Program Fact Sheet: Southeast Integrated Resource Plan (SEIRP)

Current Status: The SEIRP project has been completed. The public comment period concluded, and AEA’s contractor compiled an overlay document responding to public input and a revised executive summary was published July 2012.

Program Background:

AEA was tasked with creating a comprehensive Southeast Alaska energy plan in order to determine a method of establishing an ordered list of energy infrastructure projects to address the electricity, heating and transportation needs of the region. In conjunction with this process, AEA also began a statewide regional planning process. In the Southeast Alaska region, this effort embraces all communities from Yakutat to Metlakatla.

Emerging issues for Southeast Alaska included: 1) sudden increases in system electrical loads in hydro-rich communities such as Ketchikan and Wrangell, which caused concern for power utilities regarding the adequacy of hydroelectric power plants, and 2) for rural communities powered by diesel generators, the significant increase in costs to the consumer for basic power utility services. One primary driver in the plan is to develop an approach to minimize the use of diesel fuel in Southeast Alaska communities for electricity, heating, and in town transportation.

The plan purpose was to:

- Identify energy issues that affect Southeast Alaskans.
- Project growth in electricity demand.
- Identify which power projects and transmission lines need to be built.
- Develop an action plan for all stakeholders.
- Consider if the economics of export/import of energy can benefit Southeast Alaska.

In accomplishing these purposes, the plan:

- Identified energy technologies that can be employed in Southeast Alaska, such as biomass based fuels and electric automobiles.
- Developed financing approaches for energy infrastructure.
- Identified emerging technologies useful in urban areas as well as remote communities.
- Was a public process, developed in collaboration with Southeast residents.
- Determined that basic comparative data was lacking on which hydroelectric resources should be developed next in the various Southeast sub regions.

Funding:

Legislative Appropriation for SEIRP and IRP for Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA) system - $500,000

Additional funding by AEA - $385,000