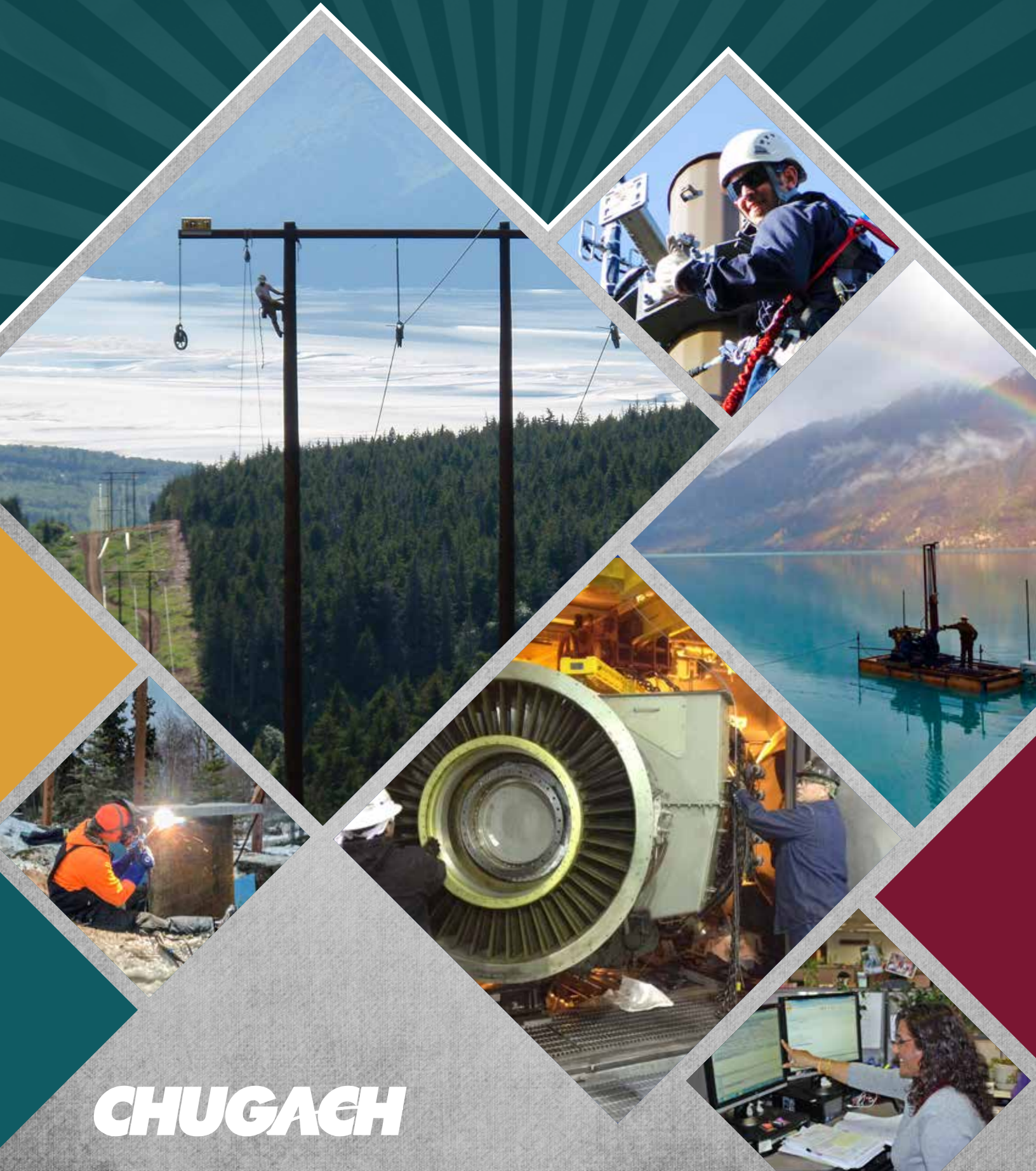


# Annual Report

2015



**CHUGACH**



# CONTENTS

## Page Section

3	Year in review
4	Chair report
5	CEO report
6	Board of directors
7	Treasurer report
8	Power sales at a glance
9	Key comparisons
10	Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

## Page Section

11	Financial statements & notes
26	Power Supply
27	Power Delivery
28	Finance & Administration
29	Member & Employee Services
30	Strategic Development & Regulatory Affairs
31	Generation resources

## CORPORATE MISSION

Through superior service, safely provide reliable and competitively priced energy.

