2026 Rural Energy Conference Agenda

Monday, October 26, 2026	
8:30am-4:30pm	**Pre-Conference Workshop – Cybersecurity for Rural Communities (ACEP, NLR, NRECA) – Minto Room** *Designed for operators of small Alaskan energy utilities and state stakeholders, this interactive REC Pre-Event Cybersecurity Workshop (Facilitated by the Alaska Center for Energy and Power (ACEP)) covers critical cyber management and incident response tailored specifically to Alaska's unique microgrid environments. The morning session, hosted by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), focuses on key cyber goals, followed by an afternoon Small Utility Cyber Tabletop Exercise led by the National Lab of the Rockies (NLR)*
Noon-1:00pm	**Lunch on your own**
1:00-5:00pm	**Pre-Conference Workshop - Energy Project Development – ANTHC – Gold Ballroom West** *Designed for rural community leaders, utility staff, and others working to advance rural energy projects, this interactive pre-conference workshop—organized by the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC)—will guide participants through the energy project development process. The workshop will cover energy planning and project identification, stakeholder and partner engagement, feasibility studies, funding opportunities, and grant writing, providing practical tools to help communities move promising energy ideas toward implementation.*
6:30pm	**Energy Affordability and Community Resilience Video Screening – The Morris Thompson Cultural Center, 101 Dunkel Street** *Organized by Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition, Native Movement, The Alaska Center, Renewable Energy Alaska Project, and the Public Interest Research Group*
Tuesday, October 27, 2026	
7:30 am	**Breakfast – Gold Ballroom**
8:00-8:15 am	**Welcome to the 2026 Rural Energy Conference – Gold Ballroom**
8:15 am	**Keynote Remarks from U.S. Department of Energy Deputy Under Secretary and Acting Director of the Office of Arctic Energy Mike Kopp**

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8:30-9:45 am	**Plenary: Global Conflict, Local Consequences: Fuel Crisis in Rural Alaska – Gold Ballroom** *Rural Alaska communities are already facing towering fuel prices—and global instability, including conflict in the Middle East, pushing costs even higher. This plenary will examine how global fuel markets intersect with Alaska's unique supply chains, what these price shocks mean for communities on the ground, and how utilities, policymakers, and leaders are responding to an increasingly volatile and uncertain future.* *Moderated by **Nils Andreassen,** Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League* • **Sandra Moller,** Director, Division of Community & Regional Affairs • **Tom Atkinson,** CEO/President, Alaska Village Electric Co-Op • **Craig McConnell,** President, Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly • **Mike Poston,** Director of Sales, Vitus
9:45-11:00 am	**Plenary: Aggregation Strategies for More Financially Sustainable Rural Energy Programs – Gold Ballroom** *Small, isolated systems face inherent cost challenges—but aggregation offers a path toward greater financial sustainability. This session will explore how utilities and regions are leveraging scale through fuel purchasing, shared services, and coordinated planning, with insights from recent aggregation studies and real-world examples.* *Moderated by **Katie Conway,** Executive Director, Atautchikun* • **Natalie Kiley-Bergen,** Utility Collaborative Manager, Lake & Peninsula Borough • **Leah Olsen,** Senior Consultant, DeerStone Consulting • **Eddie Dellamary,** Rural Energy Manager, Tanana Chiefs Conference • **Shelly Wade,** Principal::Co-Owner, Agnew::Beck
11:00-11:30 am	**BREAK**
11:30-11:45 am	**Plenary: Keynote Remarks from the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Indian Energy – Director Eric Mahroum – Gold Ballroom**
11:45-1:00 pm	**Lunch Plenary – After Halong: Lessons Learned About Building Resilient Energy Systems – Gold Ballroom** *The impacts of Typhoon Halong exposed critical vulnerabilities—and certain strengths—in Alaska's rural energy systems. This plenary will bring together operators, engineers, and public sector leaders to reflect on what happened during and after the storm, what worked, and what didn't. Through firsthand experiences, panelists will share practical lessons on how to design, operate, and prepare energy systems to better withstand future disruptions.* *Moderated by **Jocelyn Fenton**, Director of Programs, Denali Commission* • **Chris McConnell,** Director of Rural & Renewable Energy Programs, Alaska Energy Authority

