

AVEC Drafts Position Paper

The following position paper by Loyd Hodson, manager of the Alaska Village Electric Co-Operative, was presented to the Rural CAP Board of Directors, and also to the Alaska Federation of Natives, who were in accord with the AVEC position.

The availability of adequate energy is essential for development in the village/rural area of Alaska.

The great majority of energy used in these areas at the current time is provided by:

1. Heating Oil
2. Electricity generated by Diesel Power

Smaller quantities of energy are provided by propane, kerosene, gasoline, and some local materials where available.

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The entire foundation of transportation in the majority of Alaska is based on air travel. Transportation by air is the only practical year around method of moving people and materials. Surface movements in the short shipping season in most outlying areas of Alaska is largely dependent upon diesel powered barge service.

The major supplier of electricity to the village areas is Alaska Village Electric Cooperative. Adequate support is required by the REA, BIA and state at the early stages in the establishment of electric service in the new areas to insure success and reliable service. Some additional background concerning AVEC and impact on the rural areas is outlined in the attached paper "The Critical Role of Fuel Oil at AVEC." This paper is made a part and extension of the position statement. If AVEC cannot meet service needs either through absence of fuel or inadequate support many required development activities will suffer.

Badly needed programs for

housing, schooling, water, sewer and all forms of proposed economic development will stop if adequate basic fuel and electrical power is not available.

Regulations on fuel allocation must fully consider the unique situation of Alaska with the very early development over large areas with severe weather and limited seasonal transportation. It is requested that the Federal and State Governments and related agencies, and petroleum product suppliers in Alaska take into account these situations and establish priorities and allocations accordingly.

Specific Positions

1. Fuel made available without cutback for existing and to satisfy new water, sewer, electricity, communications, housing, health and community services to overcome severe deficiencies in the rural areas of Alaska.

2. Full fuel requirements for economic development programs in rural village communities over the next ten (10) years.

3. Recognizing the vital importance of air transportation with no alternative for outside contact and the bare minimum service currently available, there should be no cutback in this essential service to outlying Alaska communities.

4. Full fuel requirements for barge lines and other surface carriers to insure uninterrupted delivery of essential materials and fuels to rural communities during the short surface shipping seasons.

5. REA, State and BIA provide requested support to AVEC to prevent brownouts, blackouts and inability to provide electric service to needed facilities in many communities in rural Alaska.

The communities and people will conserve in the new areas possible but the great majority of existing energy use and new energy use is for essential basic needs. The effect of any saving is still to shift the use into highly essential unfilled existing needs.

This position is by no means selfish but merely properly recognizes the very great lag in the availability and use of services in the rural areas of Alaska compared to other areas of the United States.