

## Line projects progressing to improve reliability

Chugach operates 2,227 miles of energized line, including 539 miles of transmission and 1,688 miles of distribution. Planning and construction is in progress on a number of line projects across the Chugach service territory.

### *Cable injections, replacements, and conversions*

Chugach's distribution system is 54 percent overhead and 46 percent underground. Underground cable is comprised of conductor insulated by a dense poly material surrounded by waterproof coating and a neutral wire. Over time, heating and cooling create tiny cracks in the poly insulation that lead to

cable failures. Generally speaking, problems with older underground cable begin showing up after 20-30 years. Splices can solve immediate problems, but as conditions worsen Chugach considers one of two approaches to resolve the problem: injection or replacement.

Cable injections are a cost-effective way to add years of life to underground cable. Crews usually perform injections on the runs of cable between transformers or switch cabinets. A pressurized fluid bottle is attached to one end of a section of cable with a vacuum bottle at the other. As the fluid

makes its way through the cable, it seals tiny cracks along the way. Chugach has 19 cable-injection projects scheduled for 2012.

Not all cable can be successfully injected and instead must be replaced. These projects can be challenging in subdivisions with mature landscaping, and easements containing fences, sheds and other obstacles. To make future replacements easier, Chugach currently installs cable in conduit. The idea is that if it needs to be replaced in the future the old cable can be pulled out and a new one strung through the conduit without having to dig up a yard or neighborhood. Chugach plans nine cable-replacement projects this year.



*Injections can extend the life of underground cable.*

Under a local ordinance, customers in the Municipality of Anchorage pay a small charge on utility bills to help accelerate the pace at which existing overhead lines are converted to underground. In 2012 Chugach plans four of these overhead-

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## Getting ready for winter Gas storage

The first Southcentral utility gas storage project is taking deliveries. The project – known as CINGSA (Cook Inlet Natural Gas Storage Alaska) – is located in Kenai and has an initial capacity of 11 billion cubic-feet of storage. It was developed using a mostly-spent gas reservoir by the parent company of ENSTAR Natural Gas Co.

CINGSA will provide storage service to ENSTAR, Chugach, Municipal Light & Power and in the future, Homer Electric Association.

CINGSA provides a place for gas to be stored during warmer months and withdrawn for use in the winter. Utilities benefit

by gaining operational flexibility and enhanced fuel security, while providing a more constant and level market for producers.

Initially, Chugach will take about 22 percent of the project. The gas that Chugach and other utilities are putting into storage now will be available for withdrawal in the winter of 2012-13.



*Five wells can be used for injections or withdrawals into the reservoir.*

## Electric utility customers in Alaska targeted for scams

Chugach warns its members that electric utility customers in the Lower 48, and recently in Alaska, are being targeted by scammers seeking to collect personal identity and financial information.

Customers are being baited with fraudulent offers such as assistance with paying utility bills and free prepaid credit cards. Customers who accept these and similar offers from

unknown and illegitimate businesses are being asked to furnish such information as their bank account numbers and bank routing numbers or Social Security numbers. Municipal Light & Power reported that customers may have received an email scam aimed at stealing their identity information by offering a \$1,000 Visa gift card from the city-owned electric utility. There is no such offer by ML&P or Chugach.

## Projects (cont'd from page 1)

to-underground projects.

### Girdwood

Chugach has eight separate Girdwood projects planned for completion in 2012. The largest is the installation of a second 3-phase primary feeder line to split the electrical load, improve reliability and add switching capability. Underground cable and related facilities will be installed along about a 2.3-mile route up the valley. A related project along Arlberg Road will add another third of a mile of underground cable to tie the two feeders together. Modifications at the Girdwood Substation will link the new feeder

to its power source. Along the route of the new feeder, projects will be done to improve service to the AWWU facility, extend power to a pair of other sites and convert a section of existing overhead line to underground cable. Elsewhere in town, line switches will be upgraded to improve sectionalizing and several poles will be replaced to accommodate recent additions by another utility. Chugach intends to hire a single contractor to complete all eight projects. {44541}

### The Hope area

Chugach is pursuing four separate projects to improve

service in the Hope area, with two planned for construction in 2012 and the other two in 2013. Project funding comes from a variety of sources, including federal, state and Chugach monies.