## CORPORATE VISION

Powering Alaska's Future

## INCORPORATION

Chugach Electric Association was incorporated in Alaska, March 1, 1948, with funding under the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, as amended. In 1991, Chugach refinanced and paid off its federal debt, leaving the REA program. Chugach remains a cooperative and ranks among the largest of the more than 900 electric cooperatives in the nation.

## EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

It is a policy of Chugach Electric Association, Inc., to recruit, hire, train, promote and compensate persons without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, pregnancy, parenthood, physical or mental disability, veteran's status, age or any other classification protected by applicable federal, state or local law.

## ON THE COVER

*From top clockwise: Installing new communication equipment, sediment sampling in Cooper Lake, Member Services, engine swap at Southcentral Power Project, and stringing wire on the rebuilt 115-kilovolt transmission line.*



*Crews conducting a climbing inspection of a 3-pole angle structure on the 115-kilovolt transmission line between Girdwood and Portage.*



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In January, Chugach negotiated an interim power sales agreement with Matanuska Electric Association. The agreement, which ultimately ran through April, provided Chugach with four months of additional wholesale sales to MEA who needed extra time to complete construction of its new power plant.

In February, Chugach director Dave Gillespie accepted a job as the CEO of the Alaska Cooperative Railbelt Electric and Transmission Company. Chugach and other Railbelt electric utilities formed ARCTEC to work together on regional needs. Bruce Dougherty was subsequently appointed to serve on the Chugach board until the annual meeting.

Alaska enjoyed warmer-than-normal winter months early in the

year. While most Chugach customers use natural gas for space and water heating, electric fans and pumps circulate the heat. Although spring and fall were relatively average weather-wise, the impact of the warm first quarter, combined with mild weather in December, caused sales for the year to be slightly lower than forecasted.

After 34 years of service, Chugach retired Beluga Unit No. 8 in April. Over the decades it provided economical combined-cycle electricity, utilizing the hot exhaust of gas-fired units as fuel for steam production.

In May, Chugach and MEA entered into a new dispatch services agreement through March 2016.

The Chugach annual meeting was held May 14. Members elected Bettina Chastain and Sisi Cooper to four-year terms on the Chugach board, while Bruce Dougherty was elected to a special one-year term. A total of 184 members registered at the annual meeting. In all, 11 percent of the 68,995 members of record voted, with 39.4 percent of the ballots cast electronically.

On June 30, the Regulatory Commission of Alaska released the results of a yearlong analysis that concluded the Railbelt transmission system could be managed and operated in new ways to better serve Alaskans. The RCA felt many benefits could be achieved by creating a new organization to manage the transmission assets of the Railbelt and encouraged the utilities to voluntarily move in that direction and make periodic progress reports.

On July 25, water began to flow through the Stetson Creek

diversion project at Chugach's Cooper Lake hydroelectric facility. The diversion project was a requirement of a new 50-year license Chugach received for the hydro facility in 2007.

Throughout the summer months and beyond, work was underway on a number of construction projects. The two largest were the Hane Substation and the rebuild of a six-mile portion of Chugach's 115-kilovolt transmission line between Powerline Pass and the community of Indian.

The initial components of a new outage management system were installed in September, beginning a transition to a system with improved diagnostic, management and information-sharing features. Among other inputs, the new OMS incorporates data from the new advanced metering infrastructure, or AMI meters, that Chugach began deploying in 2015.

Chugach held its Member Appreciation Week in October in conjunction with the national recognition of cooperatives as a business model.

In November, the Power Supply Division successfully performed the first engine swap at the Southcentral Power Project. All went as planned, with the exchange completed in a matter of days, allowing the generating unit to return to production while crews scheduled maintenance on the original turbine.

At the end of December, Railbelt utilities and the American Transmission Company filed the second in a series of quarterly reports on their voluntary efforts to develop a business model for a transmission-only company to manage the regional grid. The report, like one filed at the end of September, detailed the work of multiple committees to advance the effort.



