

The Railbelt Reliability Council (RRC) Presentation to Senate Resources

May 16, 2025

Presented by: Ed Jenkin, CEO
Lou Florence, Board Chair

Agenda

The Railbelt Power System

Who is the RRC

The RRC's Purpose

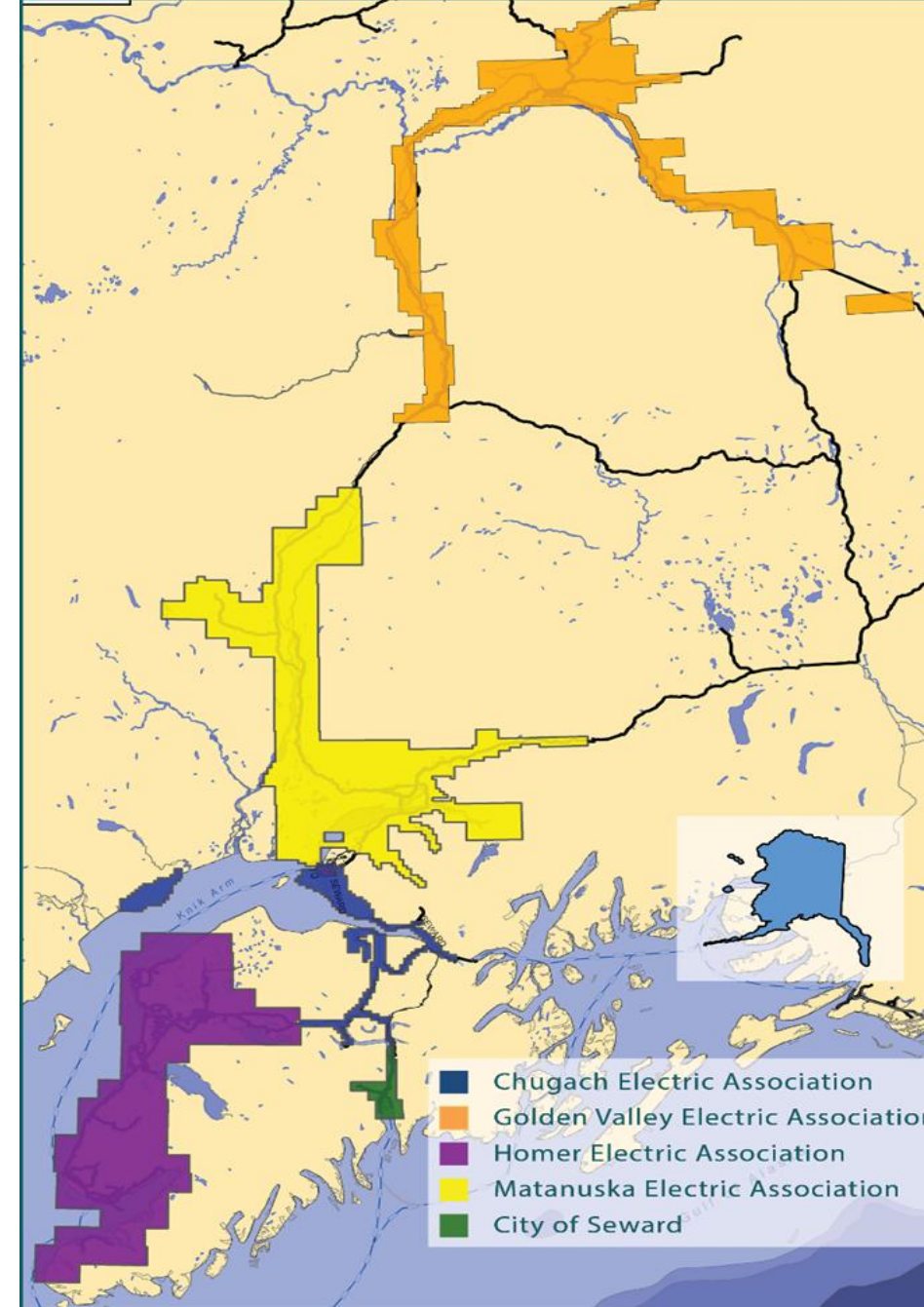
Why the RRC was Formed

The RRC and the RTO

Standards and IRP Development

The Railbelt Bulk Electric System

- An interconnected network of ~700 miles of high-voltage transmission lines, providing a physical path to serve approximately 750 MW peak load from ~2 GW of installed generating capacity
- Operated by 5 interconnected public utilities, 1 DoD contractor, and the State of Alaska.
- Encompassing three regions connected by single transmission lines with stability limits of about 10% of the peak load.
- Providing electricity for nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ of Alaska's population.



