



Alaska Regional Meeting Juneau, Alaska August 28-29, 2024

Baranof Downtown, 127 N. Franklin Street, Juneau, AK 99801

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Wednesday, August 28, 2024

Time	Session	Speakers
12:00 PM-3:00 PM	Special Alaska Scenic Flyover Opportunity <i>Requires purchase of a ticket. Seats are limited. Email ellie@hydro.org to sign up.</i>	
2:00 PM-4:00 PM	Tour of Gold Creek Hydroelectric Project <i>Details of tour are found here All attendees are welcome to participate.</i>	Host: Alaska Electric Light & Power Co. (AEL&P)
5:30 PM-7:00 PM	Welcome Networking Reception at the Top of Mount Roberts <i>Includes tram ride to the restaurant at the top of Mount Roberts. Tram ride and reception included with Meeting registration. RSVP requested.</i>	Tram Ride Tickets provided by: Goldbelt Tram Alaska

Thursday, August 29, 2024

7:00 AM-8:00 AM	Registration and Networking Breakfast	
8:00 AM	Opening Remarks and Welcomes	Speakers: Malcolm Woolf , President and CEO, National Hydropower Association (NHA) Crystal Enkvist , Executive Director, Alaska Power Association (APA)
8:30 AM	Keynote Speech: Willie Phillips, Chair, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)	Session Leader: Charles R. Sensiba , Partner, Troutman Pepper Speaker: Willie Phillips , Chair, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)

9:00 AM	<p>Greetings from Elected Officials and Commemoration of National Hydropower Day in Alaska</p>	<p><u>Emcee:</u> Brittney May, Legislative Affairs Manager, National Hydropower Association (NHA)</p> <p><u>Speakers:</u> City of Juneau, Alaska: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Michelle Hale, Deputy Mayor, City of Juneau, Alaska U.S. Senators from Alaska: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dan Sullivan, via recorded video Lisa Murkowski, invited U.S. House of Representatives from Alaska: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mary Peltola, via recorded video </p>
9:30 AM	<p>Networking Break</p>	
10:00 AM	<p>Session 1: Importance of Water Power to Alaska’s Energy Future – A Fireside Chat</p> <p>This discussion helps attendees understand the crucial contributions water power is making/will make to the state of Alaska in its quest toward decarbonization.</p>	<p><u>Session Moderator:</u> Curtis Thayer, Executive Director, Alaska Energy Authority (AEA)</p> <p><u>Panelists:</u> Robert Venables, Executive Director, Southeast Conference</p> <p>Alec Mesdag, President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Alaska Electric Light & Power Company (AELP)</p> <p>Duff Mitchell, Managing Director, Juneau Hydropower</p> <p>Bryan Carey, Director of Owned Assets, Alaska Energy Authority (AEA)</p> <p><i>Invited</i> – Representative from Alaska Department of Natural Resources</p>
11:00 AM	<p>Session 2: Water Power Workforce in Alaska: Recruitment, Training, Retention</p> <p>Workers, or the shortage thereof, is important topic everyone seems to be facing.</p> <p>In Alaska, finding qualified workers is especially challenging, given the state’s relatively small population and geographic remoteness. We hear concerns about shortages of trained workers in all kinds of job functions ... trades, engineering, electrical transmission, dam safety principal investigators, and the list goes on.</p> <p>There are two aspects to the problem: 1) an immediate need to fill open jobs now with experienced workers; and 2) a long-term need to get more interest by students at trade schools,</p>	<p><u>Session Leader:</u> Jennifer Moore, Marketing/Business Development Manager, Mesa</p> <p><u>Speakers:</u> Adam Weinert, Special Assistant to the Commissioner 2, Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development</p> <p>Doug Tansy, Business Manager/Financial Secretary, IBEW Local 1547</p> <p>Del Shannon, P.E., President, Board of Directors, Hydropower Foundation, and Chief Dam Engineer, Kiewit</p> <p>Kyle Wagaman, General Manager, with Thompson Construction, Thompson HCMS</p> <p><u>Links to Helpful Resources:</u> Solutions to Workforce Challenges - National Hydropower Association</p>

