

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grant Recipient: Community & Economic Dev****Project Title:****Project Type:** Remodel, Reconstruction and Upgrades

Alaska Energy Authority - Hope Substation Automation

State Funding Requested: \$787,000
One-Time Need**House District:** Anchorage Areawide (16-32)**Brief Project Description:**

Enable remote control of Hope Substation circuit switchers.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$983,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$196,000)
FY2013 State Funding Request:	(\$787,000)
Project Deficit:	\$0

*Funding Details:**Chugach Electric will contribute \$196,000 in overhead and labor.***Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

Chugach Electric Association provides service to the communities of Sunrise and Hope. A substation at Mile 56 of the Seward Highway takes power from Chugach's 115-kilovolt transmission line, transforms it to 24.9-kv, and powers the communities via a 17.7 mile distribution line. When the transmission line loses power due to a problem, so do customers in Sunrise and Hope. Switches located on either side of the substation allow Chugach operations personnel to sectionalize the 115-kv line in the event of a transmission line problem and for planned maintenance. In the event of a problem north or south of the Hope Substation, Chugach can open the switches on one side of the facility and energize it from the other, thereby restoring power to area customers. However, currently the switches can only be operated manually. If a crew needs to be dispatched from Anchorage, customers in Sunrise and Hope will be out of power for hours. When the Seward Highway is closed due to avalanches or avalanche danger, it may not be possible to get there at all for an extended period of time. Automated circuit switchers would allow dispatchers in Chugach's Anchorage power control center to remotely open and close the circuit switchers, cutting outage time and reducing the risk of hours of driving during often-bad weather. They will also provide fault interruption, reducing the number of customers affected by initial faults on the 90-mile transmission line between Anchorage and Cooper Landing. This project will add that capability at the Hope Substation.

Chugach proposes that the requested grant flow through the Alaska Energy Authority. Chugach and AEA would develop a project agreement to manage the distribution of the grant funds in response to project activities. The requested grant includes a 2 percent AEA admin fee of \$19,666.

Project Timeline:

If funding is authorized in the FY 2013 budget, a project agreement will be developed with the Alaska Energy Authority. With the project agreement in place, Chugach will complete design in 2012, order materials and construct the project in 2013.

**\$787,000
Approved**

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Chugach Electric Association

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name:	Bradley Evans
Title:	Chief Executive Officer
Address:	5601 Electron Drive Anchorage, Alaska 99518
Phone Number:	(907)762-4767
Email:	brad_evans@chugachelectric.com

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Hope Inc.
Hope Village council
P.O. Box 101
Hope, AK. 99605

Representative Mike Hawker
State Capitol, Room 502
Juneau, AK. 99801

Dear Representative Hawker:

As President of Hope Inc., I am writing to express support for two State grants that Chugach Electric is requesting to improve the electric system serving our community. Chugach Electric Association has done a lot to improve service to our area over the past several years, but more remains to be done. At a January 21st Hope Inc. meeting, representatives of Chugach gave a presentation outlining work that has been done in recent years and followed with the next most critical upgrades needed in their long range plan for the Hope line.


To date, Chugach has used a combination of utility, State, and Federal funds to steadily improve service to our area. These funds have gone towards relocating 1.7 miles of line for better access and considerable right of way clearing.

Despite the work done in recent years, this winter's storms have frequently interrupted service to the Hope and Sunrise areas. Some residents have dealt with outages that have lasted for days, and Chugach has needed to use portable, temporary generators to power much of our area for long periods of time.

Two of Chugach's planned projects depend upon State grants. One would allow Chugach to remotely operate the switches at the Hope Substation, rather than sending a crew down the highway (often in bad weather) to open or close them manually. The second project would move 1.6 miles of the distribution line closer to the road, making it easier to find and fix problems.

These projects, and Chugach's overall efforts to improve electric service to our area, received strong support from the January meeting in Hope. We hope they can be funded in the State's capital budget this year.

Sincerely,


Jim Skogstad
President, Hope, Inc.

2/6/12

HOPE CIRCUIT SWITCHERS

2/1/2012

ORDER OF MAGNITUDE COST ESTIMATE

		Engineer's Estimate
GROUP A.	STRUCTURES	\$ 14,000.00
GROUP E.	CIRCUIT SWITCHERS	\$ 127,500.00
GROUP G.	INSTRUMENT TRANSFORMERS	\$ 44,500.00
GROUP J.	COMMUNICATIONS	\$ 61,031.00
GROUP K.	CONDUIT AND CABLE	\$ 43,750.00
GROUP L.	FOUNDATIONS	\$ 67,500.00
GROUP M.	SITE WORK	\$ 30,000.00
GROUP N.	FENCE AND SIGNS	\$ 17,857.14
GROUP O.	STATION GROUNDING	\$ 10,000.00
GROUP Q.	CONTROL ENCLOSURE & BATTERY	\$ 250,000.00
GROUP I-B	RETIRE THREE POLE AIR BREAK SWITCHES & GUYS	\$ 2,500.00
CONSTRUCTION SUBTOTAL		\$ 668,638.14
DESIGN @ 10% of total cost		\$ 98,329.14
AEA Grant Administrative Fee @ 2% of total cost		\$ 19,665.83
TOTAL GRANT		\$ 786,633.11
CEA LABOR & OVERHEAD @ 20% of total cost		\$ 196,658.28
TOTAL PROJECT COST		\$ 983,291.39

Assumes two SC can be placed under existing 115 kV switch structures outside of substation.

