an accessible commercial grade geothermal resource at Makushin and developing a 10 to 12 MW geothermal power plant (with the ability to expand to 20MW) for the City of Unalaska Electrical Utility. The city currently relies heavily on diesel and pays about 32 cents a kilowatt hour for power.

GVEA receives economy energy from Chugach

On September 3, Golden Valley Electric Association, Inc. (GVEA) came to agreement with Chugach Electric Association, Inc. to purchase 20 megawatts (per hour) of natural gas-fired economy energy over the next three months.

"This is good news," said GVEA President and CEO Brian Newton, "Although the cost of the additional 20 megawatts is 25 percent more than we have paid for gas-fired power from Anchorage in the past, the agreement will save our members money. In fact, when compared to burning oil, it will save members about \$5/month over the next three months."

Historically, Golden Valley has received up to 75 megawatts per hour of electricity over the Alaska Intertie. For the past year, however, GVEA has only received an hourly average of 30 megawatts, including 15 megawatts from the Bradley Lake hydro electric plant. The new agreement with Chugach Electric increases this number by 20 to 50 megawatts, but still falls short of the norm.

"The gas shortage in the Cook Inlet means we will receive less economy energy from Anchorage and must depend more heavily on local power generation. Local generation is costly because it requires burning expensive oil," said Newton. "The new agreement with Chugach will help lessen the anticipated December increase in fuel and purchased power, but it doesn't solve the problem completely."

Henri Dale, GVEA Power Systems Manager, said, "At GVEA, we are always looking for ways to lower energy costs and save our members money, especially during tough economic times. This agreement will provide our members some relief from high oil prices over the next three months. Affordable electric rates are in all of our

best interests."

Industry Movers & Shakers

Charles "Manny" Zeringue is the new Manager of Power Generation for Kodiak Electric Association (KEA). Zeringue brings more than twenty years of power generation experience to KEA. He is relocating to Kodiak from Colorado Springs, Colorado



Utilities join forces to expand Smart Power program

Chugach Electric Association, Inc.; Matanuska Electric Association, Inc. (MEA) and Anchorage Municipal Light & Power (ML&P) have united to help customers by expanding Smart Power, an energy-efficiency and conservation program originally established by Chugach.

As another way to encourage energy conservation, the utilities are making special pricing possible on each 4-pack of SATCO-brand compact fluorescent lights (CFL) - equal to \$3 in savings. This special pricing will last through the end of 2009.



Chugach, MEA and ML&P are partnering with local retailers for the special pricing. Partnering retailers include Brown's Electric, Fred Meyer, Spenard Builders Supply, Target, Walgreens and Walmart. The promotion is good at participating retail locations throughout Anchorage and the Mat-Su Valley.

SATCO is a designated Energy Star Partner of the Year whose CFLs contain the lowest level of mercury of all CFLs currently being manufactured. CFLs can use up to 75 percent less energy than standard incandescent light bulbs and last up to 10 times longer.

The utilities are also sponsoring two Smart Power light emitting diode (LED) lighting workshops. Dan Webb, of SATCO Lighting, will be the presenter.

The workshops are for residential and commercial customers and will also be informative for architects, engineers and design people.

The first will be held from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 7, at MEA's Headquarters, 163 Industrial Way, in Palmer.

The second will be held from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 8, at Chugach's Headquarters, 5601 Electron Drive in Anchorage.

For more information, see the project link at [Chugach Electric](#), [MEA](#) and [ML&P](#).

Meetings & events calendar

NWPPA-APA Alaska Utility Conference:

October 29-30, 2009, Anchorage, AK

APA/AIE December Meetings:

December 4, 2009, Anchorage, AK

NRECA Annual Meeting:

February 11-18, 2010 Atlanta, GA

APA Legislative Conference:

March 9-10, 2010, Juneau, AK

NRECA Legislative Conference:

May 2-5, 2010, Washington, D.C.

