

WATTS UP

May 01, 2007

Alaska Chapter NECA Newsletter

www.alaskaneca.org

Chapter Calendar

April 30

May 1

May 5

May 8

May 9

May 28

July 8

Inside Agreement Anniversary

Anchorage JATC

Cinco de Mayo

Safety Committee

Board Meeting/Membership Meeting

Memorial Day

NECA Open Golf Tournament

Tool Box Talks

May 07, 2007

May 14, 2007

May 21, 2007

May 28, 2007

First Response, Medical/Moving an Injured Person

Flame Resistant Apparel

Grounding and Shock/Hazards of Electricity

Health Hazard Recognition

MEMORIAL DAY

The Chapter office will be closed for Memorial Day Monday, May 28, 2007.

KUDOS TO.....

CELEBRATING THEIR 25TH ANNIVERSARY WITH NECA

GRASLE & ASSOCIATES INC



NECA 2007 San Francisco Website is Live

Details about the general sessions, tours and lifestyle programs are just some of the things now posted on the new NECA 2007 San Francisco Convention and Trade Show website. Start planning your trip today!

New Website Co-Sponsored by NECA

This new website sponsored by NECA and the IBEW is www.electrictv.net and is targeted to

contractors, craftworkers and customers.

Jointly funded through our National Labor-Management Cooperation Committee, Electric TV presents streaming videos formatted like segments of a televised news magazine to show online viewers how NECA contractors and their productive employees consistently surpass owner's and end-users' expectations. It also provides articles in PDF format about the electrical and information systems industries and construction in general.

The videos active on the site right now include a "sitdown" with NECA CEO John M. Grau and IBEW International President Ed Hill discussing how our industry is addressing workforce shortages.

FUTURE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS.....

August 23-26, 2007	District Six Mini-Convention/Coeur d'Alene, ID
October 5-8, 2007	NECA Convention/San Francisco, CA
December 15, 2007	Annual Meeting/Christmas Party
October 4-7, 2008	NECA Convention/Chicago, IL
September 12-15, 2009	NECA Convention/Seattle, WA

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STURDIER TOWERS RISE ALONG SUSITNA RIVER

By Rob Stapleton

Alaska Journal of Commerce March 4, 2007

The \$6 million repair of several electric transmission towers on either side of the Susitna River will soon be complete with newer sturdier structures, according to Chugach Electric officials.

"This has been one busy project," said Chugach project engineer Shawn Wendling. The project required the replacement of six towers with reinforced bases and an ice road to access the towers and transmission lines.

The towers were damaged during August flooding that caused the Susitna River to change course and divert more water through Dynamite Slough where the towers are located.

According to Wendling, piles were driven 80 feet into the ground to anchor four reinforced steel pilings that are 1-inch thick and have steel pipe 4-feet in diameter which support each leg of the towers. The towers range from 90- to 105-feet tall.

Former Gov. Frank Murkowski declared the Susitna flooding a disaster in August. The flooding also damaged roads, bridges, homes and other structures. Chugach Electric has filed for Federal Emergency Management Agency funding for the repairs.

The power lines that run between the Beluga power plant in Tyonek and Anchorage carry two 230-kilovolt lines, and a third 138-kilovolt line.

Alaska Interstate Construction built a 20-mile ice road for access to the construction area

near the mouth of the Susitna River, according to Chugach Electric Association officials.

The contractor for the Chugach Electric Association onsite is Northern Powerline Constructors Inc., which used 12 full-time employees and 15 to 20 pieces of equipment working on the replacement of the towers.

"This was a great chance for us to partner with Chugach Electric on such an exciting project," said April Hodges, president and chief executive officer of Northern Powerline Constructors. "This was a real learning experience for all of us."

The job is expected to be completed in early March before the ice and snow melt.

"We are real happy with this project, it is getting done on time and we are keeping power on," Wendling said.

Rob Stapleton can be reached at rob.stapleton@alaskajournal.com



A tower crew working for Northern Powerline Constructors Inc., which is on contract with Chugach Electric Association, works on the installation of towers on Dynamite Slough near the mouth of the Susitna River. The towers were undermined by flooding in late August.

POWER SUPPLY

Rush Job for River Crossing Results in Durable Fix

Alaska's largest electric utility and one of its newest transmission contractors replaced six towers at a river crossing where floods threatened lines carrying half of the state's power supply. The work was completed with no recordable safety incidents and 13 days ahead of schedule. The foundations of the new structures will keep them standing even if future floods leave the towers in the middle of the channel.

