



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH

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MIKE NAVARRE
BOROUGH MAYOR

MEMORANDUM

TO: Gary Knopp, Assembly President
Members, Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

THRU: Mike Navarre, Mayor *MN*

FROM: Eric Mohrmann, Emergency Management Director *E. Mohrmann*

DATE: February 8, 2012

SUBJECT: Resolution 2012-011, supporting Chugach Electric Association's application for State assistance on improvements to the Hope/Sunrise power distribution line system upgrades

During the months of November and December, 2011 and again in January and February of this year, there have been an extensive number of power outages in the Hope/Sunrise area. Chugach Electric Association has repaired the transmission and distribution lines numerous times but has had subsequent storms damage the same areas time and again. The community of Hope has had to be powered by local generator for much of this period of time. The community of Sunrise was without power for 20 of 30 days during December alone and has also had to have a separate generator to provide power to that community. Moose Pass has frequently been without power during this time frame. This has been a problem that has occurred numerous times in the past.

The location of the Hope electrical distribution line presents access problems for the repair crews. Much of it is located away from road access and that renders it especially difficult and hazardous to access the damaged sections and conduct repairs. Portions of the electrical distribution line cross avalanche chutes. Chugach Electric Association has already relocated a portion of the line and another section is planned to be moved in 2012, but more of the seventeen-mile long line remains to be relocated to more accessible and safer locations. Chugach Electric is seeking state assistance to move an additional 1.6 miles of line that is near to the highway. The estimated cost of this relocation project is \$415,000 and Chugach Electric is seeking a grant for \$310,000 for this project.

The Hope Substation has manually operated switches that help to sectionalize the transmission line in the event of a problem. This requires a crew to be dispatched from Anchorage to operate the switches with the resultant delay. They may also be prevented from traveling due to weather conditions or avalanche. Modifying the substation to an automated system would allow for

immediate operation from the Anchorage Chugach Electric Association dispatch office. In the event of a problem on the transmission line, north or south of the substation, power may then be able to be more quickly rerouted to the Hope area. The cost of this switch automation project is estimated at \$950,000. Chugach Electric is seeking a grant for \$760,000 for this project.

Chugach Electric Association is applying to the State of Alaska for grants to complete these projects and has requested a resolution of support from the Borough.