

In-Stream River Energy Panel
Room 1 (2ND floor)
Friday, Oct. 24, 3:30-5pm

II. In-Stream River Energy holds tremendous potential for rural Alaska. The majority of Alaska's rural communities are on or near moving water. Recent developments in the technology known as hydrokinetic turbines have the potential to transform Alaska's river systems into electricity generators with no dams and very little environmental impact. The session will provide an overview of this technology, which can harness river energy, and will also highlight current and future in-stream projects throughout Alaska. Come learn how three interior villages are installing systems to power their communities from the same rivers that provide their fish and other subsistence resources.

1. *Chair:* D. Douglas Johnson, Alaska Projects Director, Ocean Renewable Power Co.
2. Robert S. Grimm, President, Alaska Power Company
3. Edna Hancock, Executive Director, Nenana Native Council
4. Brian Hirsch, Ph.D., President, Deerstone Consulting, and Energy Program Manager, Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council
5. Pat Sweetsir, Representative, Middle Yukon, Ruby Native Council
6. Brian Yanity, Project Engineer, NANA Pacific, LLC

Questions & Answers:

If you have a question for any of the panelists, please write it down on a piece of paper and submit it to a volunteer who will be collecting questions and handing them to the Chair. Index cards will also be provided. With this process we hope to answer many more questions from the audience. Emails are also provided for panelists in their bios below.

Panelists' Biographies

Chair: D. Douglas Johnson, Ocean Renewable Power Company

Doug is the director of Alaska projects at Ocean Renewable Power Company (ORPC), which was founded in 2004 for the purpose of generating reliable, competitive, emission-free electricity from the virtually unlimited energy resources of the oceans. With ORPC, he works to develop proprietary modular ocean current generation technology and incorporate it into environmentally superior, financially successful ocean and tidal current generation projects. Mr. Johnson is also an officer and partner in Professional Growth Systems, an Anchorage-based management consulting firm that focuses on Alaska, serving rural and urban clients in the profit and non-profit sectors, as well as state and local governments. He holds a bachelor's degree in geological engineering from University of Alaska, and attended Burklyn Business School. (djohnson@oceanrenewablepower.com)

Robert S. Grimm, Alaska Power & Telephone Company (AP&T)

Robert is president and CEO of Alaska Power & Telephone Company. AP&T is an investor-owned, regulated utility that provides energy & communication service to over 30 locations in throughout Alaska. He joined AP&T in 1972. During his tenure as president, revenues for the company and its subsidiaries have seen a period of tremendous growth and expansion, moving from \$8 million in assets in 1989 to over \$120 million in 2007. His breadth of experience encompasses general management, accounting, purchasing and billing, regulatory affairs, and tariff conformance and development. During his 37-year career he has developed and cultivated working relationships with the Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA), the Alaska Industrial Development & Export Authority (AIDEA), the

Alaska Electrical Authority (AEA), and numerous state and federal agencies. Mr. Grimm's most recent activity includes licensing and construction of new hydroelectric plants, coupled with source funding and partnerships to facilitate the development of leading renewable resource technologies in rural Alaska. (bob.g@aptalaska.com)

Edna Hancock, Nenana Native Council

Edna is the executive director of the Nenana Native Council and a member of the Nenana City Council. She also is the Tanana River representative to the executive committee of the Yukon River Inter Tribal Watershed Council. Edna has lived all of her life beside the Nenana and Tanana Rivers and is proud to dedicate her time to harnessing the energy of the river. Like most Alaskans, Ms. Hancock wants to utilize all the assets of nature. Prior to her current positions, she was president of Toghoththele Corporation, owned her own business (Nenana Accounting), and sat on numerous boards and councils. She is the daughter of the late Richard and Edna Ketzler, and the niece of Al Ketzler, Sr. She has two children: Fredrick, 25, and Kelly, 22. (ketzlerhancock@yahoo.com)

Dr. Brian Hirsch, Deerstone Consulting

Brian is the energy program manager for the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council, a coalition of 66 tribes and first nations in Alaska and Canada working to protect the Yukon River. Dr. Hirsch is also owner and president of Deerstone Consulting, a Homer-based firm working on renewable energy issues in rural Alaska, and an elected board member of Homer Electric Association, which provides electricity to the Kenai Peninsula. He received his doctorate in natural resources from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, with a focus on energy issues in northern regions of the world. Dr. Hirsch has been involved in the installation of solar panels in the Alaska Native villages of Ft. Yukon, Beaver, Arctic Village, Venetie, Chickaloon Village, and Ugashik, and in the installation of wind turbines in Pilot Point, Port Heiden, Ugashik, and Tanana. (hirsch@alaska.net)

Pat Sweetsir, Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council

Pat acts as Middle Yukon representative on the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council, whose purpose is to bring extended environmental services to tribal communities along the Yukon River drainage and to enhance stewardship amongst the water-dependant communities that populate this river. He also currently serves as tribal administrator for the Ruby Tribal Council at Ruby, Alaska. He serves on the Ruby City Council, the board of directors at Dineega Corporation, and the board of directors at the Yukon Koyukuk Elder Assisted Living Consortium, which is an effort by the tribes of Galena, Ruby, Koyukuk, Nulato and Kaltag to create a facility that caters to the health needs of the elderly in the western interior of Alaska. He is also a volunteer in the Ruby Fire Department. Mr. Sweetsir brings a wealth of work experience and involvement, including implementation of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and the Indian Education and Self-Determination Act at the village and regional levels. He is of Koyukon Athabascan and Caucasian lineages. (psweetsir@hotmail.com)

Brian Yanity, NANA Pacific, LLC

Brian is an E.I.T. and project engineer with NANA Pacific, LLC. His work focuses on village-scale renewable energy projects for rural Alaska. In 2007 he completed a master's thesis on small-scale hydropower at the UAA School of Engineering. He also holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Columbia University. For several years Mr. Yanity has been working on a variety research projects involving in-stream or hydrokinetic water turbines, including a 2005 Knik Arm tidal current energy study for the Electric Power Research Institute. (byanity@nanapacific.com)