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	• **Darren Westby,** Manager of Engineering, Alaska Village Electric Co-Op • **Vanessa Raymond,** Deputy Director of Strategic Initiatives, Alaska Center for Energy & Power • **Carl Andrew,** General Manager, TCSA Electrical Services		
1:00-1:30 pm	**BREAK**		
	Operating and Securing Durable Energy Systems for the Long Term	**Financial Sustainability in a Leaner Funding Era**	**Smarter Systems Through Innovation, Technologies, Planning, and Aggregation**
1:30-2:45 pm	**Supply Chains and Logistics: Keeping Systems Running Off the Road System – Gold Ballroom East** *This session will explore how utilities manage spare parts, fuel, and critical supplies in remote Alaska--highlighting logistics, strategies, risk mitigation, and lessons learned from disruptions.* *Moderated by **Wanetta Ayers**, Executive Director, Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference* • **Luke Rubalcava,** Rural Practice Lead, RESPEC • **Gary Hennigh,** Administrator, City of King Cove • **Chelsea Bramble,** Shareholder Affairs Manager, Ounalashka Corporation	**World Cafe on Federal and State Funding and Technical Assistance Opportunities – Gold Ballroom West** *This interactive World Café session will connect attendees directly with representatives from key federal and state funding agencies and TA providers, allowing participants to explore available opportunities, ask questions, and better understand which programs are the right fit for their community, utility, or project.* *Moderated by **Jocelyn Fenton**, Director of Programs, Denali Commission* • **Nathan Kelly,** General Engineer & Technical Assistance Specialist, Department of Energy's Office of Indian Energy • **Lucas Greza,** SLTT Portfolio Manager - Grid Resilience Grants Program, National Energy Technology	**Scaling Efficiency: Weatherization, Efficient Buildings, and the Future of Housing in Rural Alaska – Minto Room** *Energy efficiency and weatherization are among the most effective ways to reduce energy costs in rural Alaska. This session will explore how communities are moving beyond one-off retrofits toward more coordinated approaches that integrate weatherization, efficient building design, and new models for delivering housing improvements at scale.* *Moderated by **Dominique Pride**, Deputy Director for Research, Alaska Center for Energy & Power-UAF* • **Patrick Kim,** Energy Specialist I, Alaska Housing Finance Corporation • **Conor Dennehy,** Research Engineer, National Laboratory of the Rockies • **Paul Rasmussen,** Executive Director, Cold Climate Housing Research Center • **Kaarle Strailey,** Ph.D. Student,

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		Laboratory • **Anne E. Corrigan,** Researcher, National Laboratory of the Rockies • **Melanie Lucas-Conwell,** Director, Alaska Sustainable Energy Corporation • **Dr. Sarah Troise, Ph.D.** Community Energy Systems Researcher, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory • **Misty Hull,** Business Program Specialist, USDA Rural Development	Interdisciplinary Studies, Alaska Center for Energy & Power • **Ren Scott,** Program Coordinator, Alaska Municipal League

