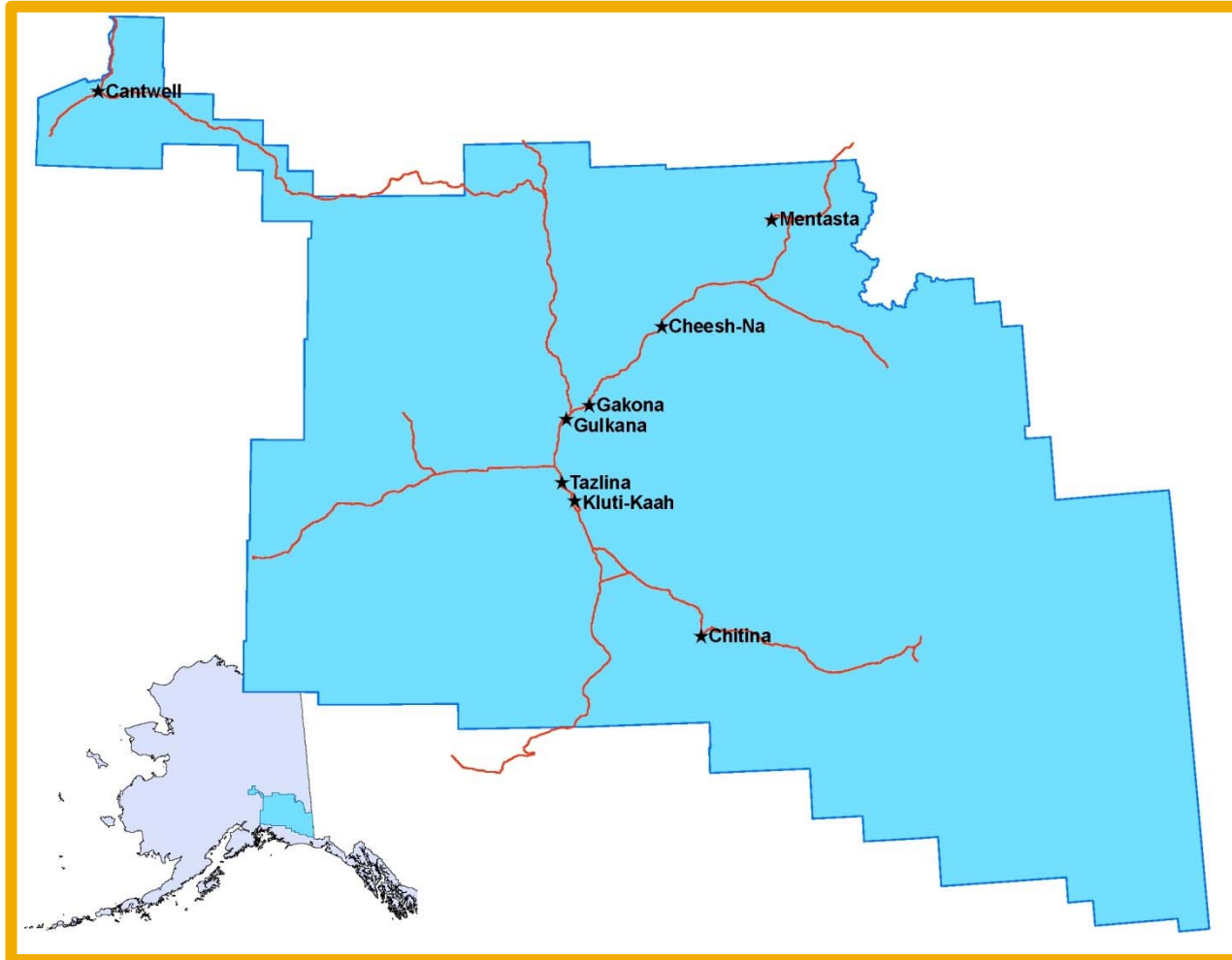




Photo: Ahtna Traditional Chief Ben Neeley addressing participants at recent Ahtna Regional Tribal Energy Summit, Gulkana Community Village Hall, October 13, 2009

