

Alaska Railbelt Electrical Grid Authority (REGA) Study Regulatory and Legislative Issues

The following regulatory and legislative issues are specifically included in the REGA Study contract.

- Assess whether a REGA can be implemented cooperatively by utilities or whether a separate business entity is required. This analysis will consider regulatory constraints, system reliability requirements and the ability of Railbelt utilities to accept and accommodate the REGA under their present business structures.
- Identify the necessary changes in the market structure of the Railbelt to implement the REGA.
- Consider the current regulatory regime under which utilities operate, including compliance with the Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA) statutes, consideration of the optional Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) rules under Order No. 888, and FERC Order No. 2000.
- Consider incremental changes in both regulatory regime and market structure, and the cost of implementing a REGA expressed in an annual pro forma budget format.
- If a REGA is recommended with responsibilities for regional integrated resource planning, the selected consultant shall consider the following issues:
 - Whether the entity should be regulated by the RCA.
 - What role the RCA should play in the regional planning.
 - Whether the regional plan should require RCA approval.
 - Any state statutory and regulatory changes necessary for REGA implementation.
- Other issues identified in the RFP that the selected consultant shall consider include:
 - Should the REGA consider future sources of generation that could be provided by independent power producers (IPPs)? If so, what new system operating rules would be necessary to allow access to these power sources by utilities in need of future generation?
 - Should open-access tariffs be required for all transmission lines in the Railbelt to allow IPPs to transmit power to customers?