

*Revised October 2009*

## **Project Fact Sheet: RAILBELT ELECTRICAL GRID AUTHORITY STUDY**

**CURRENT STATUS:** This project is complete. The final report has been published and accepted by the Alaska Energy Authority. The results of the study are being used to form a new non-profit statutory corporation to own and operate future Railbelt Generation and Transmission (G&T) infrastructure.

**PROJECT COST:** \$800,000

**DESCRIPTION:** Black and Veatch (B&V) was hired as consultant to AEA to perform the analysis of the potential of a Railbelt Electrical Grid Authority in increasing cost effectiveness and reliability in the operation of the Railbelt transmission grid. B&V will analyze operation costs, look at current and future generation sources, look at current and future electrical demands and develop a series of future scenarios with recommendations for a grid authority. This work will be done in conjunction with the Railbelt utilities, through extensive interviews with affected stakeholders and subject matter experts and with the guidance and feedback of an advisory work group.

**PURPOSE:** This Railbelt Electrical Grid Authority (REGA) study will identify a range of grid authority business structures to own, operate, control, maintain and operate the future Railbelt Electrical Generation and Transmission Grid. This business structure alternatives could range from a voluntary organization to dispatch power and manage the grid assets, or it could be more encompassing to include responsibility for planning and acquiring new generation and assuming ownership of existing Railbelt assets.

**SOURCE OF FUNDS:** Legislative appropriation.

**PARTICIPANTS:** Black and Veatch; Alaska Energy Authority; Homer Electric Association; Chugach Electric Association; Anchorage Municipal Light and Power; Matanuska Electric Association; Golden Valley Electric Association; and a variety of stakeholders as represented on the advisory group and through interviews.

**BENEFITS:** The project will provide the range of effective business structures that the Railbelt can employ to manage the future generation and transmission assets, with comparative economic assessments, analysis of barriers to implementation, and an implementation plan. This will provide a basis for any decisions relating to the enhancement and growth of Railbelt Electric Infrastructure under a variety of possible future energy supplies.

**ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND:** A recent petition by MEA to the Regulatory Commission of Alaska called for the creation of a regional Generation and Transmission Cooperative as a means to implement a collective process to secure new generation sources for the Railbelt. This matter is currently being considered by the RCA.