



# News from Alaska Power Association

August 2007

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## Greetings,

Summer has breezed by quickly as we prepare for the Alaska Power Association and ARECA Insurance Exchange Annual Meeting hosted next month in Valdez by **Copper Valley Electric Association**. This year's meeting theme is "Energy Independence for Alaska" with a focus on the near-term development of a comprehensive statewide energy policy that incorporates renewable energy.

Five panels held during the general sessions on September 13-14 will cover: energy supply and delivery, innovative funding opportunities for renewable energy projects, renewable energy policy development, rural power issues, economic perspectives, and policymakers' views on Alaska's energy vision for the future.

Speakers include: Speaker **John Harris**, Senator **Gene Therriault**, Regulatory Commission of Alaska Chairman **Tony Price**, Denali Commission Federal Co-Chairman **George Canelos**, USDA Rural Development Acting Alaska Director **Chad Padgett**, and Alaska Natural Gas Development Authority CEO **Harold Heinze**. Governor **Sarah Palin** has also been invited to participate in the meeting.

Annual meeting information is available on our web site and the registration deadline is August 10. Hotel rooms in Valdez are at a premium, so I encourage you to make your travel and hotel plans as soon as possible. Here is a link to the meeting information: [2007 Alaska Power Association Annual Meeting](#)

Until next time . . .



*Marilyn Leland, Alaska Power Association Executive Director*

Cooperative  
Association

Northwest Public  
Power Association

Renewable  
Energy Alaska  
Project

## Sens. Stevens, Murkowski introduce major climate change legislation

Alaska Senators **Ted Stevens** and **Lisa Murkowski** joined a bipartisan group of six senators July 11 in introducing major legislation to address global climate change by reducing carbon emissions, encouraging technological innovation, and developing alternative fuels.



The Low Carbon Economy Act of 2007, sponsored by Senators **Jeff Bingaman** (D-NM) and **Arlen Specter** (R-PA), would establish a "cap and trade" program which sets annual targets for carbon emission reduction. Carbon-emitting power plants and businesses would be allowed to buy, sell, and trade credits equal to their emissions to reach their

target emission levels.

To ensure these industries are able to meet their targets, the cap and trade program also establishes an allowance system, which would initially grant 76 percent of the credits for free and make all remaining credits available for purchase through auctions.



The cost of buying emission credits should slow the growth of, and ultimately reduce, domestic carbon output: emission levels in 2020 would be the same as in 2006; decline to 1990 levels by 2030; and fall to nearly 60 percent below last year's levels by 2050.

A portion of the funds taken in from the emission credit auctions would be used to fund research and technology to cut carbon emissions. Under this plan, by 2020, \$35 billion will be provided to encourage coal-fired power plants to retrofit or build new plants that can store carbon underground. That could help spur truly clean coal development in Alaska, which leads the nation in coal reserves.

Funding will also be provided for cellulosic ethanol production, potentially including biomass from wood fiber, and advanced vehicle technology, such as the development and promotion of "plug-in" hybrid electric vehicles.

In addition, \$25 billion per year would be available to provide assistance to states to help pay infrastructure damage costs which result from climate change. This adaptation funding is particularly important to Alaska, which has been affected by climate change more than any other state.

"There is little doubt that Alaskans are feeling the effects of climate change more than anyone else in our nation," said Senator Stevens. "Regardless of whether these changes are caused solely by human activity, we must take steps to protect people in the Arctic. This bill would help accomplish that goal by taking a balanced and realistic approach which reduces carbon emissions without damaging our economy. In addition, this legislation would direct much-needed resources to Alaska to deal with the consequences of climate change."

"In Alaska we have been feeling the impacts of a warming climate for decades," said Senator Murkowski. "The permafrost is melting, Arctic ice is disappearing and wildlife habitat is changing. It is responsible for us to take actions to reduce carbon emissions, as long as we can do it without harming our economy. By starting now with a program that funds and spurs technological research and development we can purchase an insurance policy against catastrophic climate effects at relatively little cost."

Under this proposal, Alaska would receive funding starting in 2009 to cover the cost of highway and airport damage, water and sewer line repairs, seawall construction, port and pipeline repairs, and village relocation costs caused by climate-induced erosion or thawing.

According to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, nearly a dozen villages in Alaska already face damage. Entire village relocations, costing in the hundreds of millions of dollars, will most likely be necessary.

