



# News from Alaska Power Association

October 2007

## Watts Inside

Kotlik becomes 53rd AVEC community

APA Communicators Forum

CRN for NRECA members

Communications awards

AVEC honored by engineers

Naknek geothermal

Movers & shakers

Save the date: Barrow

HAZWOPER training

Meetings & events calendar

## Greetings,

Alaska Power Association is taking a leadership role in setting the direction for a comprehensive, statewide energy plan. An outcome of our recent strategic planning workshop was a decision to have APA embark on developing a plan that will maximize Alaska's energy resources and provide a long term vision for a stable, sustainable energy future.

This process is expected to take about a year.



When complete, the plan will be presented to the Legislature and the Palin Administration with a call to action for the creation of statewide energy policy. I will keep you informed on our progress with this effort.

The trade association is partnering with the Alaska Natural Gas Development Authority on an open season workshop to be held December 6. This will provide APA and interested members of the public with a big picture look at various energy scenarios and will take us through a proposed natural gas pipeline implementation process. Look for more information on this training in the next couple weeks.

Until next time . . .

*Marilyn Leland, Executive Director*

## City of Kotlik joins Alaska Village Electric Cooperative

Alaska Village Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors recently approved purchase of the city-owned

## Industry Links

Alaska Power Association

Energy Information Administration

National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

Northwest Public Power Association

Renewable Energy Alaska Project

Kotlik Electric Services. AVEC started providing power to Kotlik's 600-plus residents on September 1 after the Regulatory Commission of Alaska signed an emergency order authorizing AVEC to take over operation of the city's electric utility system.



*Rose Cheemuk, Kotlik's Utility Manager, and Chris Hunt (center), Kotlik's power plant operator, shake hands with Mark Bryan, AVEC Operations Manager.*

AVEC President and CEO Meera Kohler visited Kotlik in late July when the community invited her to talk about the possibility of them joining AVEC and the benefits gained by becoming a member of the cooperative. In August, numerous community meetings were held and options were discussed. On August 27, the Kotlik City Council officially decided that joining the AVEC family was their best option going forward. AVEC's board held an emergency meeting on August 27 and accepted Kotlik into its cooperative.

"I am really pleased to welcome the residents and businesses of Kotlik into the AVEC family," said Meera Kohler. "This is a win-win solution for both Kotlik and the rest of the AVEC membership. The City of Kotlik has an excellent utility manager and plant operator but, as a stand-alone utility, was simply unable to provide the technical and financial resources to sustain operations. By joining with 52 other AVEC villages, all are able to share those resources and all benefit from the improved economies of scale."

Alaska Village Electric Cooperative is a member-owned, non-profit cooperative that provides electric power to more than 7,400 consumers in 53 Alaska villages.

## APA Communicators Forum features Moore, Nerland

Electric industry communications professionals from across the state will meet in Anchorage on November 5 for a one-day workshop.

The APA Communicators Forum is a training seminar geared for public information officers, public relations and marketing professionals, web masters, newsletter editors, and key accounts representatives.

This year's forum includes presentations from Ivan Moore, Owner, Ivan Moore Research; Rick Nerland, President and CEO, The Nerland Agency; and Russell Green, CEO, Ruralite, Inc.

Topics to be covered include new media technologies, communications research methods and applications, cross-cultural communications, and strategic public relations.

For more information about the APA Communicators Forum, contact Crystal Enkvist, Director of Member & Public Relations, at (907) 563-2559 or [cenkvist@alaskapower.org](mailto:cenkvist@alaskapower.org).



*Ivan Moore*

## Electric co-op research program soon open to all NRECA members

Power supply needs and public policy developments over the next decade will require electric co-ops to make new investments in a broad range of new technologies. Co-ops will need to make business decisions on technologies that do not have a long or proven record of success - and these

investments will be the most expensive ever made.

The NRECA Board of Directors said the best way to support local decision-making is to ensure that all member systems have access to the tools and testing resources provided by CRN. At its summer meeting, the NRECA Board directed that CRN become a program for the benefit of all member systems.

NRECA members will soon have access to all CRN research and information. Starting in 2008, CRN will be funded as a general membership program. The Cooperative Research Council and Membership Advisory Groups will continue to provide advice, guidance and counsel.

