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Communities Served

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Alakanuk | New Stuyahok |
| Ambler | Nightmute |
| Andreafsky | Noatak |
| Anvik | Noorvik |
| Brevig Mission | Nulato |
| Chevak | Nunapitchuk |
| Eek | Old Harbor |
| Ekwok | Pilot Station |
| Elim | Pitkas Point |
| Emmonak | Quinhagak |
| Gambell | Russian Mission |
| Goodnews Bay | St. Mary's |
| Grayling | St. Michael |
| Holy Cross | Savoonga |
| Hooper Bay | Scammon Bay |
| Huslia | Selawik |
| Kaltag | Shageluk |
| Kasigluk | Shaktoolik |
| Kiana | Shishmaref |
| Kivalina | Shungnak |
| Kobuk | Stebbins |
| Kotlik | Teller |
| Koyuk | Togiak |
| Lower Kalskag | Toksook Bay |
| Marshall | Tununak |
| Mekoryuk | Upper Kalskag |
| Minto | Wales |
| Mt. Village | |



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An Alaska Energy Solution May Be Imminent

In March of this year, I wrote about a report titled, “Energy for a Sustainable Alaska—The Rural Conundrum.” Much has happened since that report was unveiled. One exercise I conducted was to use existing statewide energy data to compute exactly how much Alaskans are collectively paying for electricity and heat. That number adds up to at least \$3 billion a year (in 2010 dollars) and does not include fuel for transportation or energy for the military or for industrial use.

While seeking solutions that could free Alaskans from the crippling burden of the cost of energy for their homes and businesses, we have identified a real solution that could be implemented in a relatively short period of time.

The “All Alaska Energy Solution” consists of large generators at the North Slope fueled by Alaska’s stranded natural gas. Generators of the size that would be built for this project are capable of extremely high efficiency, converting as much as 60 percent of the energy in the gas to electricity. The power would then be shipped to Fairbanks, southcentral Alaska and across the state via high-voltage direct current transmission lines.

Power from such a system could be delivered to utilities across the state at a modest cost—7 to 10 cents a kilowatt-hour. Even with the added costs of the distributing utility, the consumer’s cost of power would be low enough that electric heat would be cost-effective in most locations that do not currently have access to natural gas for heat.

Depending on the funding source for the large capital investment that would be required, the end cost of power could be even lower if low-cost loans or grant funding are made available.

AVEC is actively supporting and pursuing this project, in conjunction with a team of experts with extensive experience in this technology. We expect this effort to gain momentum in coming months and hope it will be the subject of discussion around the state. We will be presenting this concept to the legislature and state administration, and hope funding will be made available next spring to launch the planning and initial design stages.

Stay tuned as we engage in what may very well launch Alaska from the Dark Ages into the 21st century!

Until next time,

Meera Kohler
President and CEO