



Chugach Electric Association's

# Outlet

September  
2007

Number 236

[www.chugachelectric.com](http://www.chugachelectric.com)

## Chugach & AFD remove dead and dying trees in Turnagain Arm communities

Chugach and the Anchorage Fire Department have continued a partnership started in 2005 to remove dead and dying trees in the Municipality of Anchorage. The trees – most often beetle-killed spruce – are classified as “danger trees” that put the electric system at risk and provide a fuel source for wildfires. The work this year – in the Bird and Indian areas – follows similar efforts by the two organizations in the Municipality over the past two years.

“Danger trees” are located outside of Chugach’s rights of

way. They are considered a danger because they have the potential to fall on a power line and cause an outage. Chugach regularly clears its rights of way and has an ongoing in-house program to cut danger trees. Under its own program, with the permission of property owners Chugach drops danger trees safely to the ground and leaves them for the landowner. The AFD-federally funded work goes a step further and pays for Chugach’s contractor to remove the downed trees from the property. This year, because of the size of the trees, most of

them must be climbed and removed piece by piece.

“It’s a win-win situation for everyone,” said Chris O’Brien, Chugach’s Arborist. “The Fire Department wins because we’re reducing the fuel load throughout the Municipality. Chugach wins because we’re removing danger trees that would have a high probability of hitting the power lines and we’re reducing the fuel load



*Chugach’s contractor uses a rope to guide the treetop safely to the ground.*

around the power facilities. And it’s a win for the homeowner

*See Trees, Page 2*

## Bright idea for saving energy

Making improvements to your lighting is one of the fastest ways to cut your energy bills. An average household dedicates 5-10 percent of its energy budget to lighting.

Compact fluorescent lighting provides bright, warm light while it requires 2/3 less energy than standard incandescent

lighting, generates 70% less heat, and lasts up to 10 times longer. Although compact fluorescent lamps cost a bit more than incandescent bulbs, they pay for themselves by saving energy over their lifetime.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, if every American home replaced just one incandescent light bulb with a compact fluorescent light bulb, we would save enough energy to light more than 3 million homes for a year, more than \$600 million in annual energy costs, and prevent greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions of more than 800,000 cars.

For more energy-saving tips, go to [www.chugachelectric.com](http://www.chugachelectric.com).



## ‘LEEP’ program to focus on business lighting efficiency

At its Aug. 22 meeting, the Operations Committee recommended the Board approve Chugach becoming an official Utility Partner in an energy-efficiency initiative targeting business lighting. The program, sponsored by Green Star is called the Lighting Energy Efficiency Pledge (or “LEEP”). It will kick off an 18-month effort in October.

LEEP will focus on business lighting - which Green Star says is the most cost effective and easiest way to achieve energy efficiency gains. The organization says retrofitting lighting to today’s more advanced and efficient technolo-

gies can typically save a business between 25 and 50 percent of their lighting bill.

The Chugach Board of Directors will consider the issue at its meeting on Sept. 19.



**Green Star®** is a non-profit organization that encourages businesses to practice waste reduction, energy conservation and pollution prevention.

## Chugach/ML&P study update

Efforts continue in the ongoing study into whether there are benefits to be gained for customers by the consolidation, reorganization, merger or some other coordination of activities between Chugach and Anchorage Municipal Light & Power.

Recent activity includes the following actions:

- Representatives of Chugach and ML&P have been meeting with Navigant, the lead consultant on the study, to provide information necessary for the study.
- The Chugach Board selected legal counsel to provide advice on bond and debt issues

with regard to the study.

- Don May, a former utility commissioner and a consultant on utility issues, was appointed to fill a vacancy on the study's advisory committee created by the resignation of one its original members.
- The committee has scheduled its second meeting for 1:30-3:00 p.m. on Sept. 6 in the Mayor's conference room. Ron Nichols of Navigant will present a status report on the consultant's analysis. The public is invited to attend.

More information on the study can be found at [www.chugachelectric.com](http://www.chugachelectric.com) and [www.muni.org/mayor/mlpcea.cfm](http://www.muni.org/mayor/mlpcea.cfm).

## Construction season underway

New construction continues throughout the Chugach service territory, although both the number of building permits

and new service connections are down from last year. Through June, the Municipality of Anchorage had issued a

total of 289 permits for new construction and Chugach had connected 340 new services, compared to 460 permits and 681 new services at the same point in 2006.



*New houses are being built off Lake Otis between Huffman and O'Malley roads.*

## Your Board at Work

Your Board is charged with the management of the business and the affairs of the Association. Recent Board activity included:

- Adopting the 2008 Budget and Capital Improvement Program guidance using specific financial targets.
- Selecting legal counsel to advise on bond and tax issues during the Chugach/ML&P possible reorganization study.
- Approving refinancing a \$5 million note with CoBank at the most attractive rate available. The note was originally issued in 1997.
- Approving a \$2.2 million project to protect the Sixmile West 230-kilovolt submarine cable terminal from erosion.
- Approving a Drug & Alcohol Policy and Procedures that sets limits and steps for evaluations – including random testing.
- The Finance Committee recommended the Board approve a payment system for credit cards whereby the members who use credit cards pay the costs associated with processing their payments for an eventual annual savings of \$820,000.

## Trees, *continued from Page 1*

because they benefit from having hazardous trees removed from their property, plus they get the benefit of a clear, defensible space in the event of a fire."

For more information on the danger tree programs, contact Chugach at 762-7660.

## Power lines and vehicle safety

If you're in a vehicle accident involving power lines or facilities, the safest place for you to be is in the car. Power company employees will determine when the lines or equipment have been de-energized and tell you when to exit the vehicle.

If the car is on fire and you must get out, jump out with both feet together and hop away from the vehicle. (This prevents the hazard of "step potential" from varying

voltage levels in the ground.) Do not touch the car and the ground at the same time as you could provide a path to the ground for the electricity, causing an injury or fatality.



## Contact us

Main number	563-7494
Toll free	(800) 478-7494
Member Services	563-7366
Member Services fax	762-4678
Business and commercial desk	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
<b>To report a power outage</b>	
In Anchorage	762-7888
Outside Anchorage	(800) 478-7494

## Hours

### Member Services lobby:

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

### Member Services by 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

### Monthly residential service costs

(based on 700 kwh)

Customer charge/month	\$ 8.42
Energy charge \$0.09282 x kwh =	\$64.97
Fuel adjustment \$0.03204 x kwh =	<u>\$22.43</u>
Fuel adjustment effective 7/1 - 9/30/07	
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$95.82</b>
2% MOA Underground Charge =	\$ 1.92
RCC charge \$0.000274 x kwh =	<u>\$ 0.19</u>
<b>Total bill</b>	<b>\$97.93</b>

### 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 affirmative action employer.