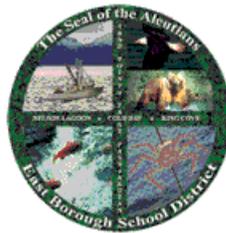
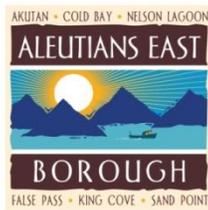


Special Edition

In the Loop



EASTERN ALEUTIAN TRIBES
Working Together to Promote Healthy Communities

Bringing the Aleutians East Borough, the AEB School District and Eastern Aleutian Tribes together by sharing common goals.

Akutan's Geothermal Exploration Paying Off

By Ray Mann, RMA Consulting Group; Akutan Geothermal Program Manager

The City of Akutan is in hot water, but that's a good thing. The first of two geothermal energy exploration wells has produced water in excess of 360 degrees Fahrenheit. According to the project's geotechnical team, the early results point to a geothermal resource that could put Akutan on the fast track for developing Alaska's first large-scale geothermal power system.



The first of two geothermal energy exploration wells in Akutan has produced water in excess of 360 degrees Fahrenheit. Photo by David Griggs.



If all goes as planned, geothermal energy should eliminate most or all of the need for heating fuel on the island. Photo by Amanda Kolker.

“The community has decided that renewable energy is our future,” said Akutan Mayor Joe Bereskin. “The results from our first test well make me optimistic that the future will be here sooner, rather than later,” he added.

Akutan is a volcanic island 730 miles west of Anchorage in the center of the Bering Sea fishery. The City hosts North America’s largest seafood plant, owned by Trident Seafoods. The plant processes more than three million pounds of fish products per day, making Akutan the second-largest fishing port in the United States, based on pounds delivered.

With existing demand, the addition of a new harbor, a project to build a new airport and marine link and other capital improvements, power demand could easily top ten megawatts during the next several years. The solution is clean, renewable geothermal energy. Geothermal energy should also be able to eliminate most or all of the need for heating fuel on the island. With this and other planned projects such as geothermal greenhouses, Akutan could well become the first fossil-fuel-free village in Alaska.



The next step is to use the results of exploratory drilling to complete a preliminary design of the system and cost estimates that can be presented to investors. Photo by Amanda Kolker.

Project Manager Amanda Kolker says crews have been drilling for geothermal energy since mid-July, 2010.

“The Akutan geothermal resource is very hot at exceptionally shallow depths,” Kolker explained. “This, in addition to the remoteness of Akutan Island, has made the drilling program logistically challenging. But it is worth it. The results have already exceeded our expectations. Before

drilling commenced, we could only speculate about the resource. All evidence pointed towards a high-quality and relatively accessible geothermal resource within several miles of the village, but now we have proof. We are very encouraged by the results so far,” she said.

The next step is to use the results of exploratory drilling to complete a preliminary design of the system and cost estimates that can be presented to investors. If all goes well, Akutan’s dependence on diesel fuel for power and heating could become a thing of the past in as little as two years.

Assistant Secretary of Interior Visits King Cove



Tom Strickland, Assistant Secretary of the Department of the Interior, visited King Cove on August 7, 2010, to get a first-hand look at the transportation access problems facing this remote Alaskan community. Currently, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is conducting an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) focusing on a land exchange and proposed road leading from King Cove through the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge to the Cold Bay airport. The road would provide safe and reliable transportation to the

airport and the outside world for health and quality-of-life reasons. After the EIS is completed, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar will determine whether the proposed road and land exchange are in the public interest.

“We are so happy that Mr. Strickland took the time to visit our community,” said King Cove Mayor Henry Mack. “It’s critical for the Interior Secretary to understand how difficult travel to and from King Cove can be during severe and unpredictable weather. The King Cove residents deserve safe and dependable transportation, just like other Americans.”

Mr. Strickland was accompanied by Assistant Regional Director Gary Edwards; Melissa Koenigsberg, Assistant to Tom Strickland; Izembek National Wildlife Refuge Manager Nancy Hoffman and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Pilot Kevin Fox. King Cove Mayor Henry Mack, Aleutians East Borough Mayor Stanley Mack, Agdaagux Tribe of King Cove President Etta Kuzakin and Della Trumble, representing the King Cove Corporation/Agdaagux Tribe of King Cove, met Mr. Strickland’s plane and gave the party a tour.

Local and traveling dignitaries went from the airport to the hovercraft site to visit and become familiar with the hovercraft. The party then went directly to town for a tour of the King Cove Clinic. During the ride to the Clinic, visibility was poor and the tour participants were unable to see the bay or mountains, the harbor or the town until they were within 200 feet.

Marilyn Mack guided the visitors through the Clinic. A stop at the King Cove School was precluded when the pilot checked the weather and determined it was best to go back to the airport. As tour participants left the Clinic, the visibility improved somewhat, providing a better view of the community. The group stopped by the City of King Cove office, hurriedly filled plates of food, drove to the airport and flew to Cold Bay.



As part of the visit to King Cove, local and traveling dignitaries went to the hovercraft site. Photo by Della Trumble.

Local officials had originally planned a get together with elders and community officials at 6:00 p.m. That meeting went as planned with members of the community but without the guests.



Local and visiting dignitaries pose for a photo. From left to right are: Melissa Koenigsberg, Assistant to Tom Strickland; Gary Edwards, Assistant Regional Director Alaska; Della Trumble, representing the King Cove Corporation and the Agdaagux Tribe, Tom Strickland, Assistant Secretary of the Interior, Kevin Fox, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Pilot; King Cove Mayor Henry Mack and Aleutians East Borough Mayor

“We are thankful that the Assistant Secretary was able to visit our community even though the weather was not cooperative,” said Della Trumble, who represented the King Cove Corporation and the Agdaagux Tribe of King Cove.

“This visit will provide the Interior Secretary with a better understanding of the significance of the proposed road corridor from King Cove to Cold Bay,” said Aleutians East Borough Mayor Stanley Mack. “The small (206-acre) road corridor would be a life-saving transportation link for our residents. And it would give the federal government an unprecedented amount of land (61,000 acres) in return.”

“Members of this community thank the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for this

much-appreciated visit,” Trumble added.



**2010 Eddie Mack Sr.,
Memorial Scholarship Fundraiser**

King Cove

Polka Party

Last Hook Off Bar

August 20, 2010

Featuring Marge Ford

9:00 to Closing

\$3.00 per person or \$5.00 per couple

EMSF DINNER

Old King Cove Elementary School

August 21, 2010

4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

\$10 Adults Per Plate Charge

Children \$5 per plate

RAFFLES

All tickets purchased for raffles are used in both drawings.

You do not need be present to win.

DOOR PRIZES

You Must Be Present To Win.

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