

Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority



Alaska Energy Authority

For immediate release  
06/05/03

For information, contact:  
Peter Crimp, 907-269-4631

## **Alaska Energy Authority seeks comments on Rural Energy Plan**

The Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) is requesting comments on the State's draft plan for providing affordable and reliable energy to communities in rural Alaska. Released last month, the plan lists 48 rural communities where wind energy economics are attractive and lays out a strategy for developing hybrid wind-diesel systems. The plan gives other detailed recommendations for improving diesel power efficiency, expanding energy conservation measures, and enhancing sustainability of rural utilities.

Supported in part by the Denali Commission and the USDA Rural Development office, AEA began the planning process in 2001 with an assessment of a wide range of potential energy strategies. This effort resulted in the "Screening Report for the Alaska Rural Energy Plan," which proposed a short list of cost-effective energy options recommended for further, more detailed analysis. During 2002 and early 2003, AEA and its contractors expanded on the initial strategies, developing plans for implementing the various energy options.

"The cost of power in rural villages remains three to four times what urban dwellers pay," said Ron Miller, AIDEA/AEA's Executive Director. "It would be difficult to develop projects like the Donlin Creek gold deposit if mine operators have to pay for power at neighboring village Crooked Creek's rate of about 66 cents per kWh.

The draft initiatives are available for review on the AEA website at <http://www.aidea.org/aea.htm>.

Comments on the plan should be submitted by August 1, 2003 to:

Peter Crimp  
AEA  
813 West Northern Lights Boulevard  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503  
E-mail: [Pcrimp@aidea.org](mailto:Pcrimp@aidea.org)

AEA was created by the Legislature in 1976 to provide affordable power to promote and develop the economic welfare of all Alaska residents. AIDEA merged management efforts with the Alaska Energy Authority in the early 1990's, creating a strong synergy that helps business ventures succeed and also helps ensure safe, reliable, reasonably priced power is available to all Alaskans.

####