According to a preliminary review by the University of Alaska's Institute of Social and Economic Research, the bill could actually help get an Alaska natural gas pipeline project built by increasing the relative value of natural gas

compared to other fossil fuels.

## Chugach Electric Board appoints Blue Ribbon Panel

The **Chugach Electric Board** voted unanimously at its June 20 meeting to appoint five community executives to a Blue Ribbon Panel. The board has tasked the group to review the utility's organization and operation and make recommendations for the future.

"We're listening to our members. They are telling us that our goal must be to deliver energy at the lowest possible cost. We agree and are taking action," said Board Chair **Elizabeth Vazquez**. "These panelists are long-time residents who have served in many capacities in our community. I know they will work diligently to make recommendations to us that will benefit Chugach's customers. Nothing but good things can be the result of these appointments."

The panel members are **David Gottstein**, President, Dynamic Capital Management; **Robert Hickel**, President, Hickel Investment Company; **Loren Lounsbury**, Former APUC and Commerce Commissioner; **Richard Lowell**, President, Ribelin Lowell & Co. Insurance Brokers (retired) and **John Wanamaker**, Vice President, Seattle-Northwest Securities.

Vazquez appointed **Bill Noll** as the facilitator. Noll was previously Alaska's Commissioner of Commerce, Community and Economic Development. He and Vazquez worked together to forward a slate of community executives to the board for approval. "We are very pleased these experienced Alaskans have consented to serve on the panel," Noll said. "The panel will begin meeting in July and is striving to deliver a report to the board by October 1."

Chugach is the largest electric utility in Alaska, providing power for Alaskans throughout the Railbelt through retail, wholesale and economy energy sales.

## Industry Movers & Shakers

Commissioner **Tony Price** was unanimously elected as the new Chairman of the Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA) during a public meeting June 29, 2007.



Price has a BA in business/accounting from the University of Washington and was appointed by the former governor as an RCA commissioner to a six-year term that began July 1, 2004. Prior to the RCA, Price served as the Director of Public Finance for the Municipality of Anchorage and as cash manager for 10 years for the

Alaska Housing Finance Corporation.

Price will be responsible for the administrative functions of the RCA and presides over the commission for a one-year term at the beginning of the fiscal year, July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008. A commissioner may be elected to up to three consecutive terms as Chairman.



Northwest Public Power Association (NWPPA) members elected **Tom Kuckertz** to the NWPPA Board of Trustees. He will be serving his first three-year term on the board. Kuckertz, a resident of Valdez, Alaska, works at the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council (PWSRCAC) as a

project manager in its Terminal Operations program. Prior to working at PWSRCAC, he worked as a technical staff member and group leader at Los Alamos National Laboratory for 22 years. Kuckertz serves as Secretary on the Copper Valley Electric Board of Directors.

**Clay Koplín, P.E.** was appointed Chief Executive Officer of Cordova Electric Cooperative by the CEC Board of Directors. Koplín has served the co-op as Manager of Engineering and Operations since 1998. Prior to CEC, he was Staff Engineer at Kodiak Electric Association. He has a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering, is a registered Professional Engineer, and completed the NRECA Management Internship Program. An active member of his community, Koplín was appointed by Governor Palin last spring to serve as a director on the Marine Transportation Advisory Board. He has also served on the Cordova City Council and headed the Cordova Chamber of Commerce.

## Municipal Light & Power holds customer contest

As part of its seventy-fifth anniversary, Municipal Light and Power is inviting long-time Anchorage residents to enter its Old-Timers Contest, to identify the longest-running continuous customers of ML&P.

ML&P dates its start to 1932, when the City of Anchorage purchased the electrical distribution system, which the city had been operating under a lease agreement. The city paid \$11,351 for the distribution system.

The Old-Timers Contest kicked off June 21, when ML&P volunteers served root beer floats at the thirtieth birthday party of the Anchorage Pioneers Home.



ML&P will hold a second event in early August at the Anchorage Senior Center. Candidates for the Old-Timers Contest must contact the ML&P Marketing Department (263-5369) or Patty Ginsburg [ginsburgmj@muni.org](mailto:ginsburgmj@muni.org) no later than Aug. 15.

ML&P is one of three electric utilities that serve the Municipality of Anchorage. ML&P serves approximately 30,000 customers in a 20-square-mile service area that includes Government Hill, downtown, midtown and the University-Medical district. ML&P is owned by the Municipality of Anchorage.