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2:45-3:15pm	**BREAK**		
3:15-4:30pm	**Health, Safety, and Environmental Stewardship in Rural Energy Operations – Gold Ballroom East** *Operating energy infrastructure in rural Alaska requires more than keeping the lights on—it requires protecting workers, communities, and the environment. This session will explore the unique health, safety, and environmental (HSE) challenges facing rural utilities, from workplace hazards and operator burnout to environmental compliance and risk management. Panelists will share practical strategies for building a strong safety culture, navigating regulatory requirements, and ensuring long-term operational resilience.* *Moderated by **Mari Selle**, Executive Director, Alaska Workforce Alliance* • **Zach Vifquain,** Safety Officer, Alaska Village Electric Co-Op • **Kumiko Helming,** President, MBS, LLC • **Naomi DuCharme,** Founder, Principal Consultant, Integrating Wellness Solutions • **LT Brett T. Woodward,** Waterways Management & Facilities Division Chief, USCG Sector Western Alaska & US Arctic	**Putting Extra Power to Work: Managing and Monetizing Surplus Renewable Energy – Gold Ballroom West** *As more renewable energy comes online in rural systems, communities are beginning to face a new challenge—and opportunity: what to do with excess generation. This session will explore emerging approaches to monetizing or productively using surplus renewable energy and how these strategies can strengthen utility revenue and overall system economics.* *Moderated by **Jason Custer,** VP of Corporate Development, Alaska Power & Telephone* • **Cameron Dolan,** Research Engineer, Alaska Center for Energy & Power • **Peter Sun,** Electrical Engineer, EIT, Kotzebue Electric Association • **Sam Enoka,** CEO & Founder, Greensparc	**Heat Pumps in Alaska: From Pilot to Practice – Minto Room** *Heat pumps have gained significant traction in Alaska over the past few years—but what's actually working on the ground? This session will explore real-world deployment experiences, programmatic support, workforce development, and the current limits and opportunities for scaling heat pump adoption in rural and cold-climate communities.* *Moderated by **Tom Marsik**, Professor, UAF/NLR* • **Andy Romanoff,** Executive Director, Alaska Heat Smart • **Ingemar Mathiasson,** Energy Manager, Northwest Arctic Borough • **Jamie Hansen,** Principal Consultant & CEO, Information Insights • **Brandon Shaw,** CEO/General Manager, Inside Passage Electric Cooperative
5:00pm	**Reception – Sponsored by the Alaska Center for Energy and Power** Fountainhead Antique Auto Museum 3225 Airport Way, Fairbanks, AK, 99709		

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Wednesday, October 28, 2026			
7:30 am	**Breakfast - Gold Ballroom East**	**Microgrid Morning Coffee Chat – Gold Ballroom West**	**Energyshed Cohort Meeting** *(by invitation only)* – **Harper Board Room**
	Operating and Securing Durable Energy Systems for the Long Term	**Financial Sustainability in a Leaner Funding Era**	**Smarter Systems Through Innovation, Technologies, Planning, and Aggregation**
8:30-9:45 am	**Bulk Fuel Systems: Operations, Maintenance, and Risk Management – Gold Ballroom East** *Bulk fuel infrastructure is critical to rural energy systems. This session covers best practices for tank maintenance, leak prevention, regulatory compliance, and managing aging infrastructure in remote environments.* *Moderated by* ***Katie Conway,*** *Executive Director, Atautchikun* • **Lynn Kenealy,** LGA/Ruba Manager, Alaska Department of Community & Regional Affairs • **Olivia Pfeifer,** Project Manager, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium • **Leon Nayokpuk,** Field Tech, Alaska Village Electric Co-Op • **Shelly Wade,** Principal::Co-Owner, Agnew::Beck	**World Cafe on Loans, Tax Credits, and Project Finance - Gold Ballroom West** *As grant funding becomes more competitive and often insufficient on its own, communities are increasingly turning to loans, tax credits, and other financing tools to move projects forward. This interactive World Café session will connect attendees directly with lenders, financing experts, tax credit specialists, and project developers to explore how energy projects are funded in practice. Participants will rotate among facilitated discussion tables focused on project finance, debt, tax incentives, and real-world examples of assembling successful capital stacks.* *Moderated by* ***Shaina Kilcoyne,*** *Clean Energy Program Director, Alaska Venture Fund*	**Designing the Future Grid: Modeling Tools for Rural Alaska – Minto Room** *As rural energy systems become more complex, modeling tools are playing an increasingly important role in planning, designing, and operating hybrid energy systems. This session will explore the modeling ecosystem used across Alaska—from tools like HOMER, REopt, MiGRIDS Lite, and dispatch models to advanced platforms such as ARIES—and discuss how these tools are being applied to support renewable integration, diesel-off operations, storage deployment, and long-term energy planning. Panelists will examine both the strengths and limitations of modeling, share lessons learned from comparing modeled and actual performance, and demonstrate how modeling can improve decision-making for communities and utilities.* *Moderated by* ***David Martinez-Biro,*** *Project Manager, National Laboratory of the Rockies* • **Mariko Shirazi,** Research Professor, Alaska Center for Energy & Power, UAF • **Tessa Greco,** Project & Portfolio Manager • **Max Donaldson,** Electrical Engineer, Electric Power Systems

