



CVEA Celebrates Allison Creek With A Construction Kickoff

On Tuesday, July 29, the CVEA Board of Directors and Staff celebrated the kickoff of the construction phase of the long awaited Allison Creek Hydroelectric Project.

The team was joined by roughly 30 stakeholders including Alaska State House Representative Eric Feige. Others in attendance were representatives from U.S. Senator Mark Begich's office, the Alaska Energy Authority, the Alaska Power Association, the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC), Alyeska Pipeline Service Company, McMillen Incorporated, Ahtna, and the City of Valdez.

The Kickoff Celebration was intended to gather and thank the people who have worked with CVEA over the last seven years to make this project a reality. The ceremony was held at the project construction site next to the foundation of the new powerhouse, with views of the lower access road and tunnel portal on the side of the mountain above. A reception followed at the Solomon Gulch hydroelectric facility.

A short list of speakers commemorated the project with words of congratulations, praise, and thanks. Representative Feige said that he was happy to have, in addition to Senators Coghill and Bishop, helped put funding towards this project, stating that "every dollar the State contributed was a dollar CVEA didn't have to finance; this lowered the cost of the project and ultimately the cost of energy to the consumer." Roughly 47 percent of this project has been funded with grants.

Feige also said he was impressed with the talent at CVEA, stating that, "this project went along in textbook fashion. There were many opportunities to have gone sideways, but CVEA's Robert Wilkinson and John Duhamel, along with their team, kept the project on the rails, on time, and on budget."

Sheldon Petersen, Chief Executive Officer and Governor of CFC, the lending organization financing the balance of the project, told the crowd that CFC was proud to be a part of the project. He went on to say that the "absolute genius of Allison Creek is the fact that it adds additional capacity in a reliable fashion, and in a manner in which costs can be controlled." He

said that it is the perfect optimum mix and exactly the kind of solution he would expect from the Management and Board at CVEA. Petersen praised CVEA's ability to meet the difficult challenges of a large Alaskan utility with small scale resources, saying he is "impressed with the way the Cooperative meets challenges through creative means and a lot of determination."

Finally Petersen tipped his hat to the State of Alaska and the Renewable Energy Fund for making this investment. He believes this is the classic type of public/private partnership that can really build for future generations, seeing benefits for years to come.

CVEA's John Duhamel was thanked for his capable leadership on the project and was praised as the reason the project has advanced as rapidly and smoothly as it has.

CEO Robert Wilkinson was congratulated on this tremendous career milestone and the legacy he is leaving with the Cooperative.

Allison Creek promises several renewable energy benefits:

- It will displace 725,000 gallons of fuel annually when it is commissioned in 2016
- It will eliminate 12,000 tons of carbon dioxide annually
- It will reduce annual fuel costs by \$2.415 million every year
- It will generate 15 million kWhs to increase CVEA's renewable energy portfolio from 50 to 64 percent of total generation requirements

CVEA recently launched a new website intended to provide detailed information and keep the public informed as the Cooperative moves through the construction phase of the project. The website includes information regarding project costs, financing, benefits, and a construction timeline. The site also has historical reports and articles as well as updated project images and construction videos. To check it out, visit cvea.org and click the Allison Creek logo on the homepage.

For additional information regarding Allison Creek please contact Sharon Crisp at 835-7005 or email crisp@cvea.org. ■



Alaska State House Representative Eric Feige



CVEA CEO Robert Wilkinson addressing the crowd



CVEA's John Duhamel poses with Mort McMillen and Heidi Wahto of McMillen, Inc.



CVEA Directors, Fred Williams, and Lon Rake joined the celebration



Left to Right, Carl Crosman, CVEA Director Jeff Saxe, and Laura Saxe attended the Kickoff



Kickoff guests viewing the layout of the project construction site



CFC Governor and CEO, Sheldon Petersen, told the crowd why he thinks the Allison Creek Hydroelectric Project is a special project



The 'construction' cake at the kickoff reception, made by Travis Million, CVEA Manager of Power Generation



CEO Wilkinson looks on from in front of the foundation of the Powerhouse



Will Stark, President of the CVEA Board of Directors, at the microphone