

## A positive legislative session

The legislature took a number of steps beneficial to Chugach and its members before adjourning its regular session. The capital budget contained appropriations for Chugach projects that will help hold down the cost of power for ratepayers while improving reliability and increasing the amount of renewable energy on the system. In other actions, the statewide program promoting renewable projects was extended, popular energy efficiency programs received additional funds, and a new loan program for energy projects was authorized.

### Capital projects

The capital budget included funds for four projects on the Chugach system. As Chugach suggested, the funds will flow through either the Alaska Energy Authority or Municipality of Anchorage.

#### *Hope line relocation: \$310,000*

This project will move about 1.6 miles of distribution line that serves Hope from its current location to an alignment near the road, thereby improving reliability and the ability to find and fix problems.

#### *Hope Substation automation: \$787,000*

Circuit switches located on either side of the Hope Substation allow Chugach personnel to sectionalize the 115-kilovolt transmission line in the event of a problem. However, currently the switches can only be operated manually. This project will install new circuit switchers that will provide fault interruption and be capable of being operated from Chugach's Power Control Center in Anchorage. Remote control will shorten outage time and avoid often-difficult driving conditions. In addition to local customers, all utili-

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### Utility gas storage

*For the first time, utilities have a natural gas storage facility in the Cook Inlet area to partner with. The new facility, known as CINGSA (Cook Inlet Natural Gas Storage Alaska) was developed by the parent company of ENSTAR Natural Gas Company. A gas storage facility provides a benefit to both producers and utilities, leveling production by providing a place for gas to flow during the summer months and providing another fuel source for utilities on high-demand winter days. The facility will provide gas storage for ENSTAR, Chugach, Municipal Light & Power and Homer Electric Association. Initially CINGSA will have a storage capacity of 11 billion cubic feet, with Chugach taking about 22 percent of the project. Significant injections are scheduled to begin this spring/summer with withdrawals expected during the winter of 2012-13. (photo courtesy of CINGSA)*

## Annual Meeting and election May 17

### Three Chugach members run for two board seats

Three Chugach Electric Association members are running for two seats on the cooperative's board of directors in this spring's election.

The candidates are Sisi Cooper, Jim Nordlund and Steve Strait. Cooper is a Project Engineer for Doyon Emerald, LLC. Nordlund is the State Director for USDA Rural Develop-

ment and an incumbent. Strait is President of Strait Media, LLC.

There are also four bylaw proposals for members to vote on this year. One changes the Member Advisory council from a standing committee to an ad hoc committee. The second bylaw proposal would expand joint memberships to two people

regardless of their relationship in a single household. The third makes minor housekeeping amendments to remove redundant language, makes it consistent with last year's changes to electronic voting and correctly describes access to board of directors' recordings. The fourth proposed bylaw change would permit fees for member committees.

The board set April 5, 2012, as the record date for voting in this year's election and at the annual meeting. Mail-voting packets were mailed to the 66,751 Chugach members of record on April 16. Members have until noon on Monday, May 14 to return mail ballots or until noon on Thursday, May 17 to vote electronically. Chugach first offered

members the opportunity to cast a ballot via the Internet last year. In the cooperative's 2011 election, 21 percent of the ballots were cast electronically.

In-person voting will be allowed at the cooperative's annual meeting May 17 at the Dena'ina Civic & Convention Center for members who haven't yet cast a ballot. Registration opens at 6:00 p.m. and the meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. Results of the election will be announced at the meeting.



Sisi Cooper



Jim Nordlund



Steve Strait

## Legislative (cont'd from page 1)

ties taking hydro power from the Kenai Peninsula will benefit.

### Stetson Creek diversion: \$5,825,500

Chugach received a new 50-year license for its Cooper Lake hydroelectric project in 2007. The license came with conditions, including a requirement to build the infrastructure necessary to divert the cold waters of Stetson Creek to the project and then release water from the reservoir into Cooper Creek. Resource managers hope warmer water will improve habitat for certain fish in the lower reaches of the creek. The grant will help

fund the portion of the project above its original estimated cost of \$12 million.

