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**News Release For IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Alaska's first geothermal power plant comes on line**

**Chena, AK** - Among the dignitaries arriving in Interior Alaska to dedicate Alaska's first geothermal power plant, the most "local," Governor Murkowski, a resident of Fairbanks, has been invited to cut the ceremonial ribbon at Chena Hot Springs Resort.

The Governor will be joined by Senator Ted Stevens, U.S. Secretary of Energy, Samuel Bodman, as well as Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) Chairman Mike Barry, AEA Vice-Chairman Bill Noll, Executive Director Ron Miller and Deputy Director of Rural Energy Mike Harper at the official opening of the power plant on Sunday, August 20. All are expected to make remarks.

AEA and its Alternative Energy group are proud to be involved in the installation of the first geothermal power plant in Alaska, notably the only geothermal power plant to be built in the United States in 2006. Helped with a combination of an AEA Energy Cost Reduction grant and an AEA Power Project Fund loan, Chena was able to bring the project from concept to completion. This is the lowest temperature geothermal resource ever tapped for power generation in the world.

Chena Hot Springs is being developed as a sustainable community with commitments to renewable energy, energy independence, self-sufficiency and environmental stewardship. All buildings at Chena are linked by a geothermal district-heating system. Best of all, the geothermal power plant will virtually displace the 162,000 gallons of diesel fuel burned in 2005 to keep the lights on at Chena.

### **Geothermal Conference and Renewable Energy Fair**

AEA is also sponsoring the Geothermal Conference and Renewable Energy Fair, August 20 - 22, at Chena Resort. Along with the official dedication of the power plant, the fair includes tours of the resort's greenhouses, gardens and the Ice Museum, its renewable energy and sustainable development projects, workshops on alternative energies, vendor booths, music and complimentary chili and hotdogs provide by Chena Resort.

Speakers from the University of Alaska, the U.S. Department of Energy, AEA and researchers from the geothermal community will meet Monday, August 21-22 at Chena to discuss Alaska's role in geothermal technology, with sessions on geothermal power applications, geothermal direct-use applications and geothermal exploration. Presentations include a vision for future development of geothermal energy in Alaska and how agriculture and fishing industries can benefit from geothermal energy.

**For More Information:** Contact Gwen Holdmann at 907-451-8104 or go to [www.yourownpower.com](http://www.yourownpower.com). For conference details and online registration, please visit <http://gpw.alaskaenergy.govtools.us/default.aspx>.

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