

Outlet

July-August 2003
Number 203

Chugach Electric Association

New Transmission Infrastructure Needed in South Anchorage

Electricity moves from power plants to major load centers like Anchorage over a network of transmission lines. Chugach currently has two transmission substations in the Anchorage Bowl where this power feeds into the network of subtransmission lines that feed 18 neighborhood distribution substations.

However, there are no transmission lines or transmission substations south of Dowling Road. That means the subtransmission network has been carrying greater and greater electrical loads to the southern part of Anchorage each year. In the past 10 years the growth rate in South Anchorage has been twice that of the rest of town. The electrical system must grow as well to keep pace.

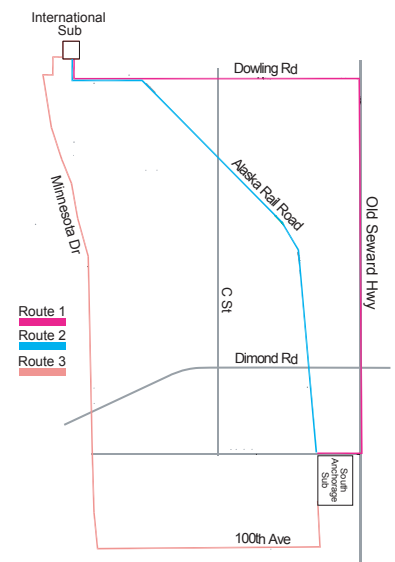
Chugach has purchased industrial land for a new transmission substation adjacent to the Alaska Railroad between 92nd and 94th avenues south of the Dimond Center. Two transmission lines need to be constructed to loop the new substation into the grid.

The first project is to build a new 138-kilovolt transmission line between Chugach's International Substation and

the planned South Substation. Chugach conducted an extensive route selection study that identified three possible paths for the new line to follow. Routes along the Old Seward Highway and Minnesota Drive were already identified in the MOA's Utility Corridor Plan. During the study a third option emerged. A route in the Alaska Railroad right of way was ultimately determined to be the preferred route.

In the fall of 2002, the Planning and Zoning Commission recommended a change to the Utility Corridor Plan adding the ARR right of way as a transmission line corridor. In January 2003, the ARR board of directors approved a proposal for use of its right of way for an overhead transmission line. The Anchorage Assembly opened the public hearing process on the proposed change to the Utility Corridor Plan in May and closed it after taking additional testimony at its July 15 meeting. The Assembly vote is scheduled for Aug. 19. Chugach has also made a number of presentations on the project at community council meetings.

Chugach hopes to begin construction of the transmission line between the International and planned South substations in 2004. Once the substation



Route 2 is Chugach's preferred route.

is built, another transmission line will be necessary to loop the site into the grid and provide an alternate path for power and much increased reliability. This line will run east from the substation on a route not yet identified to link up with an existing line along Bragaw/Elmore roads that leads back to the University Substation along Tudor Road — Chugach's second transmission substation in the Anchorage Bowl. Chugach plans to include area community councils in the route selection process for this transmission line project.

Once completed, the new transmission substation and the two transmission lines will provide a strong electrical backbone that will provide reliable electric service customers expect and deserve. ☑

Sparking interest

Upcoming events and meetings

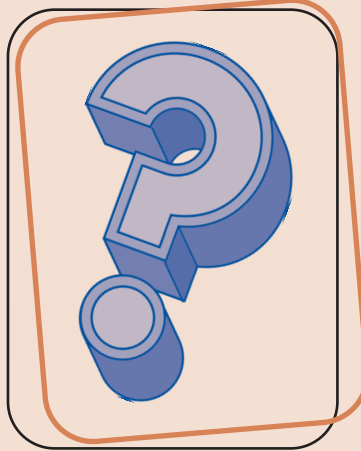
- The fuel surcharge decreased from 1.956 cents per kilowatt-hour to 1.927 cents per kwh effective with July 1 bills.
- Chugach's web site at www.chugachelectric.com now contains outage information.
- Board meetings are normally held the third Wednesday of the month.

Ask the expert

Q Does a standard light bulb use more electricity than a fluorescent light tube? And does turning on a fluorescent bulb create a power surge that consumes some of the power it might save?

A Standard bulbs use more electricity than fluorescent light tubes. Most of the electricity going to standard bulbs creates heat, not light. Most of the electricity going to fluorescent bulbs creates light. That's why a 15-watt fluorescent light provides as much light as a 60-watt standard light bulb. There is a brief jump in current when turning on a light, equaling about five seconds of normal operation. Therefore, it's best to turn off the fluorescent lamps when you leave the room.

To submit a question, visit www.chugachelectric.com or send mail to P.O. Box 196300, Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6300 ATTN: Ask The Expert.



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Danger tree hotline 762-7227
Regulatory Commission of Alaska
(800) 390-2782 or 276-6222
To report a power outage
In Anchorage 762-7888
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Board activity

May, June and July meetings 2003

- Approved a \$1.6 million contract with HDR Alaska to take the lead in preparing resource studies for the Cooper Lake hydroelectric power plant relicensing project.
- Approved changes to board policies to make them consistent with bylaw changes approved by members at Chugach's annual meeting. Also approved amending Board Policy 108, Compensation of Directors.
- Passed a resolution updating the approved check signers and slate of officers based on actions taken at the 2003 annual meeting.
- Heard the final election report from election contractor Sramek-Hightower.
- Approved directors' expenses.

If you would like to review Board of Director meeting minutes or contact Board members, visit Chugach's web site at www.chugachelectric.com.

Hours

Service center: 5601 Minnesota Dr.

Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Switchboard:

Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 11 p.m.

The Chugach Outlet

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CHUGACH
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Message from Chugach

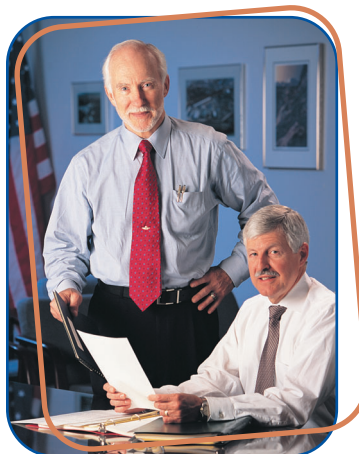
As you've read on the front page of the Outlet, to adequately meet the needs of South Anchorage, new transmission infrastructure is required.

Electricity can't be effectively stored in quantity. An electric grid must be in place to facilitate power flow from power plants to customers every time they need it. If the grid is strained or constrained, a utility may not be able to meet the needs of current and future customers.

Chugach has been working to expand the transmission network necessary to move power to customers in South Anchorage. Over the past 20 years the electrical load in this area of Chugach's service territory has grown much faster than the electrical infrastructure needed to serve it.

Chugach's objective is to have the new substation online in 2005.

Joe Griffith
Chief Executive Officer



Bruce Davison
Chairman of the Board