Reconfiguring the Susitna River crossing 30 miles from Anchorage became urgent last August, when the river flooded following heavy rains, toppling two of three 70-ft-tall aluminum towers supporting high-voltage lines owned by Chugach Electric Association Inc., Anchorage. The fallen lines were energized at 230 kV. The third line, energized at 138 kV, remained standing, but was threatened. "Our primary transmission line was operating in a somewhat compromised position," says Shawn Wendling, Chugach project engineer.

The utility saved the 138-kV structure by moving it 200 ft back from the new channel cut by floods. In late August, line crews and engineers prepared a temporary foundation using a pair of 12-ft-

long culverts imbedded vertically in the soil. Workers centered a 16-ft steel H-beam in each and then filled them with a mixture of gravel and silt that hardened to form a strong base.

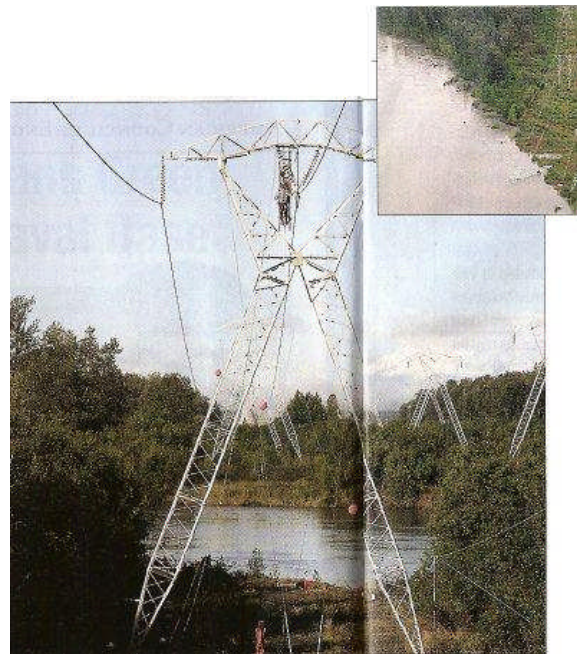
Linemen freed the two outside conductors and loosened the hardware on the center conductor. With guy wires holding the tower upright, crews jacked it up and reset it on wooden skids. In a 14-hour operation, a tracked mini-excavator pulled the tower in 4-ft increments to the new foundation.

Dryden & LaRue Inc., Anchorage, designed the foundations for the six new towers bracketing the crossing. "They were designed for the river to erode away 35 ft of existing soil," says Greg Huffman, principal. The 48-in.-diameter steel-pipe piles were driven 80 ft deep in pairs, with a pile cap consisting of a metal box 17 x 2 ft, 7 ft high.

Northern Powerline Constructors Inc., Anchorage, won the construction contract with a low bid in a field of three. That astonished Jason Hodges, who with his wife April, had founded the company in April 2006. Northern erected the steel, Y-frame replacement towers in alignment with the existing line using cranes brought in over a 20-mile-long ice road built in December. The new towers ranged from 90 to 105 ft tall, and fieldsleaving and sagging the new conductor was a delicate operation that "caused some consternation," says Hodges.

Tower supplier Thomas & Betts Corp., Memphis, helped the schedule by delivering the towers in 15 weeks instead of a normal 28 weeks, says Joe Schnippert, T&B's steel structures operations director. The final cost is about \$6 million, say Chugach officials.

By Thomas F. Armistead ENR March 26, 2007



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHUGACH ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION INC.

John Grau Blogs at NECA Transmissions

Just a reminder that NECA CEO John Grau launched his new weblog, **NECA Transmissions**, www.necatransmissions.org, earlier this month, and turned over NECA Newswire to a series of guest editors at NECA national's office. Since then, John has offered his thoughts on several topics, including the future of NECA leadership and possible changes to apprenticeship training. Get caught up on what's going on with NECA's CEO at www.necatransmissions.org.

NFPA 70E Training Going Strong

May is National Electrical Safety Month, and NFPA 70E is on the minds of many electrical contractors. A recent training program sponsored by the North Ohio Chapter, NECA, drew record crowds to hear industry experts speak on how the standard can save lives and keep job sites productive. NECA president Milner Irvin addressed 70E in his recent President's Desk column as well.