

Work to start on Craig, Klawock intertie

Development of an electrical intertie between the Southeast communities of Craig and Klawock is scheduled to get started this summer, according to the Alaska Power Authority.

A request for bids on the six-mile transmission link between the two Prince of Wales Island communities was released last week by the authority. A pre-bid conference was held May 13 in Craig, with bid opening for the design-build contract set for May 27.

The intertie will allow Alaska Power and Telephone, which serves Craig, to sell power to Klawock, customers of the Tlingit Haida Regional Electric Cooperative.

A new diesel generator in Craig is capable of carrying the combined base load of the two communities and is about 40 percent more fuel efficient than the generating equipment in Klawock.

The line will follow the state right-



Alaska Power Authority

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of-way along the Craig-Klawock highway and should be operating by October.

Alaska Power Authority officials said the economic advantages from such an intertie are numerous. The sale of power from Craig to Klawock will result in benefits to both communities from improved reliability and reduced reserve capacity expenses.

The intertie has the added advantage of allowing for connection of the

Klawock sawmill to the system. This should make re-opening of the sawmill much more likely.

The Power Authority Board of Directors, at their February meeting, approved the Craig-Klawock intertie construction at a cost of up to \$900,000. The funds are available from a \$740,000 appropriation for the project, with an additional \$160,000 from the authority's Rural Electrification Program.

As part of the Energy Program for Alaska, the line will remain in state ownership. The Power Authority will enter into an operations and maintenance agreement with Alaska Power and Telephone for routine operation and maintenance of the intertie.

The authority will charge an annual fee to cover costs of inspection and establishment of a repairs and replacement fund.