

PRESS RELEASE

Brandy M. Dixon
Chief Communications Officer
(907) 771-3078

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AEA Releases Statewide Railbelt Energy Vision to Guide Long-Term Energy Planning

ANCHORAGE, Alaska—The Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) today released its [Statewide Railbelt Energy Vision](#), a comprehensive, systemwide planning document that brings together the state's major Railbelt energy initiatives into a single, long-range strategic framework.

The vision integrates AEA's most significant Railbelt efforts—including the Bradley Lake Expansion Project, Cook Inlet PowerLink, and Railbelt transmission system upgrades—into a unified framework that describes current conditions and outlines a phased, long-term approach to strengthening reliability, resilience, and affordability across Alaska's interconnected Railbelt transmission system, which serves roughly 75 percent of the state's population.

"As stewards of public resources, the Board believes Alaska needs a clear, long-term view of where the Railbelt energy system is headed," **said AEA Board Chair Clay Koplín.** "This vision document provides that roadmap—grounded in today's realities, informed by rigorous technical analysis, and focused on helping future leaders make sound, coordinated decisions."

"This vision provides a shared, strategic reference for how Alaska can think holistically about its Railbelt energy system over the coming decades," **said AEA Executive Director Curtis W. Thayer.** "It is designed to support coordination and informed decision-making as the state faces tightening fuel supplies, aging infrastructure, and emerging economic opportunities."

The Statewide Railbelt Energy Vision serves as a long-term planning framework that builds on work already underway by AEA and its utility partners, incorporates existing load forecasts already in circulation, and looks ahead roughly 25 years to help guide future discussions among state leadership, the Legislature, utilities, regulators, and other stakeholders.

The vision also builds on the recently completed [2050 Railbelt Strategic Transmission Plan](#), a yearlong collaborative effort involving experienced utility engineers, state engineers, and independent consultants with decades of experience operating the Railbelt system.

In parallel, the vision recognizes the evolving institutional framework that supports Railbelt coordination, including the Railbelt Reliability Council and the development of a Railbelt Transmission Organization. These entities play a critical role in advancing reliability standards, coordinated transmission planning, and transparent, shared cost recovery across the Railbelt, complementing AEA's long-term planning efforts.

The document also draws from the work of the Governor’s Alaska Energy Security Task Force, reflecting its recommendations to take a systemwide view of generation, transmission, storage, and institutional coordination.

Alaska’s Railbelt faces increasing pressure from declining Cook Inlet natural gas supplies and infrastructure that in many cases is more than 50 years old, while also positioning the system to support future large-scale industrial development. The document underscores the need for long-term coordination and phased investment to ensure the Railbelt is ready to reliably serve new opportunities as they emerge.

The Statewide Railbelt Energy Vision is intended to inform future planning efforts, including transmission and resource planning, while preserving flexibility as conditions, technologies, and policy priorities evolve.

The full Statewide Railbelt Energy Vision is available on AEA’s website at akenergyauthority.org.

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About the Alaska Energy Authority

The Alaska Energy Authority is a public corporation of the state. Its mission is to reduce the cost of energy in Alaska. To achieve this mission, AEA strives to diversify Alaska’s energy portfolio increasing resiliency, reliability, and redundancy. To learn more, visit akenergyauthority.org.