### Girdwood 2nd feeder: \$500,000

Currently all 1,627 metered-locations in Girdwood are served by a single feeder out of the substation. A 2011 legislative grant will help fund about 2 miles of new line for a second feeder. The 2012 grant will go toward the cost of constructing about a quarter mile of new line along Arlberg Road to tie the two feeders together. Unlike the current feeder, the second feeder will be largely underground.

## Other actions

### REGF extended

With the passage of HB250, legislators extended the Renewable Energy Grant Fund for an additional 10 years and reaffirmed legislative intent to provide \$50 million per year in funding. The bill also added a second House and Senate member to the program's advisory board, increasing the body from seven to nine members.

### \$25.9M for REGF projects

Through the Renewable Energy Grant Fund, the legislature provided \$25.9M for 19 projects reviewed and ranked by the Alaska Energy

Authority. It would have taken \$43M to fund all 41 projects recommended by AEA. A total of 97 proposals were received by AEA in Round 5 of the program.

### New loan fund authorized

The passage of Senate Bill 25 authorized the creation of a new loan fund for energy projects by the Alaska Industrial Development & Export Authority.

### Home rebate and weatherization programs

These Alaska Housing Finance Corporation programs received \$20M and \$31.5M in funding, respectively.

## Always call 811 before you dig

Planning a home improvement job? Planting a tree? Installing a fence or deck? WAIT! Here's what you need to know first! Whether you are a do-it-yourselfer or hire a professional, smart digging means always calling 811 before each project.

Don't gamble with your safety – knowing where the underground utility lines are will help protect you from injury, prevent damage to utilities, service disruptions and potential repair costs to you ... plus its FREE! Why wouldn't you call?

Just call 811 at least 2 business days or up to 10 days before you want to start digging. (2 business days in most areas). That means if you call 811 Tuesday morning, 811 member utilities will have your service lines marked by noon Thursday – just in time for your weekend project! {1112469}

Call 811 Monday through Friday 8am -5pm; (7am-7pm during the summer) or submit your request for markings online at [www.akonecall.com](http://www.akonecall.com)

## Right Tree, Right Place

Chugach is certified by the Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree Line USA utility. A certified staff arborist can help customers determine what type of plants and trees should be planted near utility rights of way. Call chugach at 762-7660, or go to [www.chugachelectric.com](http://www.chugachelectric.com) for planting tips and information on recommended trees and shrubs.

Arbor Day is a day designated to encourage Americans to plant trees. Arbor Day is observed in Alaska on the third Monday in May.



## Simplified Rate Filing

On March 30, 2012 Chugach submitted its Simplified Rate Filing to the RCA requesting a 1.3 percent increase to the demand and energy rates of retail customers. The increase was largely driven by distribution storm-related costs incurred during the fourth quarter of 2011.

Chugach also requested demand and energy rate decreases of 3.0 percent, 2.8 percent and 2.5 percent to Homer Electric Association, Matanuska Electric Association and Seward Electric System. Chugach requested that the rate changes become effective in mid-May 2012.



## Contact us

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 or	(800) 390-2782 276-6222
To report a power outage	
In Anchorage	762-7888
Outside Anchorage	(800) 478-7494

## Hours

5601 Electron Drive  
Monday - Friday  
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

### The Chugach Outlet

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5601 Electron Drive • P.O. Box 196300 • Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6300

**Corporate Mission:** Through superior service, safely provide reliable and competitively priced energy.

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

**Personnel policy:** It is a policy of Chugach Electric Association, Inc., to recruit, hire, train, compensate and promote persons without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, pregnancy, parenthood, disability, veterans status, age or any other classification protected by applicable federal, state, or local law." Chugach is also an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. Current openings are posted on the employment page at <http://chugachelectric.applications.com>. Chugach only accepts applications for open vacancies.

### Monthly residential service costs (based on 700 kwh)

Customer charge/month	\$ 8.00
Energy charge \$0.07054 x kwh =	\$49.38
Fuel \$0.06036 x kwh =	\$42.25
Purchased power \$0.00522 x kwh =	<u>\$ 3.65</u>

(Fuel & purchased power rates effective 4/1/12-6/30/12)  
(Energy charge pending RCA approval)

<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 103.28</b>
2% MOA Undergrounding Charge =	\$ 2.07
RCC \$0.000492 x kwh =	<u>\$ 0.34</u>
<b>Total bill</b>	<b>\$105.69</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