

Alaska's New Largest Solar Project to Provide Power to MEA Members

Alaska-based solar developer Renewable Independent Power Producers ("Renewable IPP") is starting construction in late August for an 8.5 megawatt (MW) solar project in Houston, Alaska. Construction of the Hawk Lane solar site is expected to be completed by next summer. The project is anticipated to power approximately 1,400 homes annually and will be the largest solar asset built in the state.

"MEA is excited to partner with Renewable IPP to expand the amount of renewable energy on our system," said Tony Izzo, CEO of Matanuska Electric Association. "Member surveys indicate people want MEA to produce more power with renewable energy, but

not at an additional cost to our co-op members. We believe this project achieves that goal while helping MEA responsibly meet the Board's carbon reduction targets."

According to Renewable IPP, CleanCapital will provide financing for project construction and serve as the long-term owner-operator of the site. The project is estimated to create 30-40 construction jobs and 15-20 part-time maintenance jobs for the 25-year operating life of the asset. The Matanuska-Susitna Borough was also a key supporter of the project and holds the site lease. Renewable IPP constructed the 1.2 MW solar farm in Willow, Alaska which came online in December of 2019.

EGS Power Plant Receives Top Tier Safe Workplace Status from State of Alaska

MEA's power plant site, the Eklutna Generation Station (EGS), has been accepted into the Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) through Alaska Occupational Safety and Health (AKOSH). EGS is currently one of seven organizations in the state to receive entry into VPP and is the first utility to receive this safety program recognition. Approval in VPP provides official recognition of the outstanding efforts of employers and employees who have achieved exemplary occupational safety and health.

The process to qualify for VPP took approximately two years and included a rigorous onsite evaluation by a team of four safety and health professionals. Throughout the qualification process MEA employees, IUOE Local 302, and AKOSH worked proactively to prevent injuries, illnesses, and fatalities through a system focused on hazard prevention and control, worksite analysis, training, and management commitment and worker involvement to workplace safety. A formal recognition ceremony was held in early July at EGS and was attended by state and local leaders.



EGS Maintenance and Operation Staff were recognized for their entry into the Voluntary Protection Program through AKOSH.



Mark Kelsey, new
Susitna East District
Board Director

Board Selects New Director to fill Susitna East District Vacancy

The MEA Board of Directors has selected Mark Kelsey to fill the vacant Susitna East District Board Seat. The Susitna East District Board Seat was vacated in May when former Board President Bob Doyle was appointed to a six-year term as commissioner to the Regulatory Commission of Alaska. Members in the Susitna East District could apply to fill the vacant seat. The Board received a total of six qualified applicants and conducted interviews during a Special Meeting on July 27. Mark Kelsey was sworn in at the regular August Board meeting and will fill the seat until April 2024 when the district seat is up for election. Kelsey previously served on MEA's member-led Bylaw Committee for 12 years and also has worked for the Frontiersman and the State of Alaska.

3Q Rates: No change in base rates

In the third quarter, members saw an overall increase in rates due to a 9.6% increase in the Cost of Power Adjustment (COPA) rate, which was reviewed and approved by the Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA). A typical MEA member consumes approximately 673 kWh per month and could expect to see an overall increase of about \$4.53 on their monthly bill due to the

COPA rate change. Part of the increase in the COPA rate was due to projected increases in purchased power from Eklutna hydro. This investment is anticipated to save money in the future by utilizing cheaper hydro power to produce electricity. Members can visit www.mea.coop for more information on current rates and MEA's quarterly rate history.

Members Enjoy fun Summer Community Events with their Co-op

It's been a great summer and MEA has enjoyed seeing our members at various community events. In June and July, MEA held its Member Appreciation and Kids Night events at the ballpark, including a free admission evening at the Mat-Su Miners and the Chugiak Eagle River Chinooks. We headed north to Talkeetna for an evening of Live at Five - music in the park and also sponsored the Teddy Bear Picnic for the annual Bear Paw Festival. Want to know where we'll be next in the community? Check out the events section of our Facebook page and our monthly member email.



Kids enjoy the Teddy Bear Picnic at the Bear Paw Festival sponsored by MEA.

Like to recreate in the Eklutna Lake area? Take a survey to help inform the Eklutna Hydro Studies

Eklutna Hydro has launched a survey to better understand how residents recreate in the Eklutna Lake area. The study is aimed at collecting information on your recreational activities occurring at all times of the year, including activity types, how often and

where. Results of the survey will help inform the development of a Fish and Wildlife Program for the Eklutna Hydroelectric Project. For more information on the project and to take the recreation survey, please visit: www.eklutnahydro.com/recstudy/