APA/AIE Annual Meetings:

August 11-13, 2010, Fairbanks, AK

NRECA Region 9 Meeting:

September 21-23, 2010, Anchorage, AK

 [APA Meetings and Events](#)

Employment opportunities

The **Project Manager Analyst** position is responsible for

managing the State of Alaska's Energy Data Inventory program, a web-accessible statewide geodatabase of energy resources, infrastructure, generation, and consumption data. Other duties include coordinating the design and management of **Alaska Energy Authority's** (AEA) renewable energy, rural energy, and energy efficiency project databases. Send resumes and an application for employment to: Marge Cabanski, 813 W. Northern Lights Blvd. Anchorage, AK 99503 or e-mail to mcabanski@aidea.org. Completed applications and resumes must be received by AEA no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, October 9, 2009. The State of Alaska is an EEO/ADA employer. Individuals requiring accommodations should call 1-800-587-0430 or 907-465-4095 in Juneau or 907-465-3412 (TTY).

McGrath Light and Power Company (MLPC) is recruiting for a **Power Plant Manager**. MTNT Limited is seeking a seasoned professional who will be responsible for the efficient operation of all contracted electric utility power plants, including inside and outside plant functions and ensuring compliance with all state and federal regulations. The position reports to the General Manager of MTNT, Ltd. Experience in supervision, financial management and budgeting is a must. The successful candidate must also have familiarity with planning, regulatory reporting, grant writing and monitoring. General knowledge of worker and environmental safety and protection, and minimum education, specific training and certifications in power production and distribution are required. MTNT offers competitive pay, medical and an opportunity for growth. This position is located in the village of McGrath. Please send resume and cover letter to Ramon@thegrowthcompany.com.

Cordova Electric Cooperative, located in scenic Prince William Sound, is a progressive utility that encourages a participatory work environment. The **Journeyman Lineman** position has a competitive salary with an excellent comprehensive IBEW benefit package. Come join a great team in a beautiful place that is renowned for breathtaking scenery and world class outdoor recreation. Submit resume and cover letter detailing your interest and qualifications for the position with three professional references to Cordova Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 20, Cordova, AK 99574-0020, or e-mail this information to info@cordovaelectric.com. CEC is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Recruiting will continue until a qualified applicant has been hired.

The **Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA)** is

recruiting to fill the position of **Operations Manager**. A bachelor of science degree in electrical, civil, mechanical engineering, or equivalent discipline with at least fifteen years professional experience is required. Demonstrated experience will include electrical power system operations and maintenance including electric power utility or an equivalent public agency work experience. Hydroelectric power generation and operation experience is preferred. SEAPA offers an excellent compensation and benefit package including health, retirement, paid time off and paid holidays. For additional information about this job opportunity, contact: Shannon Webster, Southeast Alaska Power Agency, PO Box 110987, Anchorage, Alaska 99511-0987; (907) 258-2281; Fax: (907) 258-2287; Email: swebster@seapahydro.org. SEAPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Copper Valley Electric Association is seeking a **Line Superintendent/Manager of Operations**. The successful candidate will provide efficient management of the distribution and transmission facilities in the Copper River Basin and Valdez Districts by ensuring all necessary materials, equipment, supplies, and services are provided for the day-to-day operation of the cooperative in an expedient manner. The position is responsible for supervision of a three-person line crew in each district. Ten years progressively responsible experience and system operations experience in the electric utility industry, the ability to work well and communicate with the general public, and a valid Alaska Commercial Drivers License are requirements of the position. A minimum of a two-year technical degree is preferred and a technical certification as Journey Lineman. Travel between the two districts is necessary and outside the service territory as required. This position is salary exempt. The salary range for this position is up to \$110,000 annually, depending upon qualifications and relevance of professional experience of the candidate. CVEA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Copper Valley Electric Association is also seeking a **Journeyman Lineman** to work in Valdez, Alaska. Wage rate is \$38.00/hr, overtime is 2X, excellent medical and retirement benefits including 401k program, paid holidays, generous PTO, some relocation assistance available. Position requirements: high school diploma or equivalent, area domicile, satisfactory physical examination including pre-employment drug and alcohol screening, Alaska Certificate of Fitness card and CDL Class A driver's license. CVEA has a CBA with IBEW 1547. This position is open until filled. CVEA is an Equal

Opportunity Employer.

To express interest in either CVEA position, submit a resume or application to Nancy Heidelberg, Executive Assistant, at jobs@cvea.org, or fax a resume to (907) 822-5586, or call (907) 822-8342.

► [Employment opportunities](#)

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