

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **AEA Announces Village Energy Efficiency Grant Awards** *Wells Fargo Outdoor Lighting Program Will Provide Funding to 47 Communities*

(Anchorage) – The Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) is pleased to announce that 47 rural Alaska communities from across the state have been selected to receive funding under a new Village Energy Efficiency Program (VEEP) initiative that is supported with a \$1 million grant from Wells Fargo.

As a result of this solicitation and its competitive application process, the 47 selected communities will receive approximately \$1.1 million in Wells Fargo and AEA funding, with local match at approximately \$397,000. Eligible communities under VEEP are those with a population no greater than 8,000.

The City of Ouzinkie and the Municipality of Skagway are just two examples of communities that can anticipate annual savings after using the Wells Fargo/VEEP funds to replace existing lighting with the latest in LED technology:

- In Ouzinkie, 55 streetlights and six harbor lights are expected to be replaced, reducing the City's electric consumption by nearly 60%, with more than \$8,000 in annual savings anticipated.
- Skagway will replace 27 streetlights. The Municipality's electric use is expected to be reduced by nearly 50%, resulting in more than \$1,200 savings annually.

The Wells Fargo Outdoor Lighting Program, announced in August, is a unique public/private partnership designed to benefit rural Alaska communities by providing efficient outdoor lighting that can help reduce long-term fixed energy costs, while supporting community health and public safety.

The Alaska Energy Authority is a public corporation of the state. Its mission is to reduce the cost of energy in Alaska.

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