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## **Rural Energy Conference to be in Fairbanks this April**

The Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) is coordinating and sponsoring another Rural Energy Conference to be held at the Fairbanks Westmark Hotel. It will take place Tuesday - Thursday, April 24 - 26, 2007. This year's conference theme is "Managing the High Cost of Power 2007."

The rural energy conferences are held every 18 months, with the last one in Valdez in October 2005. There, for the first time, a legislative plenary session was held on energy issues. Members of the 24<sup>th</sup> Legislature, led by Speaker of the House Representative John Harris of Valdez, participated in a legislative panel discussion discussing rural energy issues in Alaska's future.

"AEA's Valdez conference was a great opportunity for me to get updated on what people are doing all over the state to lower the cost of energy", said Speaker of the House John Harris. "I look forward to the Fairbanks conference. I expect it to be another great opportunity to hear from energy experts and utility professionals working on behalf of Alaska."

Representative Harris, who is serving his second term as Speaker of the House in the 25<sup>th</sup> Legislature, is invited to address the conference again this year. Other invited speakers include Governor Sarah Palin, George Cannelos, the Federal Co-Chair of the Denali Commission, Mayor Jim Whittaker of the Fairbanks North Star Borough and Mark Hamilton, President of the University of Alaska.

Technical sessions will concentrate on three areas, Management and Economics, Current Technologies and Forward/Future Technologies. Topics include utility management, wind, geothermal and hydro projects, end-use efficiency, new fuels and biodiesel, training, SCADA/controls, permitting, oil-fired heating, coal and coal bed methane and power cost equalization.

As an added event, there will be a site visit to Chena Hot Springs Resort, with transportation and a reception provided. Attendees will tour the new geothermal power plant -Alaska's first geothermal power plant-which went into operation last August and has since won national and international awards for top renewable energy project. The Chena plant was built with a combination of private funds, federal grants and an AEA Power Project Fund loan

The University of Alaska is co-sponsoring the Rural Energy Conference and will handle all arrangements related to registration. Sponsors and speakers arrangements are handled by AEA. More information will be available soon, but make your travel arrangements now for best results.

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