

## **Chugach Renewable Generation** Q2 Update of Renewable Energy Plan Activities

**Chugach Operations Committee Meeting July 12, 2023** 



- 1. Two big renewable projects will end study phase in September; if feasible, PPA negotiations in Q4
- 2. Regulating variable sources is critical
- 3. Community solar economic evaluation in September
- 4. Many other projects and policies are in development



## **Renewable Energy Plan Progression**









#### 2020 Goal:

Add 100,000 MWh of renewable generation by March 31, 2025

## 2021 Renewable Energy Plan

The focus of this update

### 2023-2027 Strategic Plan Priority 6: Decarbonization

Reduction Goal: at least 35% by 2030 at least 50% by 2040 Using 2012 as baseline, and if no material impact to member rates

## **Renewable Energy Plan Focus Areas**

**1. Issue RFP**: Issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the purchase of renewable energy generation



2. Develop Known Renewable Projects: Continue to pursue potential renewable energy projects



**3. Create Policy Changes:** Pursue regulation and legislative changes that remove regulatory barriers to the deployment of renewable generation



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**1. Issue RFP**: Issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the purchase of renewable energy generation

# Focus Area 1

## Issue Request for Proposals

Goal: Identify renewable projects that can meet or beat Chugach avoided cost. We requested best price, even if higher than avoided cost.

## Value and Importance of Multi-Disciplinary Teams



## Focus Area 1: RFP for Renewable Energy



## Focus Area 1: RFP for Renewable Energy

### A dozen proposals received for a wide variety of technologies. Two proposals under detailed interconnection and integration studies:

Alaska Renewables Little Mount Susitna Wind 122 MW West of Mt. Susitna





## **Progress This Quarter: Studies Performed**

### ✓ Interconnection Studies (technical feasibility)

- $\checkmark$  LMS Wind Interconnection: Completed
  - Steady-state and dynamic stability assessed at 122 MW
  - Two transmission lines needed to avoid largest contingency
  - $\checkmark\,$  Ring bus at LMS substation needed
  - ✓ Beluga to Pt MacKenzie line has sufficient capacity
  - Transfer limits of south and north intertie are impacted
- ✓ Midnight Solar Interconnection: Completed
  - $\checkmark\,$  Similar detail to LMS
- Wind + Solar Interconnection: Expected mid-July
- ✓ Meteorological Stations
  - $\checkmark$  Lidar installed at LMS in June (Tower in Oct. '22)
  - $\checkmark$  Solar met station installed in June

- ✓ Natural Gas On-Site Storage FEED Study Completed
  - $\checkmark$  CNG is selected technology
  - $\checkmark$  Gas storage at Sullivan or SPP possible
  - ✓ Capacities studied: Enough to run 50 MW or 100 MW turbines; Storage volume for 6 to 24 hours
- Regulation Study
  - Work in progress, Complete by Aug. 31
- Wind Forecasting
  - ✓ Three forecast services established
  - Ongoing testing
- Integration Study (economic feasibility)
  - ✓ Base model prepared
  - $\checkmark$  Initial regulation process provided June 26
  - Scenario modeling by Sep. 29



### **Regulation of Intermittent Resources is Critical - Wind Forecasting Example**

Fire Island Wind Forecasting Performance



## **Next Steps**

- Complete interconnection studies July 14, 2023
- Finalize regulation study and ramp rate requirements August 31, 2023
- Integration studies September 2023
- If feasible and cost-effective, negotiate power purchase agreements October - December 2023
- Board action on PPA January 2024
- Submit agreements to Regulatory Commission of Alaska February 2024
- Permitting, purchasing, site preparation, construction 2024 to 2025
- Project commissioning and operation 2025 to 2026





2. Develop Known Renewable Projects: Continue to pursue potential renewable energy projects

## Focus Area 2

Develop Known Renewable Projects

## Focus Area 2:

## **DEVELOP KNOWN RENEWABLE PROJECTS**

#### COMPLETED

- Two AWWU PRV to hydro, 28 kW and 45 kW
- Heat Pump Program
  Initiated Feb. 1, 2023

#### ACTIVE EVALUATION

- Community solar
- Solar on building C
- Two hydro projects
- CNG storage
- Railbelt wind studies
- Two tidal projects
- MOA waste to energy

#### CONCEPTS

- PRV to hydro #3
- Community Heat Pump
- Refurbish wind
- H2 or solar at Beluga
- Solar at SPP
- Landfill methane
- Pt. Mac Sub solar
- Others under NDA

#### **STOPPED**

 Five+ solar projects at distribution system scale

## Focus Area 2: Community Solar Location

- Chugach owned Retherford Substation Property
- 800 E 94<sup>th</sup> near Old Seward Hwy
- 13.6 acres total
- 500 kW solar
- Little shading
- Interconnect to substation (35kV) or feeder on Old Seward (15kV)





### Coffman Engineering contracted for Front End Engineering and Design

- ✓ Conceptual array design
- $\checkmark$  Site design and permitting
  - Geotechnical engineering (Shannon & Wilson)
  - Site survey (Farpoint Land Services)
  - Permitting (Solstice Alaska Consulting)
- Electrical Interconnection Design (7/14)
- Economic Analysis (7/21)
  - Chugach Evaluation of Results
- RFP development for PV Installation (8/11)

Economic evaluation to be completed in September.







**3. Create Policy Changes:** Pursue regulation and legislative changes that remove regulatory barriers to the deployment of renewable generation

## Focus Area 3

Create Policy Changes

## **Policy Initiatives**

- Chugach and Railbelt utilities are working on recommendations for legislation for renewables and clean energy.
- Chugach is prepared to work with a legislative committee or participate in hearings ahead of the 2024 legislative session.
- Chugach is researching legislative bills and industry best practices involving net metering and community solar.