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		• **Adam Zimmerman,** Lending & Tongass Energy Bank Director, Spruce Root, Inc. • **Trisha Sullivan,** Local Government Specialist 4, Division of Community & Regional Affairs • **Rob Browning,** Partner, Quarles & Brady • **Kevin De Michlis,** Project Engineer, DEC State Revolving Fund • **Maggie Lenhart,** Resilience Coordinator, Alaska Municipal League	• **Nick Goodman,** Managing Director, Alpine Energy Group
9:45-10:00am	**Break**		
10:00-11:15 am	**Keeping the Grid Together: Maintaining Rural Distribution Systems – Gold Ballroom East** *Rural distribution systems face unique challenges—from aging infrastructure and extreme weather to vegetation, permafrost, and limited maintenance capacity. This session will focus on practical strategies for inspection, maintenance, and upgrading distribution systems to improve reliability and reduce outages in remote communities.* *Moderated by **Mike Rovito,** Deputy Director/Lobbyist, Alaska Power*	**Making IPPs Work: Financial Sustainability, PPAs, and Long-Term Operations – Gold Ballroom West** *Independent Power Producers (IPPs) are playing a growing role in rural Alaska energy projects, but long-term success depends on more than getting a project built. This session will explore how IPP projects are structured to remain financially viable over time, including Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs), business*	**From Idea to Implementation: Planning and Scaling Community Energy Solutions – Minto Room** *Moving a promising energy idea from concept to real-world impact requires more than technology—it requires thoughtful planning, strong partnerships, community alignment, and a pathway to deployment. This session will explore how communities can identify energy opportunities, design projects that fit local needs and existing systems, and navigate the journey from pilot projects and innovative concepts to fully implemented solutions. Panelists will discuss how innovation, planning, funding, and cross-sector partnerships can work together to create projects that are both practical and transformative.*

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	Association • **Erik Williams,** CEO & Founder, beadedcloud • **Elijah Jackson,** Mayor, City of Ouzinkie • **Dustin Ketzler,** Lineman Instructor, Alaska Joint Electrical Apprenticeship & Training Trust • **Cory Bassett,** Business Representative, IBEW Local 1547	*planning, and managing operating costs in small, high-cost systems. Moderated by **Dominique Pride,** Deputy Director for Research, Alaska Center for Energy & Power-UAF* • **Kate Modler,** Project Manager, DeerStone Consulting • **Tyler Kornelis,** Economic Development & Environmental Programs Manager, Kodiak Area Native Association • **Chad Nordlum,** Energy Project Manager, Native Village of Kotzebue	*Moderated by **Bruno Grunau,** Regional Director, National Laboratory of the Rockies* • **Tim Kalke,** General Manger, Sustainable Energy for Galena Alaska • **Kelsey Galleher,** Pilgrim Hot Springs General Manager, Kawerak, Inc./Unaatuq, LLC • **Ben Power,** CEO, Solvest Inc. • **Anna Sattler,** Associate Director of Alaska Native Affairs, Alliance for Tribal Clean Energy
11:15-11:45am	**Break**		
11:45am to noon	**Special Remarks – Gold Ballroom**		
Noon to 1:00 pm	**Lunch Plenary: The Future of Renewable Energy in Alaska – Gold Ballroom** *This plenary will explore the current state of renewable energy in Alaska, highlighting emerging opportunities, successful projects, and the technologies shaping the next generation of energy systems—from wind, solar, hydro, battery storage, and geothermal to innovative hybrid applications. Panelists will discuss where the industry is headed, what projects are advancing today, and how communities can position themselves to take advantage of future opportunities in an evolving energy landscape.* *Moderated by **Cady Lister**, Executive Director, Renewable Energy Alaska Project* • **Brian Hirsch,** CEO/Co-Owner, DeerStone Consulting • **Gwen Holdmann,** Chief Scientist, Alaska Center for Energy & Power • **Olivia Pfeifer,** Project Manager, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium		

