



## **The Alaska Affordable Energy Strategy Program Fact Sheet and Status Update (July 31, 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 July 17:**

- AEA met with DCCED Commissioner Hladick, Deputy Commissioner Parady, ISER, ACEP, and others to discuss progress with the AkaES and receive input on the plan going forward.
- Selected a proposal and finalized a contract with a team led by Northern Economics to investigate if liquefied natural gas (LNG) could be an affordable option for communities in the AkaES study area for heat and/or electric generation.
- Initiated RSAs with ISER (developing demographic and economic forecasts) and ACEP (investigating ways to increase private energy infrastructure investment in rural Alaska).
- Held a pre-proposal conference in support of an RFP 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. Released three addenda to answer questions from interested parties.
- AEA held internal meetings to discuss: O&M, biomass, hydropower, wind power, diesel efficiency, and other program evaluations.
- Continued internal projects on data collections, program evaluations, and utility rates.
- Developed a first draft of an RFP to investigate the transportation and storage barriers to biomass pellets in the AkaES study region. Sent it to stakeholders for comments.

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

- The program manager for the AkaES will be out of the office for much of the next two weeks. The week of August 10 the PM will attend the International Energy Program Evaluation Conference in Long Beach, CA. It is expected that valuable information and contacts to facilitate the development and management of further activities in the AkaES will be gained.
- Continue coordinating with AEA's regional energy planning contractors on data collection and economic analysis. Update the regional planning contractors at the regional energy planning meeting on the progress on the AkaES and how the efforts will complement each other
- Receive proposals in response to RFP to investigate the gaps and barriers to energy efficiency in the AkaES study region.
- Meet with representative with ACEP to discuss their progress on their project for the AkaES.

- Begin work on the projects with ISER.
- Begin work on project with GINA for data integration and modeling.
- 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.
- Contractor will begin work to investigate if liquefied natural gas (LNG) could be an affordable option for communities in the AkaES study area for heat and/or electric generation.
- Continue to coordinate internal AEA work on the AkaES.

## Schedule

