

RAILBELT RELIABILITY COUNCIL (RRC) NON-UTILITY SEAT APPLICATION

Frequently Asked Questions

The Railbelt utilities have joined together to form a Railbelt Reliability Council (RRC). The RRC provides a forum and structure for the six interconnected Railbelt utilities, along with six non-utility stakeholders, to work together to address Railbelt-wide regional electric system issues in order to ensure grid resilience and reduce long term costs.

What is the RRC?

Currently under development, the RRC will define and enforce electric reliability standards, coordinate joint planning through an integrated resource planning process and ensure consistent interconnection protocols for utilities, independent power producers and others who would like to use the grid. The RRC will also work with the RCA to develop a cost sharing methodology for assets that have a regional benefit and will also study if there are effective ways for the Railbelt electric system to reduce fuel costs for ratepayers.

How will the RRC be formed?

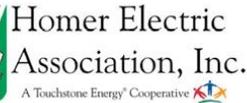
The six utilities recently signed an MOU that lays out a basic structure for the RRC and indicates steps to form an Implementation Committee (IC) responsible for developing the foundational documents and setting up the organization. The MOU can be found on the RRC webpage (www.alaskapower.org/rrc/)

What is the scope of the RRC Implementation Committee?

As indicated in the MOU, the 12-member RRC IC shall be established as outlined in Section 8 of the MOU and shall constitute the initial RRC board of directors. The IC will adopt a formal RRC Business Plan (Plan). The Plan will include the RRC Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Policies, and Procedures, Codes of Conduct and other control documents necessary to establish the RRC. The MOU outlines RRC functions as identified in Section 5 and other items necessary to realize those benefits, including regulatory oversight, the scope of responsibility and authority, governance structure, and funding, which will be key components of the Plan. Per the MOU, the process to set up the Implementation Committee is being completed by the Organizational Development Team (ODT) comprised of one representative from each utility.

Who will comprise the RRC Implementation Committee?

As in similar structures that exist throughout the Lower 48, the RRC will be governed by a mix of utility and non-utility stakeholders. The Implementation Committee will mirror this makeup. In addition to the six utility seats, the IC will include six non-utility voting seats. Further definition of these categories can be found in the application on the RRC webpage (www.alaskapower.org/rrc/).



Those seats are:

- **The Alaska Energy Authority (AEA)** – This is designated by AEA with no applications accepted.
- **Two independent power producers (IPP’s)** – Any organization currently operating on the Railbelt system may apply. After qualifications are confirmed, the applications will be conveyed to the Alaska Independent Power Producers Association (AIPPA) to select the two representatives within 30 days of conveyance.
- **One stakeholder from a group that represents the interests of Railbelt consumers** - This seat is referred to as the ‘consumer advocacy seat’ in the MOU and will be selected by a subcommittee of the currently existing IC members, including one utility appointee, two IPP appointees and the AEA representative.
- **Two independent, unaffiliated members** – As indicated in the MOU, these are members with knowledge of utility operations and planning functions, but not associated with any Railbelt electricity-producing or delivering entity. These two seats will be selected by the consumer advocacy appointee, one IPP appointee and the AEA representative.
- In addition, the RCA and the state agency for Regulatory Affairs and Public Advocacy (RAPA) will each appoint a member to fill an ex-officio, non-voting seat. No applications will be accepted for these seats.

On what criteria will applications be judged?

As noted in the MOU, the non-affiliated and consumer advocacy members shall be selected based on the following criteria:

1. The individual or entity’s relationship to the Alaska Railbelt generation and transmission system
2. The individual or entity’s knowledge of, and experience with, the issues surrounding the operation of the Railbelt generation and transmission system
3. Other expertise or involvement the individual or entity may bring to the IC including involvement in the process to form the RRC
4. Preference will be given to Alaska residents and entities
5. In the appointment of the non-affiliated and consumer advocacy members, the selection committees shall consider the regional composition of the non-utility membership of the IC (excluding AEA, RAPA and the RCA), and shall strive for representation from throughout the Railbelt. Preference may be given to qualified candidates in an effort to achieve this regional representation. The regions to be considered are the Interior, the Matsu /Anchorage area, and the Kenai Peninsula.

What if I don’t agree with the selection decision?

As provided in the MOU, if an individual or entity that nominates itself to be on the RRC IC is not chosen, it may request that the IC, acting as one body, write a letter to the RCA laying out the reasons that the entity was not chosen. The letter shall be signed by those members then on the IC.



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What are the next steps in forming the Implementation Committee?

Based on the timeline established in the MOU, it is anticipated the Implementation Committee will be formed by May 2020 with the goal of completing their work by December 2020. Other key dates include (represented are 'no later than' dates):

- January 2-Feb 1 – Thirty-day public notice for applications to fill the non-utility seats
- January 17 – Utility, AEA, RCA and RAPA delegates named
- February 17 – All other non-utility applications due (one day added due to the 15-day post-notice window falling on a weekend)
- March 20 – IPP seats selected by Alaska Independent Power Producer Association
- March 25 (est.) – Firm retained to conduct review of applications
- May 11 – Consumer advocacy seat selected
- May 15 – Independent, unaffiliated seats selected
- May 30 – Implementation Committee Kick off

How do I turn in an application?

Applications will be accepted by the Alaska Power Association on behalf of the ODT and should be sent to rrc@alaskapower.org.

When are applications due?

Applications are due no later than 5pm Monday, February 17.

What utilities are involved?

The signatory utilities include Anchorage Municipal Light and Power (ML&P) and Chugach Electric Association (CEA) serving the Anchorage area; Golden Valley Electric Association (GVEA) in Fairbanks serving the Interior; Homer Electric Association (HEA) serving the majority of the Kenai Peninsula; Matanuska Electric Association (MEA) serving the Mat-Su Valley and Eagle River; and Seward Electric, a municipally-owned utility serving the Seward area.