	<p>community colleges, and universities in careers in the water power space.</p> <p>This speakers in this session represent organizations that are actively working on one or more aspects of the problem.</p>	
12:00 PM	Networking Lunch	<i>Featured Speaker – “Working Smarter, Not Harder”</i> Clay Koplín, Chief Executive Officer, Cordova Electric Cooperative (12:30 p.m.-12:45 p.m.)
1:00 PM	<p>Session 3: Hydro Project Showcase and Insights from Owners and Developers</p> <p>This fast-paced session gives attendees an up-to-the-minute understanding of the scope of hydro-related work – both current and future – occurring in Alaska.</p> <p>The session is divided into 2 parts: First, project developers and owners provide quick status reports on specific work going on throughout Alaska to build new hydropower and enhance/improve existing facilities.</p> <p>Second, representatives of these projects’ developers and owners participate in an informal facilitated group discussion to share insights about what they see as biggest opportunities, challenges, and needs in the state.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What’s holding you back? • Lessons learned – what do you know now you wish you’d known then? • Keys to your project being successful – what does success look like for you? 	<p><i>Session Moderator:</i> Heidi Wahto, Principal, Licensing and Regulatory Lead, Stantec</p> <p><i>Panelists:</i> Eunice James, Board Chair, Kootznoowoo Inc.</p> <p>Elan Edgerly, P.E., CEM, Mechanical Engineer, Project Manager, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium</p> <p>Cory Warnock, Regulatory/Natural Resource Discipline Lead, McMillen</p> <p>Brian Solan, P.E., Director of Business Development, Ameresco</p> <p>Paul Berkshire, Senior Civil Engineer, HDR, Inc.</p> <p>Bryan Carey, Director of Owned Assets, Alaska Energy Authority (AEA)</p> <p>Patricia Phillips, Mayor, City of Pelican, Alaska</p> <p>Bryan Farrell, Vice President, Power Generation, Alaska Electric Light & Power Company (AELP)</p> <p>Jennifer Holstrom, Chief Dam Safety Engineer and Regulatory Manager, Ketchikan Public Utilities</p> <p>Kord Christianson, Generation Systems Manager, City and Borough of Sitka -- Electric Department</p> <p><i>Proposed Projects Featured:</i></p> <p>Thayer Creek</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed 850-kW, run-of-the-river hydroelectric project • Development led by Kootznoowoo Inc. (KI), which is the Alaska Native Village Corporation for the community of Angoon, Alaska • Recently received more than \$30 million in federal funding <p><i>Representative:</i> Eunice James, Board Chair, Kootznoowoo Inc.</p> <p>Chignik (recently received \$7.27 million in federal funding)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Lake and Peninsula Borough and Chignik Bay Tribal Council plans to construct a new run-of-the-river hydroelectric facility (2.1 MWh)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will replace 100% of community's diesel consumption • Replacing a 70+-year-old wooden dam at risk of failure • Recently received \$7.27 million in federal funding <p><i>Representative:</i> Elan Edgerly, P.E., CEM, Mechanical Engineer, Project Manager, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium</p> <p>Nuyakuk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed 12-MW project in the Nushagak River drainage • Would provide a majority of the annual load to the Dillingham area as well as 5 outlying villages, displacing diesel usage • Utilizing FERC's ILP process • In second year of a comprehensive natural resource study program; results of the study will influence decisions by the end of 2024 related to the feasibility of project development <p><i>Representative:</i> Cory Warnock, Regulatory/Natural Resource Discipline Lead, McMillen</p> <p>Sweetheart Lake</p> <p><i>Representative:</i> Brian Solan, P.E., Director of Business Development, Ameresco</p> <p>Five Mile Creek</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 250-kW proposed hydroelectric system on Five Mile Creek • In community of Chitina, Alaska • Will be owned and operated by Chitina Electric, Inc. • Permitting and final designs are underway • High head system will include a diversion/intake structure, a penstock with about 1,000-foot elevation drop over a length of 10,000 linear feet to a powerhouse • Will tie into the existing grid and is expected to generate about 2,000 MWh/yr. • Will displace ~62,000 gallons of diesel fuel per year <p><i>Representative:</i> Paul Berkshire, Senior Civil Engineer, HDR, Inc.</p> <p><u>Existing Projects Featured:</u></p> <p>Bradley Lake Expansion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bradley Lake is 120-MW facility, regulated by FERC • AEA is studying the Dixon Diversion to divert water from the East Fork of the Martin River into the Bradley Lake Reservoir • Diversion could increase power output at the existing hydro project by almost 50% • Construction cost is estimated at between \$400 million and \$600 million <p><i>Representative:</i> Bryan Carey, Director of Owned Assets, Alaska Energy Authority (AEA)</p>