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1:00-1:30 pm	**Break**			
	Operating and Securing Durable Energy Systems for the Long Term	**Financial Sustainability in a Leaner Funding Era**	**Smarter Systems Through Innovation, Technologies, Planning, and Aggregation**	
1:30-2:45 pm	**Diesel Plant Operations: Best Practices for Reliability and Longevity – Gold Ballroom East** *Even as renewables expand, diesel remains the backbone of many systems. Amid high fuel prices, this session covers practical guidance for efficient operations, preventative maintenance, and extending asset life.* *Moderated by **Chris McConnell,** Director of Rural & Renewable Energy Programs, Alaska Energy Authority* • **Justin Tuomi**, Rural Assistance Manager, Alaska Energy Authority • **John W. Penney,** Power Plant Operator Trainer, Alaska Village Electric Co-Op • **Brandon Shaw,** CEO/General Manager, Inside Passage Electric Cooperative • **Michael Kass,** Research Engineer, Oak Ridge National Laboratory	**Managing Funding: Delivering Energy Projects with Limited Resources – Gold Ballroom West** *With funding constraints becoming the norm, how can communities and utilities successfully deliver projects with the resources they have? This interactive session will feature facilitated table discussions focused on practical strategies for prioritization, phasing, and creative financing.* • **Facilitated by the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium's Rural Energy Staff**	**Seeing the System: Using Data, Drones, and Digital Tools to Transform Energy Planning and Operations – Minto Room** *New tools—from drones and remote imaging to digital twins and integrated data platforms—are changing how energy systems are monitored, understood, and managed. This session will explore how these technologies are being used in Alaska today, what insights they unlock, and how they can support better planning, maintenance, and decision-making across rural energy systems.* *Moderated by **Dayne Broderson,** Senior Technologist & Strategic Advisor, Alaska Center for Energy & Power* • **Matt Gutacker**, Alaska Remote Imaging	**Alaska Rural EVSE Deployment (ARED) Working Session - Harper Board Room** *(by invitation only)* **Taylor Asher,** Community Energy Manager, Alaska Municipal League **Britta Hamre,** Senior Transportation & Land Use Manager/Senior Planner, Alaska Municipal League

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			• **Ottar Mobley**, Chief Deployment Officer, Launch Alaska • **Ally Acquaviva**, Researcher, National Laboratory of the Rockies • **Alex Hutcheson**, GIS Solutions Engineer, Michael Baker International	
2:45-3:15 pm	**Break**			
3:15-4:30 pm	**Plenary: Building the Rural Energy Workforce: Leadership, Training, and the Next Generation – Gold Ballroom** *The success of Alaska's rural energy systems ultimately depends on people. This plenary will explore the workforce challenges and opportunities facing communities and utilities across the state—from leadership development and technical training to housing, retention, and succession planning. Panelists will share perspectives on building local capacity, supporting energy champions, and creating the networks, career pathways, and workforce strategies needed to sustain rural energy systems for the long term.* *Moderated by **Annalise Klein Gerlach,** Program Architect, Alaska Center for Energy & Power* • **Jenny Starrs,** Program Manager, Renewable Energy Alaska Project • **Cory Ortiz, Ph.D.,** Director, Alaska Vocational Technical Center • **Tashonia Martin,** Community Energy Planning Coordinator, Sustainable Energy for Galena Alaska • **Gabe Low,** Founder & CEO, Remote Hands			
4:30-5:00 pm	**Break**		**Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Working Session** *(by invitation only)* **Taylor Asher,** Community Energy Manager, Alaska Municipal League **Chena Board Room**	
5:00–7:00 pm	**Reception: Insights from Energy Professionals in Alaska – 250 Cushman St. #4H** *Hear from and talk with leading women in the energy industry at this evening reception with light refreshments and networking sponsored by Information Insights and WRISE Alaska.*			