TESTIMONY OF AHTNA, INCORPORATED FOR THE JOINT HOUSE & SENATE ENERGY/ RESOURCES COMMITTEES OCTOBER 23, 2009

Map of Ahtna Region



Background on Ahtna Region

- Part of Unorganized Borough
- Ahtna Athabascan
- Ahtna's land conveyance totals 1.77 million acres of land
- 7 of 8 Villages merged with Ahtna, Inc.
 - Ahtna provides Land and Resource Management
- Ahtna Region bordered by National Parks
 - Wrangell St. Elias and Denali National Park
- All 8 Villages on Road System
 - Blessing and Curse
- Power Cost Equalization Program (PCE) Recipients
 - Chitina, Cheesh'Na, and Mentasta Lake

Ahtna Regional Leadership

Regional Corporation

- Ahtna, Incorporated

Regional Non-Profits

- Copper River Native Association
- Mt. Sanford Tribal Consortium

Housing Authority

- Copper River Basin Regional Housing Authority

One Village Corporation

- Chitina Native Corporation
- Owner, Chitina Electric

Ahtna Tribes

- ☐Mentasta
- ☐Cheesh'Na (Chistochina)
- ☐Cantwell
- ☐Gakona
- ☐Gulkana
- ☐Tazlina
- ☐Kluti-Kaah (Copper Center)
- ☐Chitina

Utility and Fuel Providers

UTILITY SERVICE PROVIDERS

- **Golden Valley Electric Association**
 - Cantwell - \$0.16494/kwh
- **Copper Valley Electric Association**
 - Gakona, Gulkana, Tazlina, Kluti-Kaah, and Chitina
 - Price today for Glennallen is \$0.21/kwh. Valdez pays a different rate.
 - Summer (Hydro)/Winter (Diesel) – seasonal fluctuation
- **AP&T**
 - Mentasta Lake - \$0.3068/kwh
 - Cheesh'Na - \$0.2975/kwh

FUEL PROVIDERS

- **Fisher Fuels**
 - \$3.31 (No. 1) per Gallon of Diesel
- **Crowley**
 - \$3.61 (No. 1) per Gallon of Diesel – will be going up next Monday 10/26/09
 - **All information regarding Utility rates and Fuel prices come from their websites or from telephone conversations made in preparation of this presentation.**

AHTNA REGIONAL GOAL: ENERGY SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Ahtna Regional Leadership and Ahtna Tribes working on regional energy strategy for contribution to AEA's Statewide Energy Plan.

- Target Completion Date November 2009

Preliminary Focus Areas of Regional Energy Strategy

1. Development

- Wind Energy, Biomass, Geothermal, Oil and Gas, & Hydro
- Regional Energy Project - Collaboration between Ahtna, the Housing Authority and tribes.

