



ALASKA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT
AND EXPORT AUTHORITY



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**Alaska Energy Authority Enters Sixth Consecutive Year
Of Training Programs**

The Alaska Energy Authority's (AEA) powerhouse operator training program for small rural utilities has received funding for its sixth consecutive year. Funding has also been extended for rural utility clerk training, bulk fuel operator training, and a pilot advanced powerhouse operator program.

These programs are administered by the AEA and funded by the Denali Commission through the Department of Labor's Denali Training Fund Open Enrollment Grant. The programs are designed to train powerhouse operators, bulk fuel operators and utility clerks by educating trainees on the industry's latest technology. They are taught to troubleshoot and to understand the laws and regulations associated with small utilities. The Denali Training Fund provides training to rural residents for job opportunities available in their community.

The powerhouse operator training program began in FY95. Since that time, 113 rural residents from villages throughout Alaska have completed the training and were certified to work statewide in rural utility operations. All participants are guaranteed at least two years of employment upon successful completion of the training program. This year's grant will allow more than 100 applicants to advance in the powerhouse operator, bulk fuel operator, advanced powerhouse operator or utility clerk training programs.

"Utility operator training is a high priority for AEA in rural Alaska," said Bruce Tiedeman, Rural Energy Programs Manager. "As technology and programs are put in place, our investment in the community must be protected by having qualified personnel to operate and maintain them."

"By providing opportunities to advance their education and technical expertise, it also develops the self-reliance that many of the rural residents continue to strive for,"

said Monica Moore, Training Coordinator. "Providing job training and protecting the state's capital investments will ultimately mean less dependency on state government."

Sessions begin in November and run through next spring. Rural residents interested in applying for these programs should contact Monica Moore at 269-3026

AEA is a public corporation of the state that assists in the development of safe, reliable and effective energy systems and tank farms that are financially viable and environmentally sound. AEA also owns six (6) hydroelectric projects across the state and the Alaska (Railbelt) Intertie.

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