

PRESS RELEASE

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AEA Awards \$17.7 Million to Upgrade Alaska's Transmission Infrastructure

ANCHORAGE, Alaska—The Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has awarded \$17.7 million to support three transmission infrastructure projects that will strengthen grid resilience across Southcentral and Southeast Alaska. AEA funded the awards using program funds from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), along with a \$2.6 million appropriation from the Alaska State Legislature, supported by the Governor.

Golden Valley Electric Association (GVEA), Matanuska Electric Association (MEA), and the Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA) submitted the selected projects to improve transmission reliability and strengthen the grid's ability to withstand disruptive events.

The awarded projects include:

- **Interior Alaska Power Line Resiliency (\$7.0 million):** AEA awarded funding to GVEA to strengthen transmission reliability and improve public safety in Interior Alaska. The project will replace and rehabilitate aging wood-pole infrastructure using condition-based assessments, including drone inspections, ground surveys, and AI analysis. GVEA will prioritize upgrades on structures at highest risk of failure across its 69-kV and 138-kV system, reducing outage risk, hardening infrastructure against wildfire hazards, and improve long-term reliability for communities in the Fairbanks and North Pole region.
- **Eklutna Transmission Line Relocation and Upgrade (\$6.2 million):** AEA awarded funding to MEA to relocate and upgrade a critical segment of the Eklutna 115-kV transmission line, improving reliability and resilience across Alaska's Railbelt electric grid. The project will replace aging infrastructure and reroute the line to a more stable and accessible alignment, reducing exposure to environmental and operational hazards. The upgrade will strengthen system performance, reduce outages, and support the reliable delivery of affordable power from the Eklutna Hydroelectric Plant to Southcentral Alaska.

- **Ketchikan Substation Resilience (\$4.5 million):** AEA awarded funding to SEAPA, to construct a new 115 kV substation in Ketchikan. The project will expand grid capacity, relieve an existing facility operating at full capacity, add redundancy, and improve system resilience during peak load and extreme weather. It will also enable efficient grid interconnection with Metlakatla and support growing regional electricity needs. Overall, the project will reduce outage risk and support the long-term delivery of reliable, low-cost hydro-power to Southeast Alaska communities.

AEA administers DOE funding allocated to states through the Grid Resilience Formula Grant Program, authorized under Section 40101(d) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. To date, AEA has secured \$40 million through the program. The required 15 percent cost match is supported by appropriations from the Governor and Legislature.

AEA expects issuing a third and final solicitation under the program. The timing and amount of funds available through that solicitation are not yet determined. Interested applicants can learn more about the Grid Resilience Formula Grant Program and the status of the future solicitations at <https://www.akenergyauthority.org/grid-resilience-formula-grant-program>.

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About the Alaska Energy Authority

The Alaska Energy Authority is a public corporation of the state. Its mission is to reduce the cost of energy in Alaska. To achieve this mission, AEA strives to diversify Alaska's energy portfolio increasing resiliency, reliability, and redundancy. To learn more, visit akenergyauthority.org.