*Clockwise from top: Stetson Creek, Beluga Unit 8 retirement, 115-kv transmission rebuild and 2015 Annual Meeting*



**JANET REISER**  
*Board Chair*

The region from Homer to Fairbanks is known as the Railbelt, with retail electric service provided by six different electric utilities. The Railbelt has been in transition for several years. The expiration of wholesale power contracts, construction of new generation and ongoing transmission issues highlighted the need for change. Chugach and the other electric utilities have been seeking new business models to best serve our customers. Chugach has been a leader in those efforts.

Historically, Chugach has been a vertically integrated electric utility performing generation, transmission and distribution functions – largely with its owned assets. However, there are other business models. Chugach has been among the organizations leading the investigation of whether a Transco and a Unified System Operator (sometimes called an Independent System Operator) would be appropriate for the Railbelt.

Chugach supported a legislative grant to the Regulatory Commission of Alaska that funded an analysis of the Railbelt grid, including the advisability of an Independent System Operator. In June 2015, the RCA released a letter to leaders of the Alaska Legislature containing its report.

In the Lower 48, Independent System

Operators have been created to enable the most efficient use of transmission and generation assets. The Railbelt is considerably smaller than the typical area encompassed by a Lower 48 ISO, and while the RCA felt the ISO model may consequently be overly complex for the region, it concluded the area could still attain many of the benefits.

The RCA also felt many benefits could be achieved by creating a new organization to manage the transmission assets of the Railbelt. Those benefits include the ability to plan, finance, construct and operate transmission. A grid less-restricted and more-capable of moving power across the area would help shift the Railbelt toward the goal of “economic dispatch” where the most-efficient generating units across the system are used to meet demand. Studies have shown practicing economic dispatch would save Railbelt customers millions of dollars annually.

Since the release of the RCA report, Chugach has been actively working with other organizations to develop a business model for a Railbelt Transco and a proposal for a Unified System Operator. The Transco would be a transmission company to operate, maintain and improve the network for greater access and overall efficiency. The Unified System Operator would be a separate organization to facilitate economic dispatch of regional generation resources. This work will continue in 2016.

I am proud of my colleagues on the board and our management team for their attitudes throughout this process. It takes courage to consider sharing control of things that have been our responsibility for decades. But our focus needs to be on what’s best for our members.

As I said, it’s a time of transition. That’s true of our working relationships with other utilities – and also

within the leadership team at Chugach.

In July 2016, Chugach CEO Brad Evans will retire after more than 30 years in the Alaska electric utility industry. We have been fortunate to have had Brad as our chief executive officer since December 2007. Brad and his management team have led the organization through significant changes at Chugach. It has not been an easy time to head the organization, but Brad has done an outstanding job moving Chugach forward.

Much important work remains to be done as we reshape Chugach to thrive in a dynamic Railbelt. As some legacy relationships change, other opportunities present themselves. We have been actively evaluating ideas and options for the past year. Consequently, it was important to the board that we maintain continuity of effort during our leadership change.

After careful consideration, the board selected Lee Thibert as the next Chugach CEO. Lee is a long-time Chugach employee who has held a variety of senior management positions. The board looks forward to a smooth transition.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janet Reiser". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

## THE EXECUTIVE STAFF

*Seated from left are Tyler Andrews, Vice President, Member & Employee Relations; Brad Evans, Chief Executive Officer and Paul Risse, Sr. Vice President, Power Supply. Standing from left are Connie Owens, Executive Assistant; Mark Johnson, Corporate Counsel; Sherri Highers, Vice President, Finance & Administration and Chief Financial Officer; Bill Bernier, Vice President, Power Delivery; and Lee Thibert, Sr. Vice President, Strategic Development & Regulatory Affairs*

There are many challenges that confront the leadership of an electric utility in Alaska. We operate an islanded grid subject to adverse weather in often demanding terrain. Our fuel supply and transmission system both have constraints. Fortunately, we have a trained workforce capable of meeting our challenges, and doing it safely. In 2015, we saw a 30 percent decrease in the number of OSHA recordable injuries versus the previous year. It was the fifth year in a row of reductions. I am proud of this achievement, and of our efforts to foster a culture that embraces safety.

On the financial front, we performed well despite persistent warm weather patterns that reduced sales. Recognizing the associated revenue shortfall early in the year, we adjusted our work-scope and budgeted expenses. With this early intervention, we finished the year with margins only \$40,000 below the budgeted amount of \$6.5 million. Our financial ratios met the requirements of our lenders and our ratings have not changed.