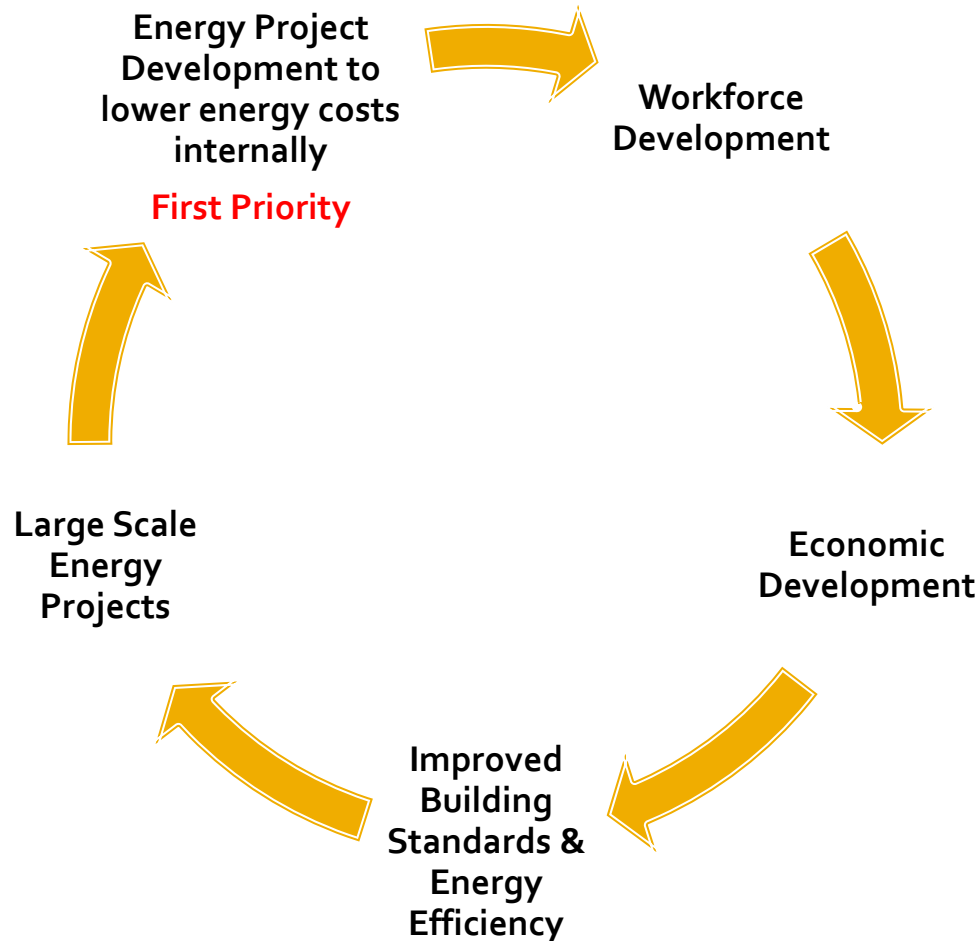
2. Conservation

- Weatherization
- Energy Efficient Building Standards

3. Environmental Responsibility

- Forest Stewardship Plan to manage Biomass Development
- Comprehensive Land Management Plan

Energy Self-Sufficiency Cycle



Ahtna Tribal Energy Initiatives

- **Mentasta**
 - Wind Energy Demonstration Project at Carlson Creek (AP&T)
- **Cheesh'Na**
 - Biomass Project – Secondary Heat Source for tribal infrastructure (*new*)
- **Gulkana**
 - Successfully built a community wood pellet plant; adding a boiler system which is planned to heat all village facilities, including homes. Also looking at co-generation with the possibility of selling excess power back to local utility.
- **Cantwell**
 - Seeking funding for Jack River Hydro Power Study
- **Chitina**
 - Funded for Preliminary Hydro Power Study

Regional Energy Initiatives

- **Complete Ahtna Regional Energy Resource Map and Regional Strategy**
 - Map potential & known energy resources to use as a development tool.
- **Address Transmission Gaps**
 - Multiple isolated grids prevent effective use of stranded resources. If Grids were connected market access could be facilitated.
- **Continue Ahtna Oil and Gas Exploration**
 - Update existing seismic reports.
- **Encourage Weatherization and Energy Efficient Construction Design**
- **Partnerships**

Ahtna Region Success Story Chitina Electric

Chitina Electric recently cut the ribbon on a new power plant that provides electric power to the village.

The Power Plant is owned by Chitina Native Corporation.

Chitina is conducting a hydro feasibility study and exploring partnering with a utility that has hydro experience.

Pictured from L to R: Martin Finnesand, 1st Traditional Chief Ben Neeley, 2nd Traditional Chief Fred Ewan, and Ahtna Elder Robert Marshall.

Project funded by Alaska Energy Authority.



Ahtna Testimony to Joint House and Senate Energy Resources Committee | AFN
2009

Recommendations from Ahtna Region to Committee

- **Support Regional Strategies that include all stakeholders – Native and Non-Native.**
 - Insure Tribes and small communities receive their fair share of energy funding. (Equitable funding distribution)
 - Pay closer attention to regions within the Unorganized Borough.
 - Encourage utilities to include tribes in their planning processes.
- **Fund Regional Energy Coordinators**

Responsibilities would include -

 - Monitoring progress on Regional Strategies requested by AEA.
 - Providing technical support for regional & local energy projects.
 - Facilitate regional collaboration and partnering on energy projects.
 - Be a liaison between regions, state and federal energy agencies.
- **Net Metering**
 - Make more producer-friendly.

In Summary

- **Short Term Plan for Ahtna Region**
 - Support and assist Villages with Tribal Energy Projects
 - Complete Ahtna Regional Tribal Energy Strategy (11/2009)
- **Long Term Plan for Ahtna Region**
 - Develop and support projects that address local energy demands.
 - Continue efforts to assess larger energy development opportunities that would benefit other regions of the state.
 - Regarding Natural Gas Development - Encourage the State to re-evaluate natural gas potential in the Ahtna region and promote exploration.

Thank you for this opportunity to share information from the Ahtna Region.

Contact Information

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