



## **The Alaska Affordable Energy Strategy Program Fact Sheet and Status Update (October 9, 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 September 25:**

- Held first meeting with the AkaES Advisory Group. The group—with representatives from local governments, utilities, regional organizations, and state agencies—was introduced to the AkaES. Future meetings will address policy issues, study results, and assisting AEA in prioritizing potential legislative recommendations.
- Met on multiple occasions with GINA-led team responsible for programming the data and community energy infrastructure project evaluation model to provide guidance and explanations for their effort
- Communicated with the contractor investigating the gaps and barriers to energy efficiency in the AkaES study region to improve the proposed work plan.
- Received update from the contractors leading the LNG study—first deliverables delayed due to related data collection issues at AEA.
- Continued internal projects on data collection, program evaluations, O&M, and utility rates.
- Worked to finalize US Army Corps of Engineers’ Planning Assistance to States agreement between AEA and USACE—currently the agreement is awaiting legal approval.
- Submitted RSA with ISER to investigate the impact of energy prices on rural migration and utility employee tenure.
- Working with ISER and DOL&WD to investigate the length of tenure of power plant operators, bulk fuel operators, and utility clerks which receive training through AEA programs
- Received first deliverables from ACEP’s investigation into the barriers to private investment in rural energy infrastructure.
- Met with representatives from Avista and AEL&P to discuss the progress on studying the delivery of LNG to Southeast Alaska

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

- Continue coordinating with AEA’s regional energy planning contractors on data collection and economic analysis.
- 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.
- Hold an AkaES Technical Advisory Group meeting
- Hold a meeting with ACEP to receive an update on the investigation into the barriers to private investment in rural energy infrastructure.
- Hold a kick-off meeting with ISER to discuss the projects investigating: the true cost of fuel and power, effective management structures, and potential energy subsidy strategies.
- Receive population forecast estimates from ISER. The population forecasts will be integral to the community energy infrastructure evaluation model

## Schedule