On the project front we completed the Stetson Creek diversion project at our Cooper Lake Hydroelectric Project, fulfilling a requirement of our 50-year license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. This project added nearly 10 percent to the water resource available for plant production and added warmer lake water to fish habitat in Cooper Creek.

When the Cooper Lake project was commissioned in 1960, a 90-mile 115-kilovolt transmission line was built to connect the plant to Anchorage. That important transmission line is the only interconnection we have to move energy north from both the Cooper Lake plant and the Bradley Lake Hydroelectric Project. In 2015, Chugach rebuilt six miles of the line between the community of Indian and Powerline Pass.

The Southcentral Power Project continues to experience excellence in operations and fuel savings. The combined-cycle units at the plant are very efficient, saving Chugach members more than \$19 million in avoided fuel purchases in 2015.

The Southcentral Power Project is a joint utility project between Chugach and Municipal Light & Power and our two utilities continue to pursue opportunities beyond the success realized with SPP. In October of 2015, we submitted a joint bid to purchase ConocoPhillips' interest in the Beluga River Unit gas field. In November ConocoPhillips informed us we were the successful bidder and at year's end we were working on the final purchase agreement.

Chugach and ML&P are also working out the details of a power pool which we believe offers the potential to save millions of dollars annually by utilizing the combined cycle capacity and hydro resources from each utility to better meet the needs of our combined customer loads. This "economic dispatch" makes sense between our utilities, given the similarities in our generation fleets and the nature of our loads. Further, this success between us will demonstrate the benefits of economic dispatch throughout the Railbelt.

The Railbelt provides opportunities for greater efficiencies of generation and transmission resources. That's why we've been exploring business models for



**BRADLEY EVANS**  
CEO

a regional transmission company and a Unified System Operator. We're also discussing construction of the Battle Creek diversion at the Bradley Lake Hydroelectric Project to add additional water to the reservoir and increase the annual energy output of the plant. Chugach also remains very interested in unlocking the full potential of the Bradley Lake project by making transmission improvements.

We have been through a time of transition in recent years. To varying degrees we have fundamentally reshaped and re-financed the utility to deal with the loss of long-time wholesale customers and the resulting opportunities we see today and in the future. At the end of the day it's about providing reliable, reasonably priced electric service to our members.

In closing, it has been my pleasure to serve as CEO of Chugach. I will be retiring in July 2016 after 33 years in the electric utility business. Throughout my career I've worked with dedicated professionals including Lee Thibert, who will succeed me as CEO. Along with Lee, I am leaving the best staff I have ever worked with. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the employees for their service and dedication to Chugach and its member-owners.

*Bradley Evans*





# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## JANET REISER

*Chair*

Janet Reiser was elected to the board in 2008, 2011 and re-elected in 2014. She is currently the Chair of the Board and serves on the Governance, Operations, and Audit and Finance Committees. She is currently the Chugach board representative to the Alaska Railbelt Cooperative Transmission and Electric Company. She is a National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Credentialed Cooperative Director and has earned her Board Leadership Certificate. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in chemical engineering.

## SUSAN REEVES

*Vice Chair*

Susan Reeves is a founding member of Reeves Amodio LLC, where she practices law. She has been active on Alaska non-profit boards and commissions for many years. She was elected to the board in 2010, and re-elected in 2013. She is serving as the Vice Chair of the Board, Chair of the Governance Committee and a member of the Operations Committee. She is a National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Credentialed Cooperative Director.

## BRUCE DOUGHERTY

*Secretary*

Bruce Dougherty is retired from the State of Alaska, where he served 24 years in a variety of positions in health and social service programs. He also served over 28 years in the US Air Force, Air Force Reserve and the Alaska Air National Guard. As a Medical Service Corps Officer, he was deployed on multiple overseas assignments and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in 2012. He has extensive experience in leading people and programs. He was appointed to the board in March 2015 and elected by the membership in May 2015 to serve a one-year term. He is serving as the Secretary of the Board, Vice Chair of the Governance Committee and as a member of the Operations Committee.

