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Alaska Energy Authority Program Fact Sheet:

Technical Assistance Program

Current Status:

In FY2011 the Technical Assistance Program has assisted over 40 communities with generation, fuel switchgear, and distribution issues. While on-site assistance was necessary in many instances, real-time support using the remote SCADA, video cameras and telephone provided significant benefit to communities.

Program Description:

The purpose of the Technical Assistance Program is to help eligible utilities improve the efficiency, safety and reliability of power systems and reduce the risk and severity of emergency conditions or emergency disruptions in the operation of community power systems. The program provides training, consultation, on-site assistance with maintenance and minor repairs, and other related technical assistance.

The ability a community has and the methods it uses to maintain and operate its powerhouse have a significant impact on generation efficiency. Keeping diesel generation systems operational and maintained has a direct influence on the energy produced for each gallon of diesel fuel consumed. Operator training, spare parts availability, automatic system monitoring, data trending and data analysis along with prompt maintenance and repair are key factors in keeping reliability, efficiency and performance high.

The Technical Assistance Program is administered by the Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) and is available to all eligible electric utilities. Participating electric utilities receive support services from AEA.

- AEA makes visits to eligible electric utilities based on need over the course of the year to provide training and recommendations concerning operations and routine maintenance activities. There is no charge to the utility for these services.
- The Technical Assistance Program does not provide funding for major repairs or reconstruction of electrical systems.
- The participating utility's power plant operator and/or utility staff must be available for training and consultation during the time of the Technical Assistance Program visit. Power plant operators will be required to maintain written performance logs in between visits.
- The program relies heavily on Remote Monitoring or SCADA (Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition). The system allows remote trouble shooting, reduction in travel costs and verification of efficiency. A SCADA system helps assure the successful integration of renewable energy sources.

- Services under the Technical Assistance Program are limited to village electric utilities with a demonstrated need for assistance with preventative operations and maintenance activities, utility training and emergency prevention. The program is not intended to serve electric utilities that have sufficient financial and technical resources to perform routine operations and maintenance activities.