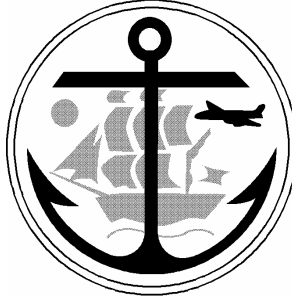


Municipality of
Anchorage



P.O. Box 196650
Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6650
Telephone: (907) 343-7100
Fax: (907) 343-7180
Email : www.muni.org

Mark Begich, Mayor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 23, 2007
2007-74

Contact: Julie Hasquet, 343-7103
Communications Director

25-YEAR UTILITY EXPERT NAMED TO MERGER PANEL
Don May Replaces Mark Foster on MLP-CEA Oversight Committee

A former state Public Utilities Commission member with 25 years experience in Alaska utility issues has been named to the panel overseeing an analysis of whether the state's two largest electric utilities should be merged or jointly operated in some form.

Don May, currently a utility regulation consultant who served on the APUC from 1990-92, replaces Mark Foster on the oversight panel. Foster resigned over his concern that his work for a private client now in negotiations with the Chugach Electric Association might create a conflict of interest.

The co-chairs of the panel, Mayor Mark Begich and Chugach Board Chair Elizabeth Vazquez thanked Foster for his service and insight and welcomed May to the committee.

"I thank Mark Foster for his excellent service," Begich said. "Even in the short time he was on the committee he provided valuable insights into the issues that must be addressed."

Foster noted that at the time of his appointment he raised the issue of whether his work for private clients potentially adverse to either Municipal Light and Power or CEA might be a bar to his service. At the time the parties agreed it would not be. However, Foster indicated that now that his client and Chugach are in negotiations, he felt it in the best interest of the study effort that he resign.

In June, Begich and Vazquez named seven Anchorage government and business leaders with expertise in utility and business issues to the panel to oversee whether a merger or some type of joint operations makes sense for Southcentral Alaska's two largest electric utilities.

(more)

The committee has been working with utility consultants and other experts, will hold public hearings and determine by this fall whether combining the two utilities in some form makes legal and financial sense and benefits the customers of both utilities and Anchorage residents generally.

May has held a number of government and private sector positions in utility finance, regulation and public policy. He was chief financial officer for the Arctic Slope Telephone Association Cooperative for six years, manager of regulatory affairs for ATU Telecommunications for three years and has been a professor of telecommunications management at Alaska Pacific University.

###