



## **The Alaska Affordable Energy Strategy Program Fact Sheet and Status Update (August 28, 2015)**

**Program Background:** In 2014, the Alaska Legislature passed a provision in the AKLNG legislation that directed the Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) to prepare a plan and recommendations to the Legislature on infrastructure needed to deliver affordable energy to areas of the state that will not have direct access to a North Slope natural gas pipeline. This effort is referred to as the Alaska Affordable Energy Strategy (AkaES) and it, and any associated recommendations for legislation, are due to the Legislature by Jan. 1, 2017.

### **Program Progress since August 14:**

- Held a meeting with the AkaES Advisory Committee including representatives from ISER, ACEP, AGDC (Alaska Gasline Development Corporation), and staff from two legislative offices.
- Participated in a meeting with AGDC to discuss coordination between AEA and AGDC.
- Participated in a meeting with AGDC & DNR to discuss coordination on the requirements of Section 73 of SB 138
- Held a kick-off meeting for the GINA-led data and community energy infrastructure project evaluation model
- The team led by Northern Economics to investigate the feasibility of liquefied natural gas (LNG) in the AkaES study area for heat and/or electric generation continued to work on the project.
- AEA issued an Intent to Award to Vermont Energy Investment Corporation (VEIC), who is using CCHRC as a subcontractor for the study, to investigate the gaps and barriers to energy efficiency in the AkaES study region, perform program evaluations on existing energy efficiency programs, and develop innovative policy recommendations for project financing and program structure.
- Continued internal projects on data collection, program evaluations, and utility rates.
- Received a project update and provided feedback on ACEP-led project to investigate barriers to private investment in rural energy infrastructure.
- Met with representatives from the US Army Corps of Engineers to discuss how to modify the scope and schedule based on delays in finalizing the Planning Assistance to States agreement between AEA and USACE.
- Met with a representative from ACEP to discuss their progress on ACEP's project to investigate the future technology development for the AkaES.
- Received a proposal from ISER to investigate the impact of energy costs on out-migration in rural Alaska

### **Expected Progress during the Next Two Weeks:**

- Receive comments from stakeholders on a first draft of an RFP to investigate the transportation and storage barriers to biomass pellets in the AkaES study region.

- Continue coordinating with AEA’s regional energy planning contractors on data collection and economic analysis.
- Continue coordinating with the contractors leading the LNG study
- Finalize a contract to investigate the gaps and barriers to energy efficiency in the AkaES study region.
- Begin work on the projects with ISER.
- Receive the first monthly update from the contractor investigating the feasibility of using LNG as a way to reduce energy costs in the AkaES study region
- Finalize contract with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for studying the potential of building new, strategically located regional fuel depots to decrease the delivered cost of fuel to communities.
- Continue to coordinate internal AEA work on the AkaES.

## Schedule

