



Transmission line project completed

Chugach has completed rebuilding of a key portion of a 90-mile transmission line up and through Turnagain Pass. The 50-year old line was originally constructed to link Chugach's Cooper Lake Hydroelectric Project near Cooper Landing with customers in the Anchorage area. Over time the line has taken on greater importance. For more than 20 years it has provided the only path for electricity from the state-owned Bradley Lake Hydroelectric Project to move to utilities and their customers north of the Kenai Peninsula.

Last November Chugach and its contractors undertook the project to rebuild 15 miles of the transmission line between Turnagain Arm and Silvertip Creek. Part of this area had been heavily battered by severe storms in the winter of 2011-12. A \$15 million grant from the legislature in 2011

administered by the Alaska Energy Authority paid for the project. The rebuild was completed in April, ahead of schedule and under budget.

The line is currently energized at 115 kilovolts, but because AEA's long range goal is for the Railbelt transmission backbone to be 230-kv Chugach built the new section of line to the higher standard.

Chugach also engineered extra height into some structures in areas where the weight of heavy ice in prior winter storms had sagged the line to or near the ground.

Chugach plans additional work along the transmission line in the same general area. With support from ARCTEC (the regional generation & transmission cooperative)



Chugach rebuilt 15 miles of transmission line through Turnagain Pass this winter.

it intends to seek unspent funds from this and other projects to support a similar rebuild of about 4 miles of line between Silvertip Creek and the Hope Substation. This area was also heavily damaged by storms in the winter of 2011-12, cutting the flow of Bradley Lake power off the Penin-

sula for about three weeks.

Beginning in July, Chugach plans a rebuild of the Hope Substation that will allow automated switching to shortening or prevent many outages along the line. That work will also be partially funded by a prior state grant.

AHFC program cuts gas & electric bills

Chugach customers that have completed the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation's Home Energy Rebate Program are saving money on both gas and electricity. With the program targeted at thermal savings, it's long been recognized that participants are saving on their heating bills. In fact, ENSTAR Natural Gas Co. and AHFC estimate that, on average, participants who complete the program and receive their final inspection save about 30 percent on their ENSTAR bills.

However, until recently it has been harder to determine if Chugach customers who completed the program are also saving on their electric bills. Intuitively, people close to the issue have assumed there should be savings, since it is electricity that powers the fan or pump that moves heat from a furnace or boiler around a home. In 2012 Chugach set out to find a better answer to this question. The cooperative worked with AHFC and contracted with Northern

Economics, Inc. of Anchorage to analyze the records of more than 4,000 Chugach residential members who had completed the Home Energy Rebate Program, received their final inspections, and had at least 12 months of history both before and after participating in the program.

The findings showed that there was a wide range of outcomes. Like many studies, the results produced a bell curve. At the ends of the spectrum, some members

cut their bills considerably and others actually were using more electricity. However, on average most residential members who completed the AHFC Home Energy Rebate cut their monthly Chugach bills by 2 percent.

In the recently concluded legislative session, legislators authorized another \$20 million for the rebate program. For more information, go to <http://www.ahfc.us/>.

Legislature continues Susitna-Watana funding

The 2014 capital budget passed by the Legislature includes \$95 million in funding to allow the Alaska Energy Authority to continue to move forward on a major new hydroelectric project for the Railbelt. The appropriation is consistent with what Gov. Parnell put in his draft capital budget before the Legislature convened in January.

The project would build a 600-megawatt plant capable of producing enough kilowatt-hours to meet about half the electric energy requirements of the Railbelt. Consistent with Chugach comments several years ago as the Legislature began considering the potential for more hydro-

power in the Railbelt, it is a project right-sized to meet the needs of the region. It is very different than the 1650-megawatt, two-dam project envisioned in the 1980s.

Assuming there are no changes as the governor considers action on the capital budget, AEA will use the funds for Fiscal Year 2014 studies to support a license application to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. AEA has 58 FERC-approved study plans in the works for the next two years. The proposed study area includes



AEA's study area includes 186,000 acres along the Susitna River.

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AEA hopes to bring the Susitna-Watana project online by 2024. For more information about the state agency and the project, go to www.akenergyauthority.org.

Dam access road to close

A construction project will require closure of the access road to the Cooper Lake dam near Cooper Landing on May 16 for a two-year period. Access to Cooper Lake itself via Snug Harbor Road will remain open.

The closure of the dam access road is necessary for safety reasons, with a lot of heavy equipment and construction traffic anticipated to be on the narrow

road off the Sterling Highway. A Chugach contractor will be building the structures associated with the Stetson Creek diversion project. They include a small diversion structure in Stetson Creek, two miles of buried pipeline to the reservoir and the works necessary to release water from the lake.

The project is a condition of the new 50-year license Chugach

received from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in 2007 for its Cooper Lake Hydroelectric Project. Its goal is to enhance salmon spawning habitat in the lower reaches of Cooper Creek near its juncture with the Kenai River. The project will divert the cold water from Stetson Creek that currently flows into Cooper Creek below the dam. Stetson's waters will instead be carried to the hydro project reservoir. A

Annual Meeting and Election notes

Chugach's Annual Membership meeting will be held on Thursday, May 16, 2013 at the Dena'ina Civic & Convention Center.

In-person voting will be allowed at the cooperative's annual meeting 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.

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structure will be built to release warmer lake water into the historic drainage of Cooper Creek.

The combination of removing the cold water from Stetson Creek and replacing it with warmer water from Cooper Lake is expected to raise the temperature of the water at the mouth of the creek by 3-5 degrees. Fisheries biologists believe that will enhance the spawning habitat for salmon.

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	811
Regulatory Commission of AK or	(800) 390-2782 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

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://chugachelectricapplications.com>. Chugach only accepts applications for open vacancies.

The Chugach Outlet

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Monthly residential service costs (based on 650 kwh)

Customer charge/month	\$ 8.00
Energy charge \$0.08472 x kwh =	\$55.07
Fuel \$0.03887 x kwh =	\$25.27
Purchased power \$0.00408 x kwh =	\$2.65
FIW renewable energy adj. \$0.00185 x kwh =	\$1.20
<small>(Fuel, Purchased power and FIW renewable energy adjustment factors effective April 1, 2013, subject to Regulatory Commission of Alaska approval)</small>	
Subtotal	92.19
2% MOA Undergrounding Charge =	\$ 1.84
RCC \$0.000568 x kwh =	\$ 0.37
Total bill	\$94.40

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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

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 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.