



**Railbelt electric cooperatives announce plans to investigate the creation of a unified power provider**

Chugach Electric Association, Golden Valley Electric Association and Homer Electric Association want to explore the costs and benefits of creating a unified power system, called a Unified Power Provider. The entity would be responsible for providing transmission and generation services for the Railbelt area.

The creation of such an entity was one of the recommendations made in the 2004 Alaska Energy Policy Task Force report. The three cooperatives envision the governance of the Unified Power Provider will consist of representation from each of the Railbelt utilities along with the State of Alaska.

In a joint statement, Chugach Board President Elizabeth Vazquez, Homer Electric Board President Dave Carey, and Golden Valley Board President Bill Nordmark said the UPP is an attempt to unify the Railbelt and provide reliable electric service at the lowest cost possible.

“We look forward to working with other Railbelt electric utilities and the State’s Regional Electric Grid Authority (REGA) study group to analyze the potential benefits of a Unified Power Provider. It is our hope that the unified system will result in both increased reliability and cost savings for our members,” said the board presidents.

*For additional information regarding this press release please contact:*

*Patti Bogan (Chugach Electric) at 907-762-4736*

*or*

*Joe Gallagher (Homer Electric) at 907-283-2324*

*or*

*Corinne Bradish (Golden Valley Electric) at 907-451-5676*