Before the year is out, Chugach plans to build a new section of line along about 3.5 miles of the Hope Highway to replace a section of line deep in the forest. The project will not only replace miles of decades-old line repeatedly battered by the elements, putting the line near the road will allow for quicker troubleshooting and

repairs. A second 2012 project will help protect the line where it crosses avalanche chutes – in one section by making it taller and stronger and in another by replacing the existing overhead line with buried cable.

Two additional projects are planned for construction in 2013. One will add automated circuit switchers at the Hope Substation and other will relocate more line nearer the highway.

More information about Chugach projects can be found at [www.chugachelectric.com](http://www.chugachelectric.com).

## Chugach jointly promotes energy efficiency at Spenard Farmer's Market

On Saturday, July 7, Chugach and Municipal Light & Power (ML&P) together promoted energy efficiency at the aptly themed "Sustainable Spenard" Farmer's Market. In addition to artisans and farmers selling their products, the two utilities distributed items to market-goers promoting energy efficiency and conservation. A hands-on educational display also highlighted the benefits and savings of switching to

higher efficiency products such as LED light bulbs. Chugach and ML&P representatives also promoted [akenergyefficiency.org](http://www.akenergyefficiency.org), a website supported by the more than 30 organizations of the Alaska Energy Efficiency Partnership, which include utilities, nonprofits, government entities, tribal organizations and private industry.

Visit [www.chugachelectric.com](http://www.chugachelectric.com) to find relevant news, events, links, tips and guidance on how to save energy.



### Contact us

Hours	Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Main number	563-7494
Toll free	(800) 478-7494
Member Services	563-7366
Member Services fax	762-4678
24-hour payment line	762-7803
Credit	563-5060
Power theft hotline	762-4731
Danger tree hotline	762-7227
Street light hotline	762-7676
Underground locates	278-3121
Regulatory Commission of AK	(800) 390-2782
or	276-6222
To report a power outage	
In Anchorage	762-7888
Outside Anchorage	(800) 478-7494

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**Corporate vision:** Powering Alaska's future

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### The Chugach Outlet

A Publication of Chugach Electric Association, Inc.  
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#### Monthly residential service costs (based on 700 kwh)

Customer charge/month	\$ 8.00
Energy charge \$0.07054 x kwh =	\$49.38
Fuel \$0.05473 x kwh =	\$38.31
Purchased power \$0.00559 x kwh =	\$ 3.91
(Fuel & purchased power rates effective 7/1/12-9/30/12)	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 99.60</b>
2% MOA Undergrounding Charge =	\$ 1.99
RCC \$0.000568 x kwh =	\$ 0.40
<b>Total bill</b>	<b>\$101.99</b>

Member number  
hide-n-seek

Find your member number (in brackets) in the Outlet and get a \$100 credit on your electric bill. Call Chugach's service center at 563-7366 to claim your prize.

**CHUGACH**  
POWERING ALASKA'S FUTURE

## Take Note!

In June, Chugach Members received billing statements with a new member account number.

Your member account number combination is needed when using our 24/7 payment line, phone number 762-7803 or for payments via the website at [www.chugachelectric.com](http://www.chugachelectric.com). Additionally, if you use a bill pay service, please inform them of the new member account number.

For further information, contact Member Services at 563-7366.

## Interested in joining a credit union?

Credit unions are financial institutions set up to provide services to members who meet eligibility requirements. Chugach members are eligible to join the Denali Alaskan Federal Credit Union. Like Chugach, the credit union is a cooperative, owned and governed by its members.