

*Reviewed October 2009*

**Project Fact Sheet: EKLUTNA TRANSMISSION LINE UPGRADE**

**CURRENT STATUS:** Project construction is complete. The line presently awaits connection into the Railbelt network. As the available funds through the AEA grant are nearly exhausted, the Eklutna Operating Committee (ML&P, Chugach and MEA) have elected to complete the project using funds they will secure. The Operating Committee has designated ML&P as the project manager for completing terminations, commissioning and energizing the line. ML&P is securing professional services to accomplish this commissioning process.

**PROJECT COST:** \$19.3 million

**DESCRIPTION:** The project consists of rebuilding the existing 115kV wood-pole electric transmission line from the Eklutna Hydroelectric Plant to the point where the Beluga 230kV electric transmission line intersects the line (near Briggs Tap/Fossil Creek), spanning a distance of 22.5 miles.

**PURPOSE:** To upgrade the existing single circuit line to a double circuit line providing an overall capacity and reliability to the intertie. To improve system reliability and resolve fault issues, the generating utilities approached the legislature for funding to construct a dedicated transmission link between the two generation centers and to provide a second line to serve the four existing MEA taps. The new transmission line will be constructed and insulated for 230KV, but will initially operated at 138KV.

**SOURCE OF FUNDS:** Grant to the Municipality of Anchorage Municipal Light and Power through the Alaska Energy Authority for an Eklutna project transmission line upgrade. AEA is the grant administrator.

**PARTICIPANTS:** Anchorage Municipal Light and Power, Chugach Electric Association, Inc., and Matanuska Electric Association.

**BENEFITS:** This intertie project will resolve concerns over the 50-year age of a wood structured primary intertie link between the hydroelectric power plant at Eklutna, and the ML&P plant no. 2, which is one of the main generation centers for South Central Alaska. Completion of the intertie will increase operating and dispatch flexibility for South Central Alaska, and increase reliability of power supply.

**ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND:** Concerns for system reliability and safety led South Central Utilities to approach the legislature for a \$19.3 Million appropriation to replace a 50-year-old key transmission link between two South Central Generation facilities. The Eklutna hydropower generation facility, recently repowered to produce 40MW of storage hydropower, was connected to the rest of the Railbelt system through the wood structured link.