

Outlet

October - November 2004
Number 208

Chugach Electric Association

Chugach reactor gets a new charge

A Chugach substation crew led by Substation Foreman Jeff Robison, removed a reactor at the Pt. Woronzof Substation this summer after discovering an internal fault. Reactors help control voltage when the demand for power is low.

A substation technician group, led by Chugach's Senior Substation Technician Scott Girard, has been using new technology to test substation equipment. They discovered the possible fault in the reactor and monitored it prior to removing it in March.

The 22-ton reactor was lifted from its pad with a crane, loaded onto a truck and moved to Chugach's operations yard. Crews cut the top off, opened the reactor, and then used a crane to lift

the core and coil out of the tank. After it was determined Chugach could do the repairs, Chugach completed the work and reversed the process by replacing the core into the tank, loading the reactor onto a truck and returning it to the Pt. Woronzof Substation. The unit was returned to service in September.

While the repairs to the unit cost \$160,000, they are expected to extend its life by about 15 to 20 years. A new reactor today would cost about \$450,000, plus the installation costs.

The repaired reactor is one of two that were installed at the Pt. Woronzof Substation in 1971. Chugach



Chugach crews guided the reactor as it was moved from a concrete pad in the Pt. Woronzof Substation to a truck that brought the piece of equipment to Chugach's operations yard earlier this year.

installed a third reactor at the substation in 1990. 

Chugach named one of Alaska's Top 49 businesses

The Alaska Business Monthly magazine recently named Chugach Electric one of Alaska's top 49 businesses.

Chugach came in 9th this year, with revenues of \$185.1 million.

The annual listing names Alaskan-owned (51 percent or greater) and -operated businesses. Placement is determined by the amount of yearly revenues, with this year's minimum revenue requirement being \$26.15 million. The top company on the 49er list

is Arctic Slope Regional Corp., with revenues of nearly \$1.3 billion. Golden Valley Electric in Fairbanks placed 16th on the list with revenues of \$92 million. 

Sparking Interest

- The fourth quarter 2004 fuel surcharge rate increased from 1.142 cents per kilowatt-hour to 1.424 cents per kwh effective with Oct. 1 bills.
- Volunteer for one of Chugach's annual meeting committees. Call 762-4736 for more information.

Cyber security and you

Alaskans are no strangers to computers. In fact, about 72 percent of Alaskans have computers in their homes. However, with computer usage, comes computer responsibility.

Your home computer is a popular target for intruders. Their methods are diverse, sophisticated, clever, and always changing. They gain access and look for credit card numbers and bank account information. Additionally, they can install viruses, keystroke recording software, and use your computer to gain access to other computers.

Many Alaskans have virus protection on their computers to help protect them from SPAM, or to prevent others from violating their systems. However, many home computer owners don't pay enough attention to computer security. In order to help Chugach members protect

themselves from others hacking into their systems, we plan to periodically publish tips on dealing with these issues.

TIP: Microsoft Windows Patches

Microsoft offers a site with the latest Windows program and security patches. The site (<http://windowsupdate.microsoft.com>) will scan your computer and allow you to download any missing patches.

Make certain you apply the Critical Patch Updates and the recently released Service Packs.

We hope these tips will help describe things you can do to improve the security of your home computer system and to keep intruders and their programs off your home computer. ☺

Message from Chugach

Chugach's base rates are set by a tariff that is approved by the Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA). Those rates are expected to remain level for 2005. However, the fuel surcharge, a pass-through cost to Chugach members, will most likely increase the total electric bill for Chugach's retail members between 4 and 6 percent for 2005.

The fuel surcharge – a component of the members' bill that is also approved by the RCA – provides a way for Chugach to recover fuel and purchased power costs. A significant factor of the fuel surcharge rate is the cost of natural gas, which is expected to continue increasing in 2005. Chugach's natural gas prices are adjusted quarterly, based on fuel contracts that are indexed to trends in the U.S. oil and gas market. In addition, other factors that can impact the fuel surcharge pass-through cost include the water levels that affect hydro generation and equipment repairs and maintenance, both planned and unexpected. You have seen prices for car fuel and home heating oil increase and these are similar to the increases Chugach is experiencing with the fuel surcharge being passed through to members.

Chugach has projected the 4 to 6 percent increase based on best estimates with information that is currently available. Many of our commercial customers need to include utility costs as part of their 2005 budgets. We recommend that large commercial customers use the 6 percent increase in budgeting. Residential customers should anticipate a 4 percent change in 2005.

For more information, Chugach's tariff rates and the quarterly change to the fuel surcharge are on the Chugach Electric website at www.chugachelectric.com. ☺

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Regulatory Commission of Alaska
(800) 390-2782 or 276-6222
To report a power outage
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Board activity

August and September meetings 2004

- Approved allocating a share of nearly \$4.7 million in retail margins to retail members of record for 2003, that will equal about 4.1 percent of their electric bills.
- Adopted financial targets for guidance in preparing Chugach's 2005 Operating Budget and the 2005-2009 Capital Improvement Program.

If you would like to review Board of Director meeting minutes or contact Board members, visit Chugach's web site at www.chugachelectric.com.

Hours

Service center:
5601 Minnesota Drive

Monday-Friday
8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Saturday
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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Monday - Friday
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