*Seated from left: Sisi Cooper, Janet Reiser, and Harry Crawford. Standing from left: Bettina Chastain, Bruce Dougherty, Jim Henderson and Susan Reeves.*



## SISI COOPER

*Treasurer*

Sisi Cooper is a project engineer with Doyon Anvil, LLC. She specializes in process safety and risk management, energy-sector project management, and process/facility engineering and design. She is a former small business owner of North Ridge Home Inspections, LLC where she was the principal inspector. She was elected to the board in 2012 and re-elected to a four-year term in 2015. She is serving as the Treasurer of the Board, the Chair for the Audit and Finance Committee and is a member of the Governance Committee. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in industrial engineering. She is a National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Credentialed Cooperative Director.

## BETTINA CHASTAIN

*Director*

Bettina Chastain is an executive, business owner and engineer who has spent her career providing technical and management consulting services to the oil and gas and energy sectors in Alaska, nationally and internationally. She has been a very active member of the community serving on several non-profit boards for many years. She was elected to the board in 2015. She is a member of the Operations and Audit and Finance committees.

## HARRY T. CRAWFORD, JR.

*Director*

Harry T. Crawford, Jr. is a former Alaska State Legislator, retired iron worker and a small real estate developer. He was elected to the board in 2011 and re-elected in 2014. He currently serves as the Chair of the Operations Committee and is a member of the Audit and Finance Committee. He is a National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Credentialed Cooperative Director.

## JIM HENDERSON

*Director*

Jim Henderson is a principal with New American Financial Group in the financial services industry. Jim specializes in asset-based finance products, reorganization, refinancing of distressed companies and assets, and accounting and disposition of capital assets. His primary emphasis is transportation, industrial machinery and aviation operations, assets and industry development. He has over 35 years of experience in consulting and analysis and finance of capital assets. He was elected to the board in 2011 and re-elected in 2014. He is Vice Chair of the Audit and Finance Committee and is a member on the Governance Committee. He is a National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Credentialed Cooperative Director and has earned his Board Leadership Certificate.



**SISI COOPER**  
*Treasurer*

Chugach's 2015 margins (a cooperative's bottom line or revenues in excess of current costs) totaled \$6.5 million. Our margins-for-interest-to-interest ratio was 1.29, well above our indenture metric of 1.10. Our equity-to-total-capitalization ratio required to be kept at or above 22 percent, was 28.8 percent.

Total energy sales to retail, wholesale and economy customers were 1,575,951 megawatt-hours compared to 2,319,039 in 2014. While the expiration of MEA's wholesale contract contributed to most of the decrease in energy sales from

2014, the expiration of our economy energy contract with Golden Valley Electric Association and lower sales to retail customers were also factors. Economy energy sales, however, were significantly up from the 2015 budget.

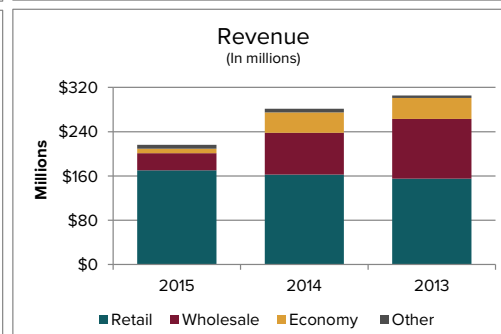
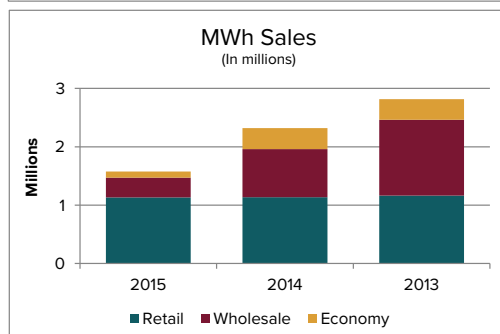
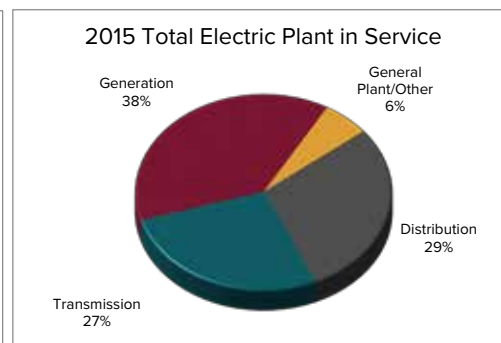
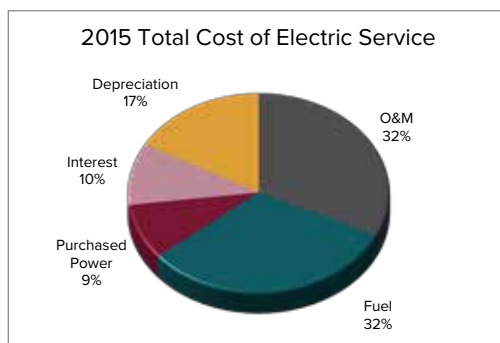
Total revenue was \$216.4 million, down from \$281.3 million in 2014 and slightly down from the 2015 budget of \$220.3 million. Excluding revenue derived from MEA, variances in revenue from 2014 were largely driven by lower retail and economy energy sales and a decrease in fuel and purchased power recovered in revenue through the fuel and purchased power adjustment process. While there was no significant overall variance from the 2015 revenue budget, a one-month extension of MEA's interim power sales agreement and higher than anticipated miscellaneous service and wheeling revenue offset lower than anticipated fuel and purchased power costs and energy sales to our retail customers and the City of Seward.

