

Chugach Electric Association's

November 2006

Number 227

In This Issue:

- Underground projects
- Postmark Substation
- City of Lights



www.chugachelectric.com

Chugach buries overhead power lines

Chugach has been working on a number of overhead-to-underground power line conversion projects in the Anchorage area this summer.

Chugach is currently upgrading and subsequently placing an overhead power line underground between Rabbit Creek Elementary School and Rabbit Creek Park off DeArmoun Road and Lake Otis Parkway. The \$300,000 project will underground seven spans of overhead line running between the school and the park. The project started in mid-October and is expected to be completed in early November.

Chugach is also in the process of completing or has finished a number of conversion projects in 2006 including a \$75,000 project in Turpin Park to convert four-to-six spans of overhead wire to underground and a \$285,000 project in Flying Crown to underground spans of single-phase and three-phase facilities near the runway. More information on conversion projects can be found on the utility's web site at www.chugachelectric.com.

Chugach's five-year undergrounding plan calls for spending more than \$16 million on burying overhead lines between 2006 and 2010. Projects are selected taking into account Chugach's overall system needs and consideration of designated target areas.

These projects are being funded by the 2 percent underground charge that is a component of most member bills. The charge is a result of a Municipality of



Chugach's contractor digs the trench for an overhead to underground power line conversion project near Rabbit Creek Elementary School.

Anchorage ordinance adopted March 1, 2005.

For more information on overhead-to-underground conversion projects, contact Shelly Schmitt at 762-4624.

Chugach and ASD ready Service for emergencies

Chugach and the Anchorage School District have reached an agreement that will allow the district to use a portion of Chugach's distribution system to move power from an ASD generator on campus to power buildings at Service High School in certain types of outages. The

arrangement will allow the school to function as an emergency shelter. The Regulatory Commission of Alaska approved the contract and tariff change in September. Over time, the ASD plans to install standby generators at a number of schools in the district.

Chugach breaks ground on Postmark Substation

Chugach has broken ground on a new distribution substation located on airport property off Northern Lights Boulevard, west of Postmark Drive. The substation will primarily serve the airport and provide for the growing demand for power at Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport.



A Chugach contractor moves structure hardware out of the way at the new Postmark Substation.

The initial work on the Postmark Substation began in 2003 when Chugach determined a general design and a location for the substation. In 2004 and 2005, Chugach completed the initial design work and began acquiring easements. This year, Chugach completed easement acquisition, finalized the substation design and purchased the materials to begin construction of the substation.

Currently Chugach contractors are building what is known as a shoe fly, which is a temporary structure that

will be used to reroute the power lines that must be kept energized and out of the way during the substation construction.

The substation construction is expected to start in early November. Chugach anticipates the \$6 million substation project will be completed near the end of next year.

Rains raise Bradley Lake level

The same storm system that caused flood damage in Seward and other communities in early October also significantly raised the reservoir level at the Bradley Lake hydroelectric project. Chugach and other utilities up and down the Railbelt buy power from the state-owned facility at the head of Kachemak Bay near Homer. The extra water at Bradley Lake can provide free energy which could save Chugach about \$75,000 in fuel expenses.

Bradley Lake is one of three hydro projects that together provide about 15 percent of the kilowatt-hours Chugach sells in a year. The others

are Chugach's Cooper Lake Power Plant on the Kenai Peninsula and the jointly owned Eklutna project located along the Knik River northeast of Anchorage.

Despite a rainy August, the reservoirs of all three projects had been lower-than-normal at the end of September. The October storms raised the level of Bradley Lake by about 5 feet – restoring the lake to a more normal level for this time of year. The Cooper and Eklutna reservoirs remain below normal. The volume of water in the three reservoirs usually reaches its annual peak in September or October each year.

Safety and streetlights

When you drive or walk through your neighborhoods remember that children may be depending on streetlights as they walk to and from school

or wait on the roadside to catch a bus. If you notice a streetlight that is not working call Chugach at 762-7658.

City of Lights

The Anchorage Chamber of Commerce City of Lights program kicked off with a lighting celebration Oct. 27, in the Town Square Park. The Chamber is urging residents and businesses

across the Municipality to participate in City of Lights by turning their lights on in October and keeping them on until the last Iditarod musher finishes in Nome in March.

AutoPay
CHECKING

SIT BACK, RELAX,
IT'S AUTOMATIC

Contact us

Main number	563-7494
Toll free	(800) 478-7494
Member service	563-7366
Member service fax	762-4678
Business and commercial	762-7876
Credit	563-5060
Power theft hotline	762-4731
Danger tree hotline	762-7227
Underground locates	278-3121
Regulatory Commission of Alaska	
(800) 390-2782 or	276-6222
To report a power outage	
In Anchorage	762-7888
Outside Anchorage	(800) 478-7494

Monthly residential service costs

(based on 700 kwh)

Customer charge/month	\$ 8.42
Energy charge \$0.09282 x kwh =	\$64.97
Fuel adjustment \$0.03722 x kwh =	<u>\$26.05</u>
Sub-total	<u>\$99.44</u>
2% MOA Underground Charge =	\$ 1.99
RCC charge \$0.000364 x kwh =	<u>\$ 0.25</u>
Total bill	\$101.68

Corporate Mission

Through superior service, safely provide reliable and competitively priced energy.

Hours

Member Service lobby:

5601 Electron Drive
Monday - Friday
8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Member Service phone:

Monday - Friday
8 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Main office:

Monday - Friday
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

The Chugach Outlet

A Publication of Chugach Electric
Association, Inc.

5601 Electron Drive
P.O. Box 196300

Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6300

CHUGACH
POWERING ALASKA'S FUTURE

www.chugachelectric.com