

## Chugach asks regulators to review base rates

As required by the Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA), Chugach filed a general rate case on June 30, 2023. Compared to today's rates, the filing requests approval of a 5.9% increase, measured on a total bill basis, to the Chugach retail class. As part of this total, during the time the case is being reviewed, Chugach is requesting an interim increase of 3.6%, effective Sept. 1, 2023 with the balance of the increase to begin in September 2024.

When Chugach purchased Municipal Light & Power (ML&P) in October 2020, the RCA required the utility file a rate case in 2023 to combine the rates of all members regardless of geographic location. Since the acquisition closed, there have been

separate rates for the Chugach legacy members and the former customers of ML&P.

"We are looking forward to moving toward uniform rates on a customer class basis for all of our members," said Chugach CEO Arthur Miller. "Overall, the acquisition has been an extraordinary success, resulting in savings in excess of \$72 million since closing the transaction in October 2020."

The rate adjustments are necessary to recover the costs of operating and maintaining the utility system at a time when Chugach, like all businesses, has experienced financial pressure from increased costs due to inflation and supply ([see Rate Case, page 2](#))

## Thinking of an e-bike?

Electric-assisted bicycles, or e-bikes, can serve many uses, from casual recreation to daily transportation. Whether you are shopping for an e-bike or already own one, there are safety considerations to keep in mind.

When considering an e-bike, look for reputable brands with quality electrical components including the motor, battery, and charger. Many e-bikes have battery systems that are independently tested and listed by national labs like UL or ETL. Always use a manufacturer-approved charger

that is intended for your e-bike, as they are typically matched to a specific model's battery. Use a grounded outlet when charging and avoid plugging into splitters or long extension cords. Make sure electrical ports are closed or covered during use, and components are clean and dry before charging. Most e-bikes use lithium-ion batteries that can last for years, and for longevity should be kept between about 20% and 80% charged. Avoid extended storage with the battery fully depleted or fully charged



*Photo courtesy of Alaska eBike*

and unplug it once charging is complete.

E-bikes can provide new experiences for all ages and are a great way to enjoy the Alaska summer. Visit your local bike shop to learn more and try one out for yourself.

## Rate Case *(continued from page 2)*

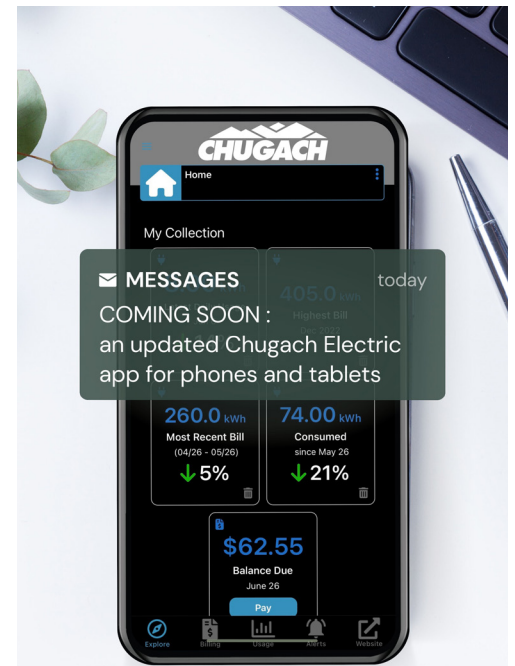
chain disruptions, as well as declining sales due to energy efficiency measures by members and the decline seen during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As part of the current filing, Chugach has proposed some innovative rate structures including time of use rates and eliminating the demand ratchet for large commercial customers.

In order to change base rates, a

utility has to request the change through the RCA who determines whether the rates are just and reasonable. The filing will include a 30-day public comment period provided for by the RCA. A rate case generally takes about 15 months to adjudicate, so final rates would not go into effect until September 2024.

For more information, visit [www.chugachelectric.com/rate-case](http://www.chugachelectric.com/rate-case).



*In the photo from left: Bettina Chastain, board director, Marty Freeman, Chugach Safety Manager, Crystal Enkvist, APA, and Arthur Miller, Chugach CEO.*

## In the community

Alaska Power Association Executive Director Crystal Enkvist presented Chugach with the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program (RESAP) Certificate of Safety Achievement during a recent Chugach board meeting.

By participating in the RESAP program and being recognized as a safety leader, Chugach is showing its commitment to safety for staff and the community as a whole. {1172188}

## CHUGACH EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

*From Engineering to Operations to Member Services, all of Chugach's roughly 460 employees live and work in Alaska.*

*Each month we will introduce you to one of our employees who works every day to provide safe, reliable power to our members.*



**Name:** Joel Norris

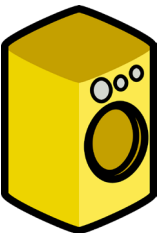
**Position:** Sr. Hydro Maint. Operator

**Time at Chugach:** 16 years

Joel enjoys generating renewable, reliable power at the Cooper Lake Hydro Electric Power Plant. He says plowing snow and maintaining about five miles of road to the plant can be quite satisfying.

## Green Corner *Reducing our carbon footprint*

The combined use of large appliances account for the highest electricity use at home. Only run a full dishwasher, and thoroughly scrape food from dishes. Dry towels and heavy cottons separate from lightweight clothing, and clean the lint screen. Wash clothing in cold water to save energy.



### The Outlet

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### Member number hide-n-seek

Find your member number in (brackets) in the Outlet and get a \$100 credit on your electric bill. Call Chugach at 907-563-7366 to claim your prize.