Through diligent monitoring and cost containment measures, we were able to offset lower than anticipated energy sales

and revenue to achieve margins within budget and with no significant variance from 2014. Chugach continued to manage its debt, re-paying \$23.9 million in 2015, contributing to our equity-to-total-capitalization ratio of 28.8% on December 31, 2015.

Chugach continued to utilize its Commercial Paper Program for working capital needs throughout the year. We took advantage of extremely low short-term interest rates averaging 0.30%, due in part to Chugach's ratings, which saved our members approximately \$460,000 over using other available forms of liquidity.

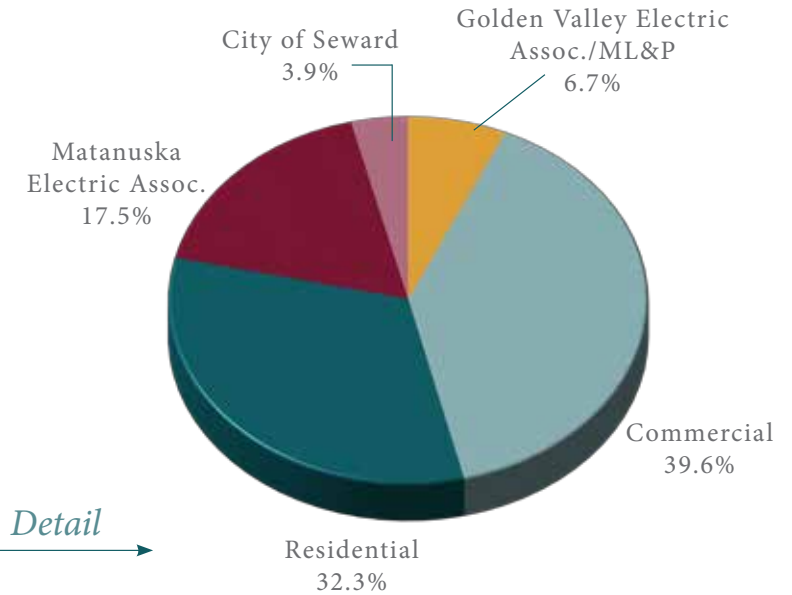
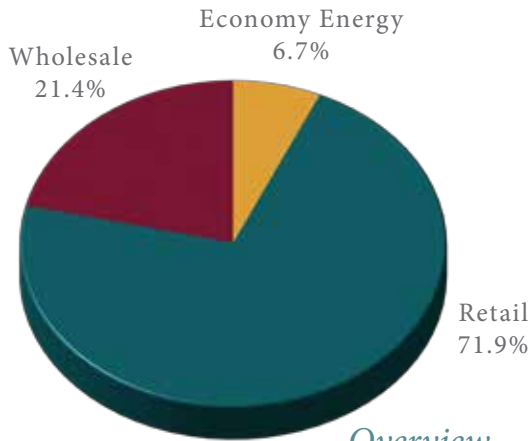
Ample generation, the growing number of local gas providers, supportive regulation, solid financials and the successful management of wholesale loss without negatively impacting financial results all played key roles in maintaining our "A" rating with Fitch Ratings in 2015. Moody's Investors Service also affirmed our commercial paper rating of "P-2".



