

Section of transmission line to be rebuilt

In 2015 Chugach is planning to rebuild another section of its transmission line that links Anchorage with the Kenai Peninsula. Chugach originally built the line in the early 1960s to carry power from its Cooper Lake Hydroelectric Project to customers in Anchorage.

The importance of the line has grown over time. Today it performs its original mission and powers substations that serve Chugach customers along Turnagain Arm and in Whittier. It also serves as the only means for electrical energy from the Bradley Lake Hydroelectric Project to flow to utility customers north of the Kenai Peninsula. All six electric

utilities in the Railbelt purchase power from the State-owned Bradley Lake project near Homer. {191279525}

About 6 miles of the line is planned to be rebuilt in 2015. The project area runs from near the breakover structure on Powerline Pass to where the line meets the Seward Highway about a mile south of the Indian Substation.

The original line was built to 115-kilovolt standards. While for the time being the line will continue to be operated at that voltage, Chugach's 2015 rebuild will be done at 230-kv standard to provide added capacity for the future. In the winter of

2012-13 Chugach did a similar rebuild of about 15 miles of the line, up and through Turnagain Pass.

The Indian-area project began with clearing of the permitted right-of-way in the fall of 2014. A specific schedule for the line construction has not yet been set.

Chugach is hoping to be able to do the work while the Bradley Lake project is offline for maintenance in 2015. That would minimize the disruption to other utilities that will not be able to take their shares of the project while the



In preparation for a 2015 rebuild, crews cleared miles of transmission line right of way near Indian.

line is out of service.

The \$6 million project is being financed by a combination of Chugach capital spending, augmented by about \$900,000 in State grant funds.

RCA approves MEA agreement

The Regulatory Commission of Alaska has approved an interim power sales agreement between Chugach and Matanuska Electric Association. The two utilities negotiated the contract to provide power into 2015 while MEA finishes its Eklutna Generation Station.

MEA is building the new plant to serve its members after giving notice some years ago that it did not intend to remain a wholesale customer of Chugach's when its contract expired at the end of December. However, construction delays led to the interim power sales agreement to ensure a reliable source of energy for MEA members while its contractors finish the plant.

The agreement is beneficial to both organizations. MEA is assured a power supply, as well as a market for up to four units generated by its new plant. Chugach and its customers will benefit by having MEA continue to share in the fixed costs of the interconnected system. The contract runs through March 31, 2015, with the possibility of being extended if necessary.

In its Dec. 22 order approving the interim power sales agreement, the RCA required Chugach to submit monthly reports providing details on generating units, heat rates, gas purchases and more.

1st quarter fuel & purchased power increases filed

The charges for fuel and purchased power on Chugach bills are likely to increase in the first quarter of 2015. In a December filing, Chugach asked the Regulatory Commission of Alaska for permission to make changes to recover increases in the costs of producing and buying power.

Together the charges would amount to a 4.2 percent increase in the monthly bill for an average residential customer. If approved by the RCA, the bill for a residential customer using 650 kilowatt-hours per month would be \$111.53, an increase of \$4.54. The total does not include the 2 percent

undergrounding charge paid by customers in the Municipality of Anchorage.

Different things account for the increase. One is an increase in the price of natural gas Chugach buys from Hilcorp, effective Jan. 1. Another is an anticipated reduction in the amount of hydropower Chugach will receive from the Bradley Lake Hydroelectric Project near Homer when the only transmission line between the Kenai Peninsula and Anchorage is out of service for maintenance in the first quarter.

In its filing, Chugach asked that the new charges be effective with January bills.

Members continue energy efficiency

Lighting remains a key target for Chugach members looking to cut their bills. In a recent survey of Chugach residential members, 83 percent reported that in the past year they had taken steps to conserve or practice energy efficiency. Of that group, 91 percent reported they had replaced incandescent lights with either compact fluorescents or light-emitting diode bulbs.

For now, CFLs have achieved greater penetration than LEDs. Considering all the sockets in their homes, survey respondents were asked to estimate

the percentage with each type of bulb. Of the households that have switched to more efficient lighting, 76 percent have CFLs with 58 percent felt to have LEDs.