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Thursday, October 29, 2026			
7:30 am	**Breakfast – Gold Ballroom East**		
8:00-8:45 am	**Plenary: Regional Energy Planning in Action: What's Working and What's Next? – Gold Ballroom East** *Across Alaska, regional energy planning efforts are gaining momentum as communities look to coordinate resources, align priorities, and pursue shared solutions. This session will bring together leaders from several regional initiatives to discuss their approaches, what has worked well, and where there are still gaps or opportunities for improvement.* *Moderated by **Jeremy Kasper**, Director, Alaska Center for Energy & Power* • **David Martinez Biro,** Project Manager, National Laboratory of the Rockies • **Robert Venables,** Executive Director, Southeast Conference • **Amanda Toerdal,** Community Planning & Development-Program Director, Kawerak		
8:45-9:00 am	**Break**		
	Operating and Securing Durable Energy Systems for the Long Term	**Financial Sustainability in a Leaner Funding Era**	**Smarter Systems Through Innovation, Technologies, Planning, and Aggregation**
9:00-10:15 am	**Battery Energy Storage Systems in Rural Alaska: Design, Operations, and Safety – Gold Ballroom East** *Battery energy storage systems are playing an increasingly important role in rural Alaska—but success depends on getting both the design and the operations right. This session will explore the full lifecycle of BESS projects, from system sizing and technology selection to real-world deployment, performance, and safety, highlighting lessons learned from communities and utilities across the state.* *Moderated by **Bill Thomson,** Senior Electrical Engineer Emeritus, Alaska Village Electric Cooperative*	**Getting Rates Right: Cost-of-Service Rate Design and Optimizing PCE – Gold Ballroom West** *Setting rates that accurately reflect the true cost of service is essential for the financial sustainability of rural utilities—but it's often challenging in small systems with limited data and administrative capacity. This session will explore practical approaches to cost-of-service rate design and how utilities can align rates with PCE structures to improve cost recovery while maintaining affordability for customers.*	**Wood Energy in Alaska: Practical Pathways, Real Projects, and Where it Works – Minto Room** *Wood energy has long been discussed as a local, renewable alternative to diesel—but where does it actually work in Alaska today? This session will explore the current state of biomass energy across the state, including pellet production, district heating systems, and community-scale projects. Panelists will share real-world experiences, lessons learned, and the practical considerations—fuel supply, economics, operations, and public perception—that determine whether wood energy is a viable solution for rural communities.*

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	• **Darren Johnston**, CEO, Kronus Engineering • **Chris Cronick**, Engineer IV and Project Manager, DeerStone Consulting • **Bailey Gamble,** Power Systems Engineer, Alaska Village Electric Co-Op • **Aimie Survant,** Electrical Engineer, Alaska Village Electric Co-Op • **Peter Sun**, Electrical Engineer, EIT, Kotzebue Electric Association	*Moderated by **Connie Fredenberg,** Retired Consultant, Utility Management Assistance* • **Zack Walters**, Utility Financial Analyst, Regulatory Commission of Alaska • **Terri Harper,** CEO, INN Electric Cooperative • **Steve Colt,** Research Professor of Energy Economics & Policy, Alaska Center for Energy & Power • **Natalie Kiley-Bergen**, Utility Collaborative Manager, Lake & Peninsula Borough • **Katherine Aubry,** PCE Program Manager, Alaska Energy Authority	*Moderated by **Aaron Morrison,** Natural Resources Director, Southeast Conference* • **Josh Verhagen,** Mayor, City of Nenana • **Tim Kalke,** General Manager, Sustainable Energy For Galena Alaska, Inc • **Megan Brown,** Alaska Director of Development, Ocean Renewable Power Company • **Karen Petersen,** Senior Biomass Coordinator, Southeast Conference • **Dr. Priscilla Morris,** Program Manager, Denali Commission
10:15-10:30 am	**Break**		
10:30-11:45 am	**Smart Systems: SCADA, Remote Monitoring, and Cybersecurity – Gold Ballroom East** *How remote monitoring and control systems are transforming rural utility operations, including benefits, limitations, and emerging cybersecurity risks.* *Moderated by **Dayne Broderson**, Senior Technologist & Strategic Advisor, Alaska Center for Energy & Power* • **Matt Curfman,** Director of Software, Structure	**Planning for the Long Haul: O&M Business Planning for Rural Utilities – Gold Ballroom West** *Strong operations and maintenance don't happen by accident—they require intentional business planning. This session will focus on how utilities can build realistic O&M budgets, plan for bulk fuel system operations, and establish reserve accounts for major repairs and replacements, while strengthening core administrative*	**Engaging the Demand Side: Partnering with Communities to Shape Energy Use – Minto Room** *As rural energy systems evolve, customers are becoming active participants in how energy is used and managed. This session will explore how utilities can work with communities and large energy users to implement demand-side strategies—from controllable loads to distributed heating—while building trust and aligning system needs with customer priorities.*

