



The Alaska Affordable Energy Strategy Program Fact Sheet and Status Update (September 25, 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 11:

- 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
- Finalized contract with 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. Held kick-off meeting.
- Coordinated with AHFC on several aspects of the VEIC-led EE gap analysis study
- Continued internal projects on data collection, program evaluations, O&M, and utility rates.
- Worked to finalize US Army Corps of Engineers the Planning Assistance to States agreement between AEA and USACE.
- Held meeting with the AkaES Technical Advisory team and discussed the implications of different definitions of “affordable”.
- Sent letters of invitation to people representing twelve utilities, state departments, cities, and regional organizations to participate in the AkaES Advisory Group, a stakeholder group which will meet for the first time on October 7th.
- Met with ISER personnel to discuss finalizing an RSA to investigate the impact of energy prices on rural migration and utility employee tenure.
- Coordinated with regional energy plan contractors to ensure consistency between the two programs
- Presented on the progress to date on the AkaES to the AEA Board of Directors. Received feedback to be incorporated into study plans

Expected Progress during the Next Two Weeks:

- Continue coordinating with AEA’s regional energy planning contractors on data collection and economic analysis.
- Receive first deliverables and initial report from the contractors leading the LNG study

- Begin RSA process with ISER and DOL&WD to investigate 1) the impact of energy costs on migration patterns in rural Alaska and 2) the length of tenure of power plant operators, bulk fuel operators, and utility clerks which receive training through AEA programs
- 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 Advisory Group meeting
- Receive monthly updates from active projects

Schedule