Respondents in the efficiency group were asked to identify other actions they'd taken in the past year. Following lighting, the next-largest reported efforts were:

- Switching off power strips when devices weren't in use ... 61 percent

- Purchasing an Energy Star-rated appliance ... 54 percent

- Using "sleep" feature on electronics ... 53 percent

- Replacing an older computer with a more-efficient model ... 47 percent

- Replacing a cathode ray TV with a more efficient model ... 41 percent

- Disposing of an extra refrigerator or freezer ... 18 percent

- Visiting Chugach's website for energy saving tips ... 14 percent

The November telephone survey of 320 respondents had a margin of error of 5.5 percent.

Students pledge to save energy in their homes

Chugach and the Renewable Energy Alaska Project announced the winners of the 2014 Power Pledge Challenge in December. The challenge was a competition with the goal of helping students learn where their energy comes from, and how families can use energy wisely.

In all, 1,200 seventh-graders in four Anchorage middle schools participated as 46 teams in the two-week Power Pledge Challenge. A classroom of students was considered a team for the contest.

Students conducted simple home energy audits with their

families and chose actions to take from a list of energy efficiency measures. Approximate savings for each action are located on the Chugach website, which let students find out just how much their pledged actions could save their family.

After studying options and the savings they would provide, students earned points for their team by pledging to take energy efficiency measures in their own homes. In all, the 46 teams pledged to take actions that would save \$110,000 a year on home energy bills.

The classroom teams whose pledges produced the most

potential savings were taught by the following teachers:

1st Place: Ben Walker, Romig Middle School

2nd place: Carolyn Ruszinski, Romig Middle School

3rd place: Katherine Schroeder, Mears Middle School

The top three teams won LED bulbs and the first place team was awarded a pizza party. The first, second and third place classroom teachers earned educational energy efficiency materials valued up to \$1,000, \$750 and \$500, respectively, for their schools.

Annual meeting and election notes

Chugach's annual membership meeting will be held on Thursday, May 14, 2015 at the Dena'ina Civic & Convention Center.

Members may submit proposed bylaw changes until 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2015.

Two directors will be elected to the Chugach board in the upcoming 2015 election.

Members who are interested in either meeting with and being considered by the Nominating Committee or running by petition should call 762-4791 to obtain a candidate packet. Candidate applications and resumes for the Nominating Committee's review must be received by 5 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2015.

Bylaw proposals or candidate nominations should be submitted to:

Tom Schulman
PO Box 196300
Anchorage, AK 99519-6300
tom_schulman@chugachelectric.com

More information and forms may be found at www.chugachelectric.com or by calling 762-4177.

The Chugach Outlet

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

Corporate vision: Powering Alaska's future

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 equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. Current openings are posted on the employment page at <http://chugachelectric.applcantpro.com>. Chugach only accepts applications for open vacancies.



Contact us

Hours

Monday - Friday

8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

563-7494

(800) 478-7494

Main number

Toll free

Member Services

Member Services fax

24-hour payment line

Credit

Power theft hotline

Danger tree hotline

Street light hotline

Underground locates

Regulatory Commission of AK

or

To report a power outage

In Anchorage

Outside Anchorage

563-7366

762-4678

762-7803

563-5060

762-4731

762-7227

762-7676

811

(800) 390-2782

276-6222

762-7888

(800) 478-7494

Monthly residential service costs

(based on 650 kwh)

Customer charge/month \$ 8.00

Energy charge \$0.09415 x kwh = \$61.20

Fuel \$0.04763 x kwh = \$30.96

Purchased power \$0.01442 x kwh = \$9.37

FIW renewable energy adj. \$0.00230 x kwh = \$1.50

(Fuel, Purchased power and FIW renewable energy adjustment factors effective January 1, 2015, subject to Regulatory Commission of Alaska approval)

Subtotal 111.03

2% MOA Undergrounding Charge = \$ 2.22

Regulatory Cost Charge \$0.000754 x kwh = \$ 0.49

Total bill \$113.74

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's service center at 563-7366 to claim your prize.