

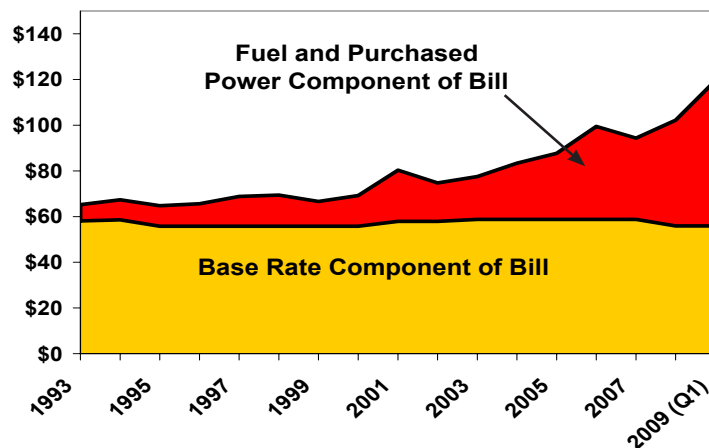
## Chugach files to lower rates 5.1 percent

As April bills begin arriving, Chugach customers should see the initial impact of falling oil and associated commodity prices observed in recent months. Chugach has filed a request with the Regulatory Commission of Alaska seeking approval to lower rates collected to pay for fuel. If approved, the average residential customer using 700 kilowatt-hours of service will see about a 5 percent reduction – with their monthly bill falling from approximately \$122 to \$116. Fuel and purchased power costs continue to make up a significant portion of customer bill levels. Even with the implementation of the rate reduction, about 51 percent of a monthly average residen-

tial customer bill is for fuel and purchased power costs.

Chugach's fuel rates change quarterly. The cost of fuel is included in the "fuel adjustment" line on customers' monthly bills. It provides for the recovery of natural gas costs and the cost of purchased power, like that which comes from the state-owned Bradley Lake hydroelectric project, and an accounting treatment used to balance out over- or under-recoveries from a prior quarter.

The second quarter decrease comes primarily from a reduction in the amount Chugach must recover from prior under-recoveries as well as a reduction in the price Chugach pays for



the natural gas used to make most of the power customers require. Annually, about 90 percent of the kilowatt-hours Chugach sells comes from burning natural gas, with the other

10 percent coming from hydroelectric projects. Customers do not pay a mark up on the price of fuel; the price Chugach pays the gas producers is the same as what our members are paying.

## Control your electric bill

In the average home, many things add to the total amount of electricity used in a month. Understanding how to control different things can lead to better overall control of your electric bill. You can break your household electric items into two broad categories: things that run all the time, and those that operate at your command.

### 24-hour-a-day items

All 12 months of the year, one of the largest contributors to the average residential bill is the refrigerator. That's because it runs around the clock. If you have a separate chest or upright freezer, it too is going to be operating all 24 hours of the day. During the winter in

Alaska, your heating system is also drawing electricity in varying amounts all day long. Even though most Chugach customers use natural gas for heating, it is electricity that powers the fan or pump necessary to move that heat throughout the home. One way to cut the use of electricity associated with your heating system is to turn down the thermostat when you're not home.

With refrigerators and freezers, people may experiment with the temperature settings when they first begin to use the appliance, but once they find the right setting that's where they leave it. Therefore, the time to capture savings with major appliances like refrigerators and freezers is at the time of

purchase. Take the time to read the yellow and black energy labels to see which models use the least electricity, and look for appliances that have earned Energy Star ratings. In addition, be sure that the cooling fins on refrigerators and freezers are always kept clean. And remember, you won't save any money by buying a new, efficient refrigerator or freezer if you then take the old one to the basement or garage and plug it in to use to store additional groceries.

### On-off things

Many things in our homes are well within our control. They are either on, or off, at our discretion. Lights are a good example, as are most washers and dryers

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## Annual meeting countdown

### February

- 19 Nominating Committee posts slate of candidates
- 27 Director candidate petitions due

### March

- 18 Record date
- 19 Meet the candidates
- 31 Election packets mailed

### April

- 27 Mail ballot cut off (noon)
- 30 Annual meeting

## Control your bill *Continued from Page 1*

and smaller appliances like hair dryers and irons. Turning these things off when not in use is a good way to save electricity. You can dramatically cut the amount of electricity used for lighting by switching from incandescent to compact fluorescent lights. Chugach's current program to provide \$2-off coupons is a good way to get started or add additional CFLs to your home.

