Spring is Springing!

Shortly after you receive this Ruralite magazine, the vernal equinox will be here and spring will officially begin. We will awake to daylight and no longer will have nighttime in the middle of the afternoon. We will have survived another winter!

We have certainly had our challenges this winter. It has been brutally cold throughout the state, and there has been no dearth of storms. Although most AVEC members enjoyed reliable and consistent electric power throughout the winter, we've had a series of pesky outages in two of our villages—Tununak and St. Mary's—which has probably made their winter seem longer.

Although none of the outages were particularly long, they have been extremely annoying for the residents and, believe me, no less annoying for us at AVEC. In fact, we have been frustrated in trying to track down and cure the reasons for the outages and we continue in that quest. We are pretty certain the root of the problem is some extremely sensitive electronic switches, but we haven't been able to get the experts to agree on what and why.

You can rest assured we will identify the causes and cure them, but it may be a few more weeks yet, as we troubleshoot the system and try to simulate the problems so we can identify the fixes. In the meantime, we apologize to our patient members and ask for your continued support of our efforts.

AVEC Receives National Honor

On February 21, AVEC was honored to receive the "Wind Cooperative of the Year" award from the U.S. Department of Energy. This award recognizes the extraordinary work that AVEC has accomplished in building wind generation systems in its villages. Read more about the award and our wind turbines inside this edition of Ruralite magazine.

Street Light Vandalism

While most community members cannot get enough street lighting to brighten the dark winter days and allow kids to walk safely between home and school, others seem to feel street lights are great for target shooting practice.

Shooting street lights is a crime. It is destroying someone else's property, which costs a lot of money to repair or replace. Vandals caught shooting out street lights will be billed for all costs to repair the damage they cause. So, community members, please help us identify the culprits or you will collectively pay for those costs through your own electric bill. If you are vigilant, they can be stopped and you can enjoy your street lighting uninterrupted all winter.

Until next time,

Meera Kohler President & CEO

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Grayling
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Nunapitchuk
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Russian Mission
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Shageluk Shaktoolik Shishmaref Shungnak Stebbins Teller Togiak

Selawik

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