## Denali Commission, AEA issue request for Letters of Interest for energy projects

The Denali Commission and Alaska Energy Authority issued a request for Letters of Interest (LOI) for developing alternative-renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in Alaska.

The purpose of the LOI is to assist the agencies in designing programs that provide technical and/or financial assistance to potential project developers. This LOI is issued jointly by the Denali Commission and the

Alaska Energy Authority (AEA), so the agencies can work together to define the universe of alternative-renewable energy projects that are in or moving toward development, and learn what funding gaps exist for these projects.

There has been strong interest in the Denali Commission supporting alternative-renewable energy projects, in addition to completing projects on the statewide energy deficiency lists. The commission said it expects these LOIs to help it establish levels of interest, need, technical assistance and funding considerations for alternative-renewable energy projects. Ultimately, the commission expects to use the results of the inventory to help develop criteria and funding ranges for a Request for Proposals (RFP) for alternative-renewable energy projects for the FY07 funding approved in its work plan (up to \$5 million).

The Alaska Energy Authority has had an Alternative Energy and Energy Efficiency Assistance Plan for a number of years. The agency said the LOIs will help the State determine new needs and further develop their existing plan.

For questions concerning this LOI, contact Kathy Prentki, P.E., Denali Commission, at (907) 271-1414, (888) 480-4321 or [kprentki@denali.gov](mailto:kprentki@denali.gov). The deadline to submit an LOI is 5 p.m. Friday, Aug. 31.

## APA seeks photos for directory

Alaska Power Association's annual membership directory is being updated and the organization seeks quality images of utility employees, customers and projects. APA is looking for local photos that help tell the story of the electric industry in Alaska.

Color and black & white photographs may be submitted via e-mail to Melissa Robokoff, Executive Coordinator, at [mrobokoff@alaskapower.org](mailto:mrobokoff@alaskapower.org). All photos will be considered. For more information, call (907) 563-2551.

## Alaska students awarded scholarships at youth rally

Five students from Alaska electric cooperatives took part in the Idaho Cooperative Utility Association (ICUA) Youth Rally last month in Caldwell, ID. At the week-long youth leadership events, high school sophomores and juniors learn about electric cooperatives, public power, teamwork and life skills.

Two students from Homer Electric Association, **Adrianna Garcia** and **Molly Watkins**, were the top two overall scorers at the rally in the interviews



conducted by chaperones and in participation rated by observers.

Garcia received a "highest scorer, first-year student" \$600 educational scholarship and was selected to represent Alaska on the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Youth Leadership Council. She was also selected by her peers to return to the rally as a 2008 Returning Student Director. Molly Watkins, who placed second overall, received a \$500 "first-year student" scholarship.

Another student from Homer Electric, 2007 Returning Student Director **Christopher Hall**, received a "second-year student" \$600 educational scholarship for being the overall highest scoring second-year student.

Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, which provides electric power service to 52 villages in western Alaska, sent two students: **Regina Williams** of Togiak and **Wassillie Levi** of Lower Kalskag. The students shared Alaska Native culture and traditions with the other youth rally attendees.

For more information on Alaska's participation in the ICUA Youth Rally, contact Crystal Enkvist at (907) 563-2559, (887) 992-7322, or [cenkvist@alaskapower.org](mailto:cenkvist@alaskapower.org).

## Meetings & events calendar

**Renewable Energy Fair:** August 11, 2007, Anchorage Park Strip

**Alaska Power Association and ARECA Insurance Exchange Annual Meeting:** September 12-14, 2007, Valdez Convention & Civic Center

**APA Communicators Forum:** November 5, 2007, APA office

**APA/NWPPA Alaska Utility Conference:** October 31-November 2, 2007, Sheraton Anchorage Hotel

**APA December Meeting Series:** December 6-7, 2007, Millennium Hotel, Anchorage

**APA Legislative Conference:** February 6-7, 2008, Baranof Hotel, Juneau

**NRECA Annual Meeting:** February 20-27, 2008, Anaheim, California

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

## Alaska training opportunities from the Northwest Public Power Association:

**When Disaster Strikes: Continuity Management and Emergency Response Planning for Directors (NRECA 924.1):** September 11 in Valdez

**Foreman Leadership Training:** October 8-12 in Fairbanks

**AC Transformers, Advanced Theory:** October 30-31 in Anchorage

▶ [APA Meetings and Events](#)

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