# POWER SALES AT A GLANCE

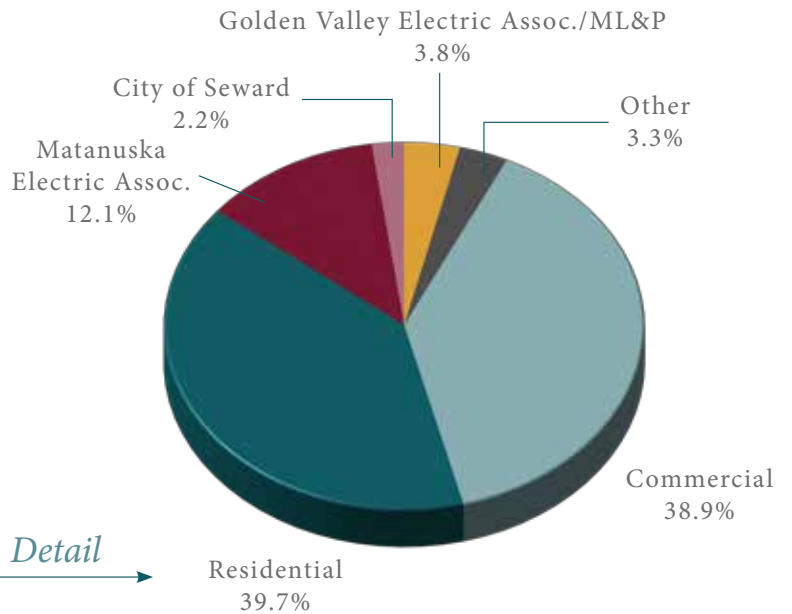
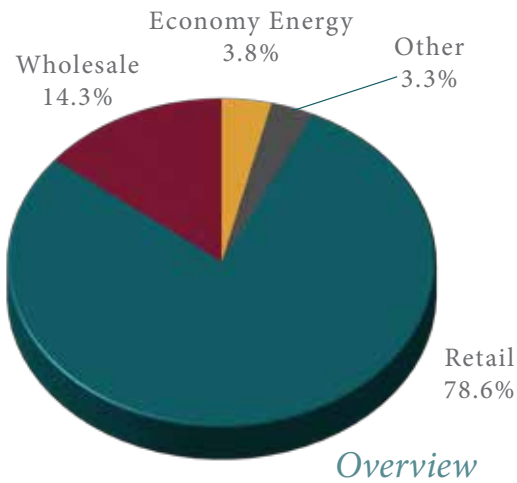
## BY KILOWATT-HOURS

TOTAL: 1,575,950,509



## BY OPERATING REVENUES

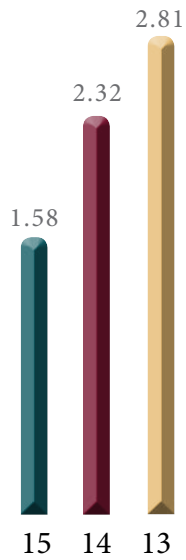
TOTAL: \$216,421,152



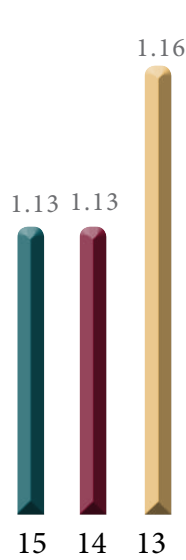


# KEY COMPARISONS

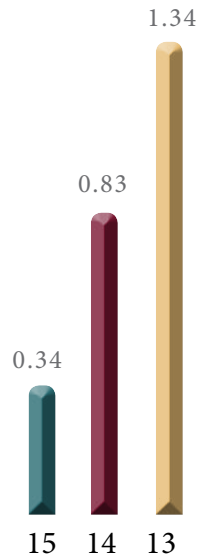
## KILOWATT-HOURS SOLD (IN BILLIONS)



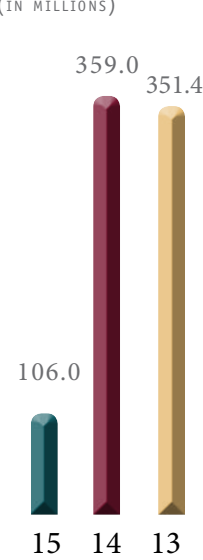
## RETAIL KWH (IN BILLIONS)