Press Releases

For immediate release

February 3, 2012

For more information, contact

Phil Steyer Desk: 762-4766 Cell 242-1417

Winter storms batter Chugach system

This winter has caused extensive damage to electric facilities, especially on the northern Kenai Peninsula. Chugach Electric Association estimates it has spent more than \$2 million responding to storm damage this winter. At least three-fourths of the total has been spent restoring power and repairing damaged power lines and structures in the mountains from Moose Pass and Cooper Landing to Turnagain Arm.

In response, Kenai Peninsula Borough Mayor Mike Navarre issued a [disaster declaration](#) on Feb. 1, creating the opportunity for state assistance should the governor follow suit.

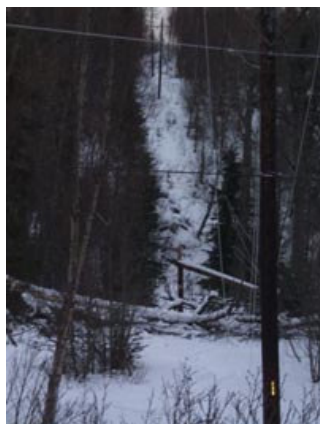
Repeated storms with winds near 100 mph were part of the problem, but even more damaging have been storms with wet snow that caused a buildup of heavy ice on power lines. In the week between Christmas and New Year, 21 spans of ice-laden transmission wire were brought to the ground and a pair of transmission structures broken near Cooper Landing and Turnagain Pass.



A long section of the 115-kilovolt transmission line linking the Kenai Peninsula and Anchorage sustained major damage and has been out of service since Jan. 25. Near Canyon Creek, a wooden pole at a transmission structure was snapped in half due to the weight of ice that grew to a foot in diameter. Crews have been dealing with bad weather, deep snow and rough terrain as they work to build a snow road to the site so the structure can be repaired

and 3,000 feet of new line strung with the aid of a helicopter. Chugach hopes to complete those repairs in the next several days, weather permitting.

Due to the damage the transmission line has been de-energized between the Portage and Hope substations for more than a week. While Chugach had been able to supply customers by feeding from other resources on either side of the problem, the break in the line has prevented the flow of hydro power off the Kenai. All six of the electric utilities in the Railbelt take power from the state-owned Bradley Lake hydroelectric project near Homer. With Bradley Lake power unavailable until the line is repaired, utilities north of the peninsula have to burn more fuel for power generation.



The storm that started Wednesday of this week has brought more trouble. In addition to outages in Moose Pass it cut the flow of power on the transmission line between Cooper Landing and the Hope Substation. Chugach suspects another section of downed line caused the problem, but due to bad weather has been unable to assess the line by helicopter while avalanche danger has prevented ground patrols by snowmachine or on snowshoes. Chugach has crews on the northern Kenai Peninsula and will continue working to restore service.

Chugach is the largest electric utility in Alaska, providing power for Alaskans throughout the Railbelt through retail, wholesale and economy energy sales.

[Disaster Declaration](#)



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH

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**MIKE NAVARRE
BOROUGH MAYOR**

LOCAL DISASTER EMERGENCY DECLARATION

WHEREAS, on December 11, 2011, December 18, 2011, and again on December 20, 2011, a series of major windstorms resulted in widespread power outages occurring in the northern portions of the Kenai Peninsula Borough, threatening life and property; and

WHEREAS, widespread damages to the power utility occurred on December 11, 2011 in the northern portion of the Kenai Peninsula Borough affecting Cooper Landing, Moose Pass, Hope, and Sunrise, due to a major power transmission line being damaged by snow and ice accumulation and by several spans of distribution lines being knocked down from ice, snow and falling trees; and

WHEREAS, approximately 500 homes and businesses in Hope, Sunrise and Moose Pass were left without power for 48 hours due to damages that also required the installation of an emergency generator to provide power to the community of Hope; and

WHEREAS, on December 18, 2011, another storm with severe winds and heavy snow caused transmission lines to sag and trip causing power loss to Moose Pass and Sunrise residents, with approximately 500 homes and businesses being affected for approximately 24 hours; and

WHEREAS, on December 20, 2011, a third storm with severe winds and heavy snow caused transmission lines to again sag to the ground and trip off line. The community of Moose Pass was without power for approximately 60 hours, and the community of Sunrise was without power for twenty of thirty days as a result of the series of storms; and

WHEREAS, repairs to power transmission lines are continuing; and

WHEREAS, Chugach Electric, a non-profit association, has requested assistance from the Kenai Peninsula Borough for unanticipated expenses related to the storm damages, exceeding \$1,500,000.00; and

WHEREAS, KPB a second-class borough does not have the authority to provide financial support to utility companies, nor to repair or replace their damaged facilities and infrastructure, and therefore the damages exceed the capability and authority of the KPB;

THEREFORE, as Mayor of the Kenai Peninsula Borough I hereby declare a Disaster Emergency per AS 26.23.140 to exist in the Kenai Peninsula Borough in the following areas: the communities of, Hope, Sunrise, Cooper Landing, and Moose Pass, and other areas determined to have been damaged by the major windstorms described above.

FURTHERMORE, it is hereby respectfully requested that the Honorable Sean Parnell, Governor of the State of Alaska, declare a disaster emergency to exist as described in AS 26.23.020 and provide disaster assistance to the Kenai Peninsula Borough, and to the utility company that has responded to this disaster. The borough specifically requests public assistance with temporary and permanent repairs to electrical distribution systems, and technical assistance to evaluate damages.

Signed Mike Navarre
Mike Navarre, Mayor

Date 2/1/12

ATTEST:

John Blankenship
John Blankenship
Borough Clerk

