



# ALASKA POWER ASSOCIATION

## LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2008

### Statewide Energy Policy and Plan

Alaska Power Association is working on and will seek legislative support for **statewide energy policies** in the areas of energy supply, deliverability, sustainability, and planning. A comprehensive energy plan would conceivably address the following issues currently being addressed by the Legislature:

Economic relief from **high fuel prices**: The impact of the unprecedented increase in the cost of oil is significant economic hardship to all Alaskans. Alaska Power Association supports relief funding from the State's oil tax windfall to offset a portion of these stifling fuel prices and to help sustain local economies.

Full funding for **Power Cost Equalization** (Resolution 05-3): Alaska Power Association urges the Legislature to continue the PCE benefit at 100% for FY08 and to fully fund PCE in the Administration's FY09 operating budget.

Funding for the **research and development of alternative energy** (Resolution 06-3): APA seeks legislation that includes prudent funding mechanisms from an appropriation, the general fund or an endowment to assist with the research, development and application of alternative energy sources. (SB 246, the Susitna Hydropower Project study, is a step in the right direction.)

HB 288, **Net Metering** (Resolution 07-3): HB 288 would mandate a net metering program for electric utilities and their consumers in which utilities would be forced to purchase power from customers generating their own electricity. The Regulatory Commission of Alaska is considering adoption of federal net metering standards (R-06-5) as part of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. The commission must render an opinion by August 2008. This decision is better handled by the appropriate agency than by the Legislature.

### Regulatory issues

Request for an extension of Alaska's waiver against the imposition of unnecessary lower sulfur levels in Alaska fuels (Resolution 06-8): The **ultra low sulfur diesel fuel** requirement in Alaska is not justified because of the open spaces, lack of dense industrial or transportation base, and non-existent spot congestion from fuel systems exhaust.

Inclusion of ADEC equipment in **rural tank farm** spill response contingency plans (Resolution 01-1): APA urges the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation to permit fuel tank farms in rural Alaska to list the equipment in ADEC's response depots as available to tank farms in case of a spill.

Streamlining of **air quality construction permits** (Resolution 99-2): Alaska Power Association encourages the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation to simplify permitting procedures for utilities and to become more familiar with power supply planning and reliability criteria.

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