



PRESS RELEASE

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AEA Announces Railbelt Grid Technical Conference Governor Palin to Deliver Opening Address

(Anchorage) – The Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) will hold a two-day conference for stakeholders and decision makers concerned with the future of the Alaska Railbelt Electrical Grid. AEA organized the conference, slated for November 26 and 27 at the Sheraton Anchorage Hotel, to examine the concept of an Alaska Railbelt Electrical Grid Authority (REGA) and its role in the future of the Railbelt interconnected network.

Governor Sarah Palin will deliver the opening address at 8:30 AM, November 26.

Conference sessions that follow the governor's address include: The Railbelt Electrical Grid Today; Project Approach and the Unique Alaska Grid; Lower Cook Inlet Gas Supply - Markets and Deliverability; Planned and Potential Developments in the Railbelt Grid; Potential Mergers and Coordination; Future Generation and Transmission; Current and Future Fuel Supply; Financing Energy Infrastructure, and more. The second day of the conference also features a round-table discussion to identify stakeholder issues and concerns.

Earlier this month AEA executed an agreement with international consultant Black & Veatch to lead the REGA concept study. Black & Veatch Project Manager Kevin Harper will make his presentation at 11:30 AM, November 26.

The study and the conference are funded by a Legislative appropriation to determine the need for an independent system operator to manage and dispatch electric power in the Railbelt.

The conference opens with registration at 7:00 AM, November 26, in the Howard Rock Ballroom on the second floor of the Sheraton Anchorage Hotel. The complete conference agenda can be found on Alaska Energy Authority's home page, www.akenergyauthority.org, under Conferences/Workshops.

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