

Rural Power System Upgrade (RPSU)

Quick Facts

81 Projects
Completed
since 2000

10 Projects
Currently in
Design

7 Projects
Currently
Under
Construction

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT:

Tim Sandstrom
Program Manager

TSANDSTROM@AIDEA.ORG
(907) 771-3000

Current Status

Following is the status of the RPSU projects in construction during the second quarter of calendar year 2017:

- The **Kake** powerhouse model is on site and scheduled for 2017 completion.
- The **Kipnuk** module is currently staged at the AEA warehouse and will be moved to the site by contractors this fall for winter construction and spring start-up and testing.
- **Kongiganak** distribution system construction is substantially complete.
- **Clarks Point** powerhouse module is in final design.
- **Central, Nunam Iqua, and Perryville** distribution systems are nearing completion.
- The **Port Heiden** RPSU project is entering the design phase.
- **Kwigillingok** distribution system is nearing construction.

Program Overview

Under 3 AAC 108.100 – 130 the Alaska Energy Authority's Rural Power Systems Upgrade (RPSU) program may provide financial assistance and technical assistance including construction management and training to eligible recipients.

Electricity provides for lighting, communications, heat and power necessary to operate infrastructure that supports safe and healthy living conditions. In rural communities throughout Alaska, electricity is generated by a small local "system" (generation and distribution) using diesel fuel at a cost that is three to five times higher than that in urban parts of the state.

Of 200 rural Alaska communities, approximately half are served by cooperatives or another form of utility that performs under a well-established organization. Others are served by very small entities, many which experience technical and administrative problems due to lack of economies of scale and/or lack of specialized skills in the community.

Upgrades may include efficiency improvements, powerhouse upgrades or replacements, line assessments, lines to new customers, demand-side improvements, heat recovery and repairs to generation and distribution systems. It is not uncommon to see a 30 to 40 percent increase in fuel savings after a project is completed. Funding comes from Alaska legislative appropriations, Denali Commission and other matching funds.