Revised: April 12, 2015

Program Fact Sheet: Regional Energy Planning

Current Status:
Regional energy plan working drafts have been completed for the Aleut, Bering Straits, Bristol Bay, Copper Valley, Northwest Arctic, and Kodiak regions. In the Northwest Arctic and Aleut regions the contractors have conducted Phase II outreach activities in each community and produced revised draft plans, which AEA has accepted; these plans are moving into Phase III. In Kodiak the contractor has completed Phase II outreach and produced a revised draft, which AEA is currently reviewing. In Bristol Bay, Copper Valley, and Bering Straits, Phase II outreach is ongoing.

Program Background:
Regional Energy Planning is a way for Alaskans to determine their energy priorities and formulate a concrete, implementable, and fundable energy plan. The plans address electric, heating, and transportation energy needs. Each energy region is crafting a specific action plan to ensure an affordable, reliable, efficient, and sustainable energy future. Each effort incorporates regional stakeholders, evaluation of alternatives and prioritized projects that can be funded. Energy planning boundaries follow political boundaries but are generally similar to the ANCSA (Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act) boundaries. The Railbelt Integrated Resource Plan (RIRP) includes six regulated electric utilities serving customers from Homer to Fairbanks. Southeast Integrated Resource Plan (SEIRP) includes Southeast communities from Yakutat to Metlakatla. Both plans are complete. For other regions, AEA is contracting with regional organizations and using a three-phase planning process with the following phases:

Phase I Resource Assessment: Stakeholder identification, data gathering, preparation of working draft

Phase II Stakeholder Outreach: Outreach to communities and stakeholders using working draft, incorporation of feedback into revised draft

Phase III Project Analysis: Technical and economic analysis of final priority projects and finalization of plan

Program Progress:
The Northwest Arctic, Aleut, and Kodiak regional contractors have completed stakeholder outreach and are finalizing the plans. The Bristol Bay, Bering Straits, and Copper Valley regional contractors have begun Phase II outreach. The Chugach and Yukon-Koyukuk/Upper Tanana regions have recently had contracts put in place with regional entities and are beginning work on their plans.