Tom Lovas is the CRN Program Consultant for Alaska. He serves as the external program coordinator for Generation, Fuels and Environment. A former chairman of the CRN Power Supply Task Force, he has served in a variety of planning, operating and executive positions at electric utilities in California, Montana and Alaska over the past three decades. Contact him at [tlovas@acsalaska.net](mailto:tlovas@acsalaska.net).

[Cooperative Research Network](#)

## Alaska electric utilities garner several northwest regional communications awards

Northwest Public Power Association (NWPPA) presented its Excellence in Communication awards at its annual Northwest Innovations Conference on September 25 in Sun Valley, Idaho.

Now in its 14th year, the Excellence in Communication contest, the second-largest of its kind in the nation, recognizes the top communication efforts from member utilities from all around NWPPA's service territory, which includes 11 Western states and two Canadian provinces.

This year NWPPA received nearly 150 entries from 41 member utilities. Categories are broken up into four groups: Group A utilities having the smallest number of customers and Group D having the largest.

Excellence in Communication award winners:

Media/ad campaign

Group C, Third place: **Golden Valley Electric Association**

Web site

Group A, First place: **Alaska Village Electric Cooperative**

Group D, Third place: **Chugach Electric Association**

Photography

Group A, First place: **Alaska Village Electric Cooperative**

Group C, First place: **Anchorage Municipal Light & Power**

Group D, First place: **Chugach Electric Association**

Wild card

Group A, First place: **Alaska Village Electric Cooperative**

Group D, Second place tie: **Chugach Electric Association** and Clark Public Utilities

## AVEC honored for support of engineering profession

**Alaska Village Electric Cooperative** (AVEC) received the Company of the Year award from the Alaska Section of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). AVEC received the award in recognition of its support of the engineering profession, exemplary service to rural Alaskan communities, and the development and sustainability of Alaska's indigenous cultures.

AVEC began providing power to a few communities in 1968 and has grown to provide reliable, affordable power to 53 remote villages spread throughout rural Alaska. Designing and maintaining the numerous stand-alone, prime power generation plants and distribution systems has been an ongoing engineering challenge due to each community's unique characteristics and load demands.

Thanks to funding received from the Denali Commission over the last six years, AVEC has designed and built new automated power plants that combine the latest technology and fuel-efficient engines to increase generating efficiency, improve system reliability, reduce fuel consumption and reduce operating costs. The cooperative is also installing wind turbines to help offset

steadily increasing fuel costs.

The IEEE is a non-profit, world-wide professional association formed to advance global prosperity by fostering and advancing technological innovation.

## Naknek pursuing geothermal

Residents of Bristol Bay Borough, a community of 1,000 in southwest Alaska, pay 34.5 cents per kWh for electricity, more than three times the national average. But that's a bargain in the Bristol Bay area. Twenty-five miles to the south, the 350 residents of Egegik pay close to 70 cents per kWh.

Prices are sky high because both communities burn diesel fuel to generate power, an unsustainable situation, according to Donna Vukich, general manager of **Naknek Electric Association**. Electricity costs, in fact, are crippling the Bristol Bay salmon fishery, the area's economic engine.

Vukich, whose husband works as a fisherman, has outlined an ambitious plan to reduce retail electricity prices "by at least 70 percent" in



Naknek, South Naknek, King Salmon, Egegik, and 21 other villages, including Dillingham, the other "big town" on the bay. She proposes to replace dozens of isolated diesel generators with central station geothermal power, a renewable resource.

Three shallow test holes were drilled last winter near Naknek, and this summer the electric co-op will complete seismic tests on two that "showed fairly good numbers."

The next step, Vukich explains, will be to drill deeper holes that tap the geothermal reservoir.

Construction of the 25-MW geothermal power plant, 425 miles of transmission line, and 17 or 18 substations could begin as early as next winter, with a 2009-10 completion date. The first phase will serve the Naknek area, Dillingham and four or five villages.

How to cover the project's estimated price tag of \$200 million? "We're looking at various avenues of financing, including Alaska state funding and Federal Utilities Services loans," says Vukich.

Vukich adds that all of the utility planning took place with the fishery in mind. Cheaper electricity would allow canneries in Naknek to expand and add at least two more species, herring and halibut, while extending the processing season from two months to four.

"What we're trying to do is get our region back to the economic viability we sustained up until 1997," she observes.

*Reprinted from RE Magazine, a publication of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.*

## Industry movers & shakers

Golden Valley Electric Association announced Oct. 3 the selection of **Brian Newton** as the cooperative's new president and CEO. Newton replaces Steven Haagenson who is retiring from GVEA after 32 years on November 30, 2007.