Who is the RRC

A stakeholder
organization



The RRC is governed by a thirteen voting-member :

- 6 utilities (CEA, GVEA, HEA, MEA, Seward, Doyon Utilities)
- Alaska Energy Authority
- 2 Independent Power Producers
- 1 seat advocating for residential-small commercial interests (Alaska Public Interest Research Group)
- 1 seat advocating for large commercial and/or industrial users (Fairbanks Gold Mining Inc./ Kinross)
- 1 seat representing electricity consumers who advocate in support of the reduction of environmentally harmful greenhouse gas emissions and/or other environmental concerns regarding the Railbelt electric system (Renewable Energy Alaska Project)
- 1 independent, non-affiliated member

The RCA and RAPA each hold one non-voting, ex-officio seat on the Board

Who is the RRC

CEO & STAFF

INDEPENDENT TECHNICAL GROUP (TAC)

WORKING GROUPS

Who is the RRC

The TAC

- **David Hilt** – Founder, Grid Reliability Consulting, LLC, Marion, Illinois. Past NERC VP responsible for the development of their Compliance and Monitoring Program.
- **Haider Naveed** – Senior NERC Compliance Specialist, Electric Power Engineers, Austin, Texas. 15 years of international industry experience.
- **Todd Ponto** – Director of OT and NERC Compliance, ScottMadden, Raleigh, North Carolina. Supported the develop the Utility Consensus Critical Infrastructure Protection Standards in 2018.
- **David Burlingame** – Principal, Electric Power Systems, Anchorage, Alaska. 40 years of engineering and operations experience focusing on islanded systems.

Who is the RRC

Funded by Utility Members

- The RRC is funded through a surcharge that is allocated to load-serving entities (Railbelt utilities) through the ERO tariff. Most LSEs have implemented a transparent per-KWh line item on customer bills, similar to the Regulatory Cost Charge.

Regulated by the Regulatory Commission of Alaska

- The commission shall adopt regulations governing electric reliability organizations (AS 42.06.770)

The RRC's Purpose

Legislatively Established Electric Reliability Organization

- **Establish reliability standards** through an open and transparent public process. (AS 42.05.765)
- **Monitor and enforce compliance with reliability standards**, including investigation of alleged and possible imposition of penalties for confirmed compliance violations, (AS 42.05.775)
- **Develop and adopt a comprehensive Integrated Resource Plan (IRP)** for the applicable Bulk Electric System. (AS 42.05.780)



Why the RRC - Reduce Long-Term Costs



- **Generation Planning**
 - Utility Generation
 - CEA 2013 - 200MW 3X1 Combined Cycle Facility (w/ ML&P)
 - MEA 2014 – 171MW Reciprocating Engine Facility
 - ML&P 2016 – 129MW 2X1 Combined Cycle Facility



- **Transmission System Concerns**

Why the RRC – Ensure Reliability

Reliability Standards Development and Enforcement

- System Modeling
- Generation and Load Balancing
- Facilities Interconnection
- Transmission Planning
- Monitoring and Enforcement

The RRC and the RTO

- The **RRC** develops a regional **Integrated Resource Plan** to provided the greatest value to Railbelt utility members and customers
- The **RTO** administers a **regional tariff** to recover transmission costs equally to all Railbelt utility customers and members
- **Both** look at the Railbelt as a single region
- **RRC** develops a regional generation plan, and the **RTO** removes transmission wheeling rates to facilitate the operation of the plan