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- 3. Community solar economic evaluation in September
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## **Questions?**



# Appendix A

**RFP and Study Process Details** 

## **RFP Key Process Steps**

- RFP written, issued, distributed widely
- Pre-proposal videoconference
- Proposal deadline
- Form review team:
- Chugach economic & technical 4-stage review
- Economic screening and notification of proposers
- Technical scoring and additional questions for leading proposers
- Decision and notification
- Develop interconnection study scope, schedule, budget
- Develop integration study scope, schedule, budget
- Invitation to enter study agreement, delivery of study agreement May 18, 2022
- Acceptance of study agreement & pre-payment
- Study kick-off meetings
- Data gathering, model inputs, site control

- Sep. 2021
- Nov. 2021
- Dec. 17, 2021
- Dec. 2021
- Jan. 2 to Feb. 22, 2022
- Feb. 22, 2022
- Mar. to Apr. 12, 2022
- Mar. 25, 2022
- Apr. 2022
- Apr. 2022
- Sep. 16, 2022 & Nov. 7, 2022
- Oct. 2022 & Nov. 2022
- Oct. 2022 to May 2023



## **Interconnection Study Timeline Examples**

- Proposer providing data, modeling, one-line development, PSS/E model development - Oct. 2022 to May 2023
- Scoping & methodology decisions Oct. 2022
- Railbelt PSS/E model updating Oct. 2022
- Base case transfer limits, contingency review Nov. 2022
- Initial modeling new facilities, begin dynamic modeling Dec. 2022
- Beluga transfer limit Jan. 2023
- PSCAD modeling, EMT modeling Feb. 2023
- Modeling and modeling reviews Apr. 2023
- Multiple interconnection configurations, report writing May 2023
- Reporting, Chugach review, finalization Jun. 2023



PSS/E: Power System Simulator for Engineering PSCAD: Power Systems Computer Aided Design EMT: Electromagnetic Transient Modeling

# Appendix B

Focus Area 2 Project Updates

## Focus Area 2: Projects Completed

Project	Capacity & Type	Status
AWWU Energy Recovery 1	45 kW Hydro	Completed, operational
AWWU Energy Recovery 2	28 kW Hydro	Completed, operational
Heat Pump Program **	N/A Geo/Air	Feasibility study completed; Heat Pump Incentive Program designed in 2022, implemented 2023.

## Focus Area 2: Projects Under Active Evaluation 1

Project	Capacity & Type	Status
Community Solar **	500 kW Solar	Chugach hired Coffman Engineers to conduct FEED study to examine the feasibility of locating community solar at Retherford substation near 94 <sup>th</sup> and Old Seward.
Solar on Building C Expansion **	170 kW Solar	Preliminary design complete, out to bid.
Dixon Diversion *	~40% more hydro energy from Bradley	Chugach awarded \$1M grant from Alaska Renewable Energy Fund on behalf of BPMC; economic feasibility currently under study.
Utility scale hydro **	Hydro	Chugach installed stream gauging to measure water flows. Applied for Renewable Energy Fund Round 15: recommended but not funded.
Natural Gas Storage for regulating renewables **	50-100 MW Storage (for 6-24 hours)	FEED study conducted. Results being considered in economic evaluation of alternatives.
Railbelt wind study *	N/A	Coordinated Railbelt utility study of best possible wind locations and meterological tower installation

Excludes projects from RFP process

\*\* Chugach-led initiative \* Chugach-involved initiative Others are third-party initiatives

## Focus Area 2: Projects Under Active Evaluation 2

Project	Capacity & Type	Status
Turnagain Arm Tidal	1 MW Tidal	Chugach is supporting all tidal energy development in Cook Inlet and will sign a letter of support for the Turnagain Arm Tidal Electricity Generation project's DOE funding application.
Hilcorp Tidal	TBD Tidal	Hilcorp, Chugach and ACEP examining options; Hilcorp expected to make idle platforms available
Anchorage Waste to Energy Project	20-30 MW Biomass	After project dormancy, a project proponent is actively promoting the project again, met with Chugach in June 2023.

Excludes projects from RFP process

\*\* Chugach-led initiative \* Chugach-involved initiative Others are third-party initiatives

## Focus Area 2: Concepts Under Consideration

Project	Capacity & Type	Status
AWWU Energy Recovery 3	250 kW Hydro	AWWU awaiting results of prior projects
Seward Ground Source Heat Pump	N/A Geothermal	City seeking other funding sources
AVTEC Wind	100 kW Wind	Recommissioning and commercial arrangement needed
Hydrogen or Solar at Beluga **	TBD	Examined the potential to install solar to replace Unit 7, and the possibility of using unscheduled renewables to produce hydrogen to burn at Beluga
Solar on SPP **	100 kW Solar	Chugach hiring decarbonization contractors then implementing this project in order of priority/availability
Landfill Excess Methane *	Unknown	New concept to consider
Point MacKenzie Substation Solar	5 MW	Adjacent landowner pursuing options to develop solar and interconnect at transmission substation. Very expensive due to high voltage interconnection.
Other options under NDA	>100 MW	

## Focus Area 2: Projects Stopped or Paused

Project	Capacity & Type	Status
Renewable IPP	6 MW Solar	Multiple locations investigated for distribution- connected solar. IPP ended projects due to poor project economics from high land values and/or citing permitting challenges.
JBER Solar	4.5 MW Solar	JBER paused the project in 2021
3 <sup>rd</sup> Avenue Solar	50 kW Solar	No known activity by organizer
Solar/EV Charging Demo	20 kW Solar	Third-party decided not to pursue the project
Commercial/Industrial Solar	200 kW Solar (est.)	Third-party found the land unsuitable for solar