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	• **Halle Evans,** Energy Innovator Fellow, Alaska Village Electric Co-Op • **John Venables,** Electrical Engineer, Electric Power Systems • **Tyler Wyka,** ORISE Fellow, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium	*functions like billing, tracking, and financial management.* *Moderated by **Erin Reinders**, Deputy Director, Alaska Municipal League* • **Trisha Sullivan,** Local Government Specialist 4, Division of Community & Regional Affairs • **Brennan Hickok,** Director of Operations, Alaska Public Risk Alliance • **Devany Plentovich,** Senior Consultant, DeerStone Consulting • **Maggie McKay,** Manager, Tanalian Electric Cooperative, Inc.	*Moderated by **Michelle Wilber,** Research Engineer, Alaska Center for Energy & Power* • **Bailey Gamble,** Power Systems Engineer, Alaska Village Electric Co-Op • **Dennis Meiners**, Owner, Intelligent Energy Systems • **Jacob Pomeranz,** Electrical Engineer, Electric Power Systems • **Colleen Fisk,** Education Director, Renewable Energy Alaska Project
1145am-Noon	**Break**		
Noon-1:00 pm	**Closing Lunch Plenary: Gubernatorial Candidates Panel – Gold Ballroom East** *Candidates share their priorities, policy approaches, and commitments for addressing the unique energy challenges facing rural Alaska.* *Moderated by **Robert Venables**, Executive Director, Southeast Conference and **Nils Andreassen**, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League* • **Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins** • **Treg Taylor** • **Dave Bronson** *(invited)* • **Bernadette Wilson** *(unavailable)*		
1:00-1:30pm	**Adjourn and Break**		
Post-Conference Work Sessions			

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1:30-5:00pm	**Community Microgrid Assistance Partnership (C-MAP) *(invitation only)* – Gold Ballroom East** *Designed for participants in the Department of Energy's, Office of Electricity funded Community Microgrid Assistance Partnership (C-MAP), this post-conference workshop will bring together community awardees and partner organizations to share program progress, discuss opportunities for collaboration, and exchange practical lessons and insights related to community microgrids.*	**Utility Rate Design and PCE Reporting – Gold Ballroom West** *Designed for rural electric utility staff, this post-conference workshop—organized by the Renewable Energy Alaska Project (REAP) through its People in Power training program—will introduce practical tools and resources for rate-setting, financial sustainability, and long-term utility operations and maintenance. Participants will also take part in an interactive session focused on navigating Power Cost Equalization (PCE) reporting.*	**Biomass: How to Make it Work in the North – Minto Room** *Organized by the Alaska Wood Energy Development Task Group (AWEDTG), this interactive workshop will guide participants through the full process of developing and sustaining a successful community biomass heating project—from prefeasibility, community support, and wood-supply planning through funding, design, construction, operations, and maintenance. Drawing on real-world projects and lessons from communities, operators, agencies, engineers, and vendors, the workshop will help participants understand where biomass works, avoid common and costly mistakes, and identify practical next steps for moving projects forward. The workshop will conclude with a project clinic where participants can discuss existing or potential projects with technical experts and partners.*
Post-Conference - Friday, October 30, 2026 - Offsite			
8:30am-1:30pm	**Community Microgrid Assistance Partnership (C-MAP) – *(invitation only)* – Gather Fairbanks: 714 3rd Ave** *Designed for participants in the Department of Energy's, Office of Electricity funded Community Microgrid Assistance Partnership (C-MAP), this post-conference workshop will bring together community awardees and partner organizations to share program progress, discuss opportunities for collaboration, and exchange practical lessons and insights related to community microgrids.*		
8:30am – 12pm	**BIA – Division of Energy and Mineral Development Workshop – NLR Campus**		

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	Designed for current and former grantees as well as all interested parties, this post-conference workshop will dive into BIA DEMD's efforts to support Tribes in evaluating the energy and mineral resource potential of their lands. It will be held at the NLR Alaska Campus by UAF. Please contact matthew.klick@bia.gov with questions.