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		<p>700-kW Pelican Hydro</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operational since 1941; filing a new license (relicense) application on September 16. Seeks funding stabilize streambank near the powerhouse and replace a trash rake. <p><i>Representative:</i> Patricia Phillips, Mayor, City of Pelican, Alaska</p> <p>3.675-MW Annex Creek Hydro Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Came on line in 1915 and still provides clean, renewable power to Juneau today, a century later. Located almost entirely within the Tongass National Forest; operated under a Special Use Permit administered by the U.S. Forest Service, Juneau Ranger District. Licensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC License P-2307) Replacement of the steel penstock started in 2023; finishing in 2024 (planning to replace penstock at Salmon Creek project in 2026 – applied for 247 funding from DOE) <p><i>Representative:</i> Bryan Farrell, Vice President, Power Generation Alaska Electric Light & Power Company (AEL&P)</p> <p>Ketchikan Public Utilities and/or Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA)</p> <p><i>Representative:</i> Jennifer Holstrom, Chief Dam Safety Engineer and Regulatory Manager, Ketchikan Public Utilities</p> <p>City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska</p> <p><i>Representative:</i> Kord Christianson, Generation Systems Manager, City and Borough of Sitka</p>
2:30 PM	Networking Break	
3:00 PM	<p>Session 4: Hydrokinetics, Tidal, Wave – An Update on Progress toward Tapping Marine Energy Potential</p> <p>Progress continues in finding ways to tap the huge potential for development of marine energy in the state.</p> <p>Hear from those working in the space to understand the significance of the progress being made and how commercialization of this sector can contribute toward Alaska’s decarbonization efforts.</p> <p>Storage capacity is what’s desperately needed – how can marine energy and conventional hydro pair together to meet the needs in Alaska?</p>	<p><u>Session Leader:</u> Audrey Thompson, Senior Fisheries Scientist/ Fisheries Engineering Section Manager, Kleinschmidt</p> <p><u>Speakers:</u> Chris Lee, Chief Executive Officer, Tidal Energy Corp. - current state of tidal technology globally</p> <p>Marty Schwarz, Electrical Engineer III, Hydrogen Production, Power, and Storage, National Renewable Energy Laboratory, U.S. Department of Energy - Grid Integration -- achieving an 80% renewable portfolio in Alaska’s Railbelt: cost analysis – details HERE</p> <p>Emily Alvarado, Alaska Center for Energy and Power (ACEP), University of Alaska</p> <p>Doug Johnson, Senior Advisor, ORPC, Inc. – marine energy projects in Alaska</p> <p><u>Links to Helpful Resources:</u></p>

		Tidal Energy Could Help Decarbonize Alaska’s Biggest Grid by 2035 – details HERE
4:00 PM	<p>Session 5: Tax Credits and Grants: What’s Available? How Does It All Work?</p> <p>There is so much opportunity to benefit financially from government-funded tax credits and grants. However, sorting out who is eligible for what, all the nuances, and the deadlines to know is no easy task.</p> <p>This practical session gives guidance about how to “ring the cash register” using available funding mechanisms.</p> <p>Come with your questions to “ask the expert” Jeff Leahey, who lives and breathes these issues in Washington, D.C., every day, along with two Alaskans with deep experience on the topic of grants and tax credits.</p>	<p><i>Featured Speaker:</i> Jeff Leahey, Consultant for NHA; Vice President, SMI</p> <p><i>Contributors:</i> Jason Custer, Vice President, Regulatory and Government Affairs, Alaska Power & Telephone (AP&T)</p> <p>Joel D. Groves, P.E., Project Manager, Polarconsult Alaska, Inc.</p>
5:15 PM	Closing Remarks	
5:15 PM-6:30 PM	Event Wrap-Up Happy Hour	