RURAL POWER SYSTEM UPGRADE (RPSU)

CURRENT STATUS

Following is the status of the RPSU projects in the fourth quarter of calendar year 2019:

- **Clarks Point** powerhouse module power plant assembly has been bid and construction is scheduled to start in April 2019.
- The **Port Heiden** powerhouse module power plant assembly has been bid and construction is scheduled to start in April 2019.
- **Twin Hills** intertie project has been bid and awarded.
- **Akhiok** Conceptual Design Report (CDR), Final Design, and Construction Administration has been awarded.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Under 3 AAC 108.100 – 130 the Alaska Energy Authority’s Rural Power Systems Upgrade (RPSU) program may provide financial assistance and technical assistance including construction management and training to eligible recipients.

Electricity provides for lighting, communications, heat and power necessary to operate infrastructure that supports safe and healthy living conditions. In rural communities throughout Alaska, electricity is generated by a small local “system” (generation and distribution) using diesel fuel at a cost that is three to five times higher than that in urban parts of the state.

Of 200 rural Alaska communities, approximately half are served by cooperatives or another form of utility that performs under a well-established organization. Others are served by very small entities, many which experience technical and administrative problems due to lack of economies of scale and/or lack of specialized skills in the community.

Upgrades may include efficiency improvements, powerhouse upgrades or replacements, line assessments, lines to new customers, demand-side improvements, heat recovery and repairs to generation and distribution systems. It is not uncommon to see a 30 to 40 percent increase in fuel savings after a project is completed. Funding comes from Alaska legislative appropriations, Denali Commission and other matching funds.