Standards and IRP Development

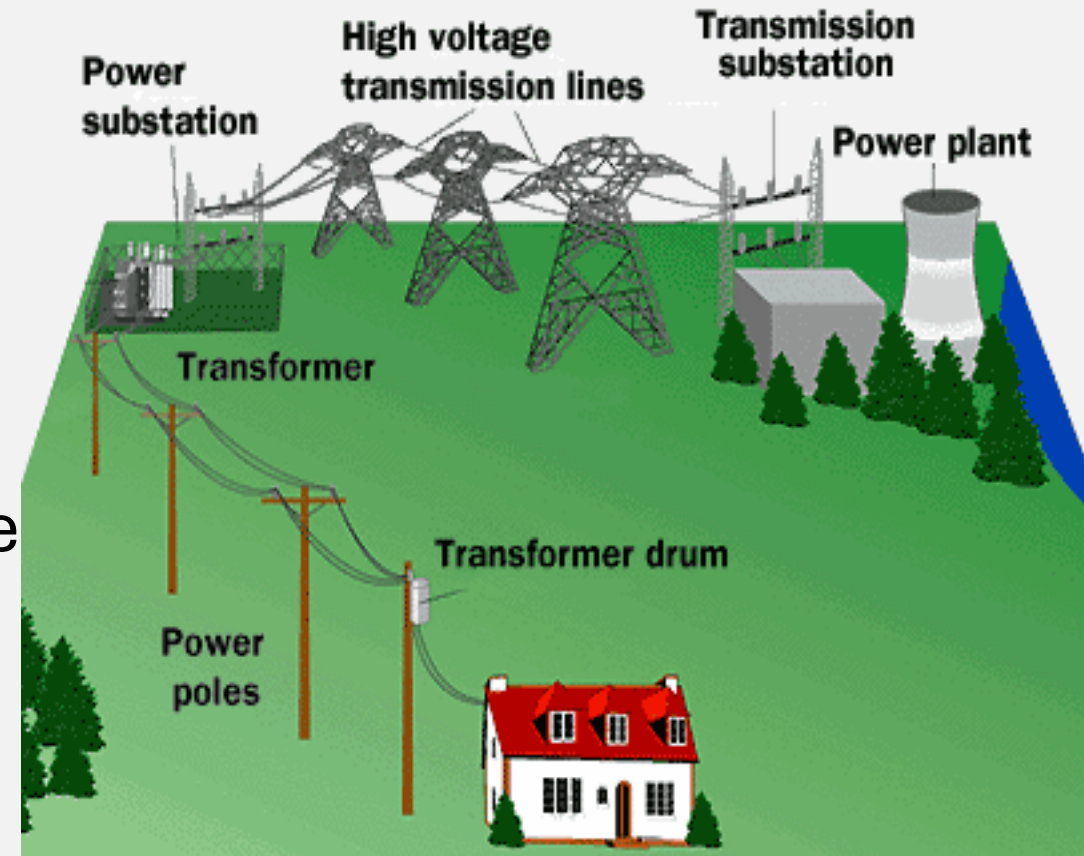
Applicable RRC Rules and Policies

- **ER7 – Public Notice and Meetings Rule**
 - Notice Content
 - Notice Timeline
- **ER1 – Product Development Rule**
 - Invitation and Schedule
 - During Development
 - Board Submission
 - RCA Report
- **BPR602 – TAC Structure and Process Procedure**
 - Task Order Work Plan and Budget
 - Formation of the Working Group
 - Manager's Recommendation
 - Dissents
 - TAC Recommendation
 - Board Action

Standards and IRP Development

Integrated Resource Planning

- Board Workshop and Kickoff
- Independent Technical Expertise
- Policy Development
- Define Objectives and Greatest Value
- 2026 Completion



Standards and IRP Development

Standards Development

- Weekly working group meetings
- Four standards before the RCA for approval
- Two additional standards passed by RRC Board
- Six standards coming before the Board in June
- 28 Standards to be approved by the RRC in 2025



**RAILBELT
RELIABILITY
COUNCIL**

ELECTRIC RELIABILITY ORGANIZATION



Questions

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