

It's Annual Meeting Time

The villages have completed their local annual meetings. We have had good reports on successful meetings at almost all of our villages. Kotlik, Kivalina, Noatak, Noorvik and Nunapitchuk did not hold meetings and so, unfortunately, will not be present at the annual meeting at the end of March. They can be assured, however, that we will look out for their interests and will share with them anything that comes out of the annual meeting.

As always, numerous issues are raised at village annual meetings through discussions or formal resolutions. As long as they appear in the minutes, we at headquarters will respond to each community about questions they raise. The most frequent questions are:

Streetlights—Not working, blinking, wrong location, want more, etc. The generic answer is that every streetlight is there because it has been requested and is being paid for by a local entity, typically the village government. When a light is out or malfunctioning, the village reports it and billing immediately stops for that light until it is repaired. The village can request moves and new lights, but it has to agree to pay for it. The monthly charge for a streetlight just pays for the electricity it consumes, but that includes the maintenance we do when we are in town. We have many instances of streetlights being vandalized or shot at. If that happens frequently, the community may be billed for the expense by a surcharge on their electric bill. Please report vandalism if you see it, so you won't have to pay for damage caused by vandals.

Power Plant and Tank Farm Upgrades—We have been fortunate to be a partner of the Denali Commission in its energy upgrade program. Using primarily grant funds, we have upgraded generation and fuel storage systems in those AVEC villages that had been most highly rated for code deficiencies. As long as funds continue to be available, we will work our way down the list and upgrade as many facilities as possible. Be assured that all of our villages are on the list, although it may be several years before we get to all of them.

Alternative Energy—AVEC received the 2007 "Wind Cooperative of the Year" award from the U.S. Department of Energy and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association because of our aggressive wind development program and the recent successes we had in Kasigluk and Toksook Bay. We are developing wind projects in several of our communities and are doing wind studies in several others to learn about the local resource and the best location for wind turbines. We have been fortunate in getting grant funds from various sources and we continue to pursue grants for additional projects.

Until next time,



Meera Kohler, President and CEO



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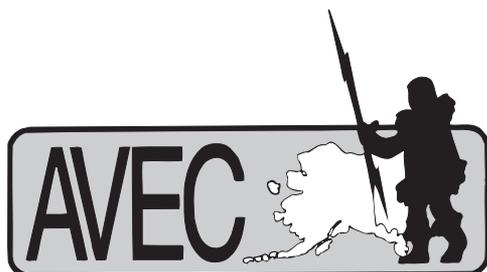
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