### Things that seem like they're off, but are still on

Not everything is all the way "off" with the push of a button. Many modern items continue to draw some power around the clock. Modern "instant on" televisions are one example. Others include computers, microwave ovens, and cell phone chargers. You may want to look closer at some of these items and consider turning them all the way off when not in use if you're out to minimize your electric bill.

The Internet is a great source of information for how to conserve and save money on your electric bill. There are links at [www.chugachelectric.com](http://www.chugachelectric.com) that will help get you started.

## Come visit Chugach at the Home Show

Chugach will have a booth at the 2009 Anchorage Home Builders Association Home & Remodeling Show March 27-29 at the Sullivan Arena. The booth will focus on Chugach's Smart Power program. The first 2,000 Chugach members visiting the booth may receive a free compact fluorescent lamp if they sign a pledge to replace one of their incandescent light bulbs. Chugach will also be sponsoring a workshop at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, March 28, on the proper application of lighting in the home.

## Call before you dig

Before you start to build that deck or put in that fence, remember that one phone call to 811 can quickly and easily begin the process of getting underground utility lines marked. Callers to the 811 number will be routed to their local one call center that will arrange to mark all underground utility lines for free.



Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.

## 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       |
| Street light hotline         | 762-7676       |
| Underground locates          | 278-3121       |
| Regulatory Commission of AK  | (800) 390-2782 |
| or                           | 276-6222       |
| To report a power outage     |                |
| In Anchorage                 | 762-7888       |
| Outside Anchorage            | (800) 478-7494 |

## Hours

|                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Main office:           |                        |
| Monday - Friday        |                        |
| 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.        |                        |
| Member Services lobby: | Member Services phone: |
| 5601 Electron Drive    | Monday - Friday        |
| Monday - Friday        | 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.        |
| 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.        |                        |

### The Chugach Outlet

A Publication of Chugach Electric Association, Inc.  
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P.O. Box 196300  
Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6300

**Corporate Mission:** Through superior service, safely provide reliable and competitively priced energy.

**Corporate vision:** Powering Alaska's future

## Your board at work

Your board is charged with the management of the business and the affairs of the Association. Recently the board:

- Approved 2009 Election Procedures
- Approved proposed bylaw amendments for the 2009 election ballot
- Approved the gas term sheet as discussed in executive session and authorized the Chief Executive Officer to proceed with negotiations of a gas sales agreement (GSA) consistent with the gas term sheet



Rebecca Logan  
Chairman

## How to deal with a natural disaster

If there is a disaster, such as an eruption of Redoubt Volcano, Chugach and its members must have contingency plans.

If there is an eruption, Chugach would monitor the wind and where the ash could be headed. In the event of heavy ashfall nearing Chugach's main power plant at Beluga, the two small turbine-generators that do not have air filters would be shut down. The remaining five units could continue running, but might have their loads cut back. In an extreme case, they might require being taken offline as well.

Fortunately, Chugach does have other geographically dispersed generation to supply energy to its members. Chugach could also purchase from other utilities. Although not likely, there could be a necessity to ask members to cut back on their electric usage. Members could help by lowering thermostats, shutting off electronics and lights that are not necessary, deferring discretionary actions like laundry and not using electric heaters.

Members should also be prepared. For more information on being prepared for a volcano eruption emergency go to [www.ak-prepared.com](http://www.ak-prepared.com) or call your local emergency management office.

## Chugach 2008 annual report available soon

Chugach's 2008 annual reports will be mailed with the election packets by March 31. They will also be available on the utility's Web site at [www.chugachelectric.com](http://www.chugachelectric.com).

### Monthly residential service costs (based on 700 kwh)

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| Customer charge/month                         | \$ 8.00         |
| Energy charge \$0.06848 x kwh =               | \$47.94         |
| Fuel adjustment \$0.09088 x kwh =             | \$63.62         |
| (Fuel adjustment effective 1/1/09 -- 3/31/09) |                 |
| <b>Sub-total</b>                              | <b>\$119.56</b> |
| 2% MOA Underground Charge =                   | \$ 2.39         |
| RCC charge \$0.000362 x kwh =                 | \$ 0.25         |
| <b>Total bill</b>                             | <b>\$122.20</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."