

PRESS RELEASE

Brandy M. Dixon
Chief Communications Officer
(907) 771-3078

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sept. 15, 2026

AEA Reaches Cook Inlet PowerLink Marine Survey Milestone

Required permits are in place, and field investigations are scheduled to begin in September

ANCHORAGE, Alaska—The Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has received the required permits for marine survey activities associated with the Cook Inlet PowerLink (CIPLink) project. AEA selected Woolpert, an engineering and geospatial services firm, to conduct marine surveys along the proposed corridor across Cook Inlet.

With the required permits in place, AEA can begin marine field investigations. The survey contractor plans to mobilize crews to the Kenai Peninsula beginning Sept. 20. Fieldwork is expected to continue through Oct. 22, subject to weather and marine conditions.

"The marine survey provides information AEA and equipment suppliers can use to refine the proposed cable route and inform project design," **said AEA CEO and Executive Director Curtis W. Thayer.** "With the required permits in place, the project team can begin fieldwork."

Woolpert will survey water depths, seafloor conditions, currents, sediments, existing subsea infrastructure, and potential hazards. The work will include sonar, bathymetric mapping, current measurements, targeted sediment sampling, and terrestrial and nearshore LiDAR surveying at potential landfall locations.

The survey covers an approximately 35-mile marine corridor. AEA will use the resulting data to evaluate existing infrastructure and potential hazards, refine the proposed cable route, inform cable design and installation planning, and support future engineering, permitting, procurement, and design activities. The survey does not include geotechnical drilling. AEA will determine the need for future offshore or onshore geotechnical investigations based on the initial survey results and project design requirements.

AEA and its contractors are coordinating vessel mobilization, survey operations, environmental requirements, and stakeholder communications. The initial field schedule begins with current measurements in late September, followed by geophysical surveys,

sediment sampling, and demobilization in October. Protected species observers will participate during specified survey activities.

After completing the fieldwork, the project team will process and map the collected data and prepare final survey deliverables. Data processing and mapping are expected to continue into early 2027. AEA will provide the survey information to prospective cable suppliers to support industry responses, equipment procurement, engineering, and future project design decisions.

CIPLink is Alaska's first high-voltage direct current transmission project across Cook Inlet. The current project configuration includes a northern converter station in the Beluga area on the west side of Cook Inlet and a southern converter station in Soldotna on the Kenai Peninsula. The project has an estimated cost of approximately \$413 million and currently targets completion in 2032.

For more information about the CIPLink project, visit akenergyauthority.org/CIPLink.

###

About the Alaska Energy Authority

The Alaska Energy Authority is a public corporation of the state. Its mission is advancing affordable, reliable energy in Alaska. AEA leads the development of critical energy infrastructure, strengthens resilience, reliability, and redundancy across Alaska's energy systems, and supports statewide economic growth by enabling secure, long-term energy solutions for communities, utilities, and industry. To learn more, visit akenergyauthority.org.