Newton has been president and CEO of Consolidated Electric Cooperative in Mt. Gilead, Ohio for the past nine years. Prior to joining Consolidated, he served as general manager of North Central Public Power District in Creighton, Nebraska, for more than 11 years.

Newton has a history of customer service and community involvement, including service on United Way, chamber of commerce

and youth sports boards.

"We are very pleased to have Brian join the GVEA family," GVEA Board Chairman Bill Nordmark said. "His experience in the electric industry and member service will benefit all of our member-owners. Brian understands the electric industry and the challenges and opportunities that lay ahead." Newton will join Golden Valley in November.

He and his wife, Michell, have been married for 29 years and they have three children. Newton grew up in rural Nebraska, graduated with an MBA from Ashland University, Ashland, Ohio and is currently a 2008 Doctoral Candidate at the Weatherhead School of Management, Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio.

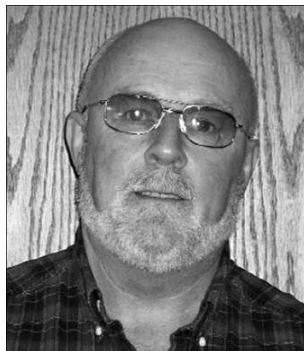


**Rebecca Logan** has been selected to serve on the board of directors of Chugach Electric Association.

Logan was chosen by other directors on the Chugach board to fill a vacancy created by the recent resignation of former director Alan Christopherson.

The board took the action at its regular meeting October 17. Logan will serve until next spring, when the seat will be one of three to be filled in Chugach's 2008 election.

She has been the president and chief executive officer for the Associated Builders and Contractors, Alaska Chapter since 2004.



**Ian Huckin** recently joined the Kodiak Electric Association team as the Manager of Power Generation.

He brings 32 years of experience in power generation with an emphasis on diesel and hydroelectric power generation.

Huckin and his wife, Karen, are relocating to Kodiak from Coloma, Wisconsin.

## Save the date: APA Annual Meeting 2008 in Barrow

The Alaska Power Association and ARECA Insurance Exchange Annual Meeting is scheduled for August 13-15, 2008 in Barrow, Alaska, otherwise known as "The Top of the World." Three APA members serve the residents of Alaska's northernmost community: **Barrow Utilities & Electric Cooperative**, **North Slope Borough Power & Light**, and **ASTAC** (Arctic Slope Telephone Association Cooperative).

It is not too early to make hotel and plane reservations for this exotic and fascinating location. APA has room blocks at the Barrow Airport Inn, King Eider Hotel and Top of the World hotel. There may also be accommodations at Ilisagvik College for individuals who can't get a room at one of the hotels. Reservation information can be found on the APA web site. Don't wait until the last minute to book this trip. Rooms in Barrow are at a premium. We are encouraging members to double up in a room whenever possible.

We hope to see you in the Arctic next summer!



*Photo courtesy of NOAA*

*Fisheries*

## HAZWOPER training available

**NANA Training Systems** is accepting applications for a 40-hour HAZWOPER Certification Training to be given the week of October 29. The company is also offering an eight-hour HAZWOPER refresher course on November 12. On-site training is available. To register, call (907)

565-3300 or go to [NANA's online registration](#).

## Meetings & events calendar

**APA/AIE Audit Committee meeting:** October 26, 2007,  
APA office

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

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

**APA/AIM Joint Budget Meeting:** November 8, 2007,  
APA office

**Alaska Wood Energy Conference:** November 14-15,  
2007, Chena River Convention Center, Fairbanks

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

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

**Alaska Forum on the Environment:** February 11-15,  
Egan Center, Anchorage

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

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

**APA Annual Meeting:** August 13-15, 2008, Barrow,  
Alaska

**NRECA Region IX Meeting:** September 15-17, 2008,  
St. George, Utah

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

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

▶ [APA Meetings and Events](#)

Copyright (c) 2007 Alaska Power, All rights reserved.

 **SafeUnsubscribe**®

This email was sent to [cenkvist@alaskapower.org](mailto:cenkvist@alaskapower.org), by [cenkvist@alaskapower.org](mailto:cenkvist@alaskapower.org)  
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe](#)™ | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by



Alaska Power Association | 703 West Tudor Road, Suite 200 | Anchorage | AK | 99503