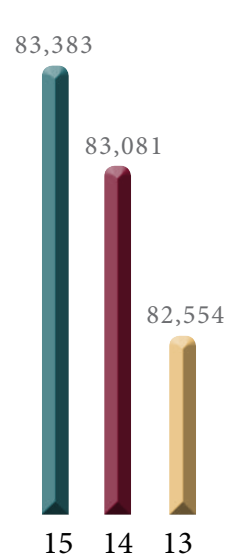
## WHOLESALE KWH (IN BILLIONS)



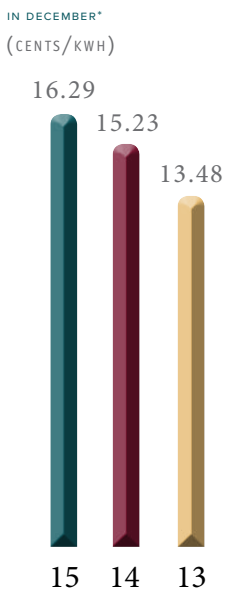
## ECONOMY ENERGY KWH (IN MILLIONS)



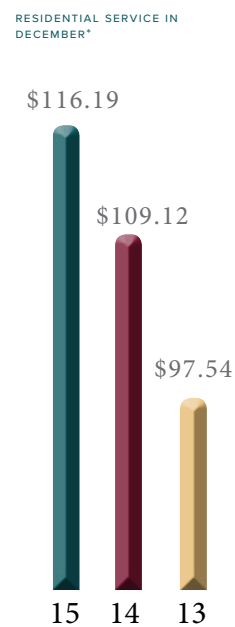
## SERVICE LOCATIONS AT YEAR-END



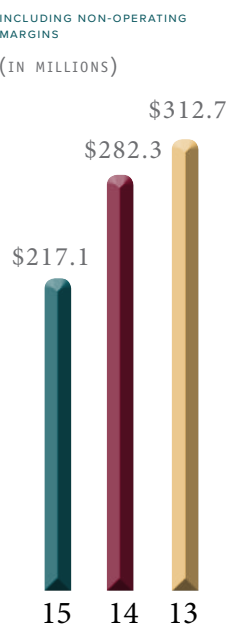
## COST PER RESIDENTIAL KWH IN DECEMBER\* (CENTS/KWH)



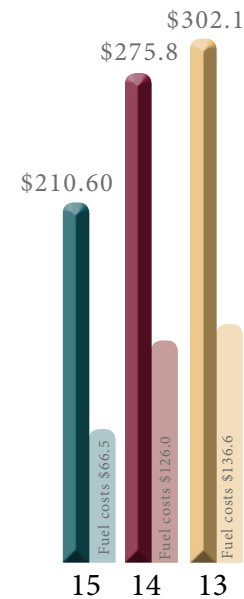
## COST OF 650 KWH RESIDENTIAL SERVICE IN DECEMBER\*



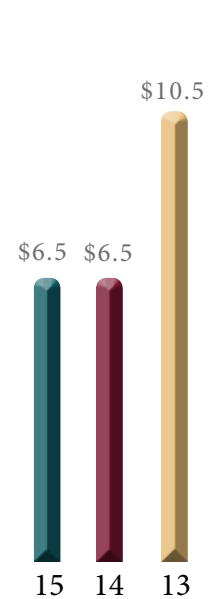
## TOTAL REVENUE INCLUDING NON-OPERATING MARGINS (IN MILLIONS)



## EXPENSES (IN MILLIONS)



## MARGINS (IN MILLIONS)



\*NOT INCLUDING THE CUSTOMER CHARGE AND THE 2 PERCENT MOA UNDERGROUNDING CHARGE

\*INCLUDES CUSTOMER AND ENERGY CHARGES, FUEL AND PURCHASE POWER CHARGES, FIRE ISLAND WIND RENEWABLE ENERGY ADJUSTMENT, REGULATORY COST CHARGE AND 2 PERCENT MOA UNDERGROUNDING CHARGE

## GENERATION SOURCE BY KWH

2015	86% Natural Gas	11% Hydro	3% Wind
2014	87% Natural Gas	11% Hydro	2% Wind
2013	87% Natural Gas	11% Hydro	2% Wind

## OUTAGE STATISTICS

Chugach averaged 1.83 outage hours per customer in 2015, up from the 0.64 hours in 2014. The 5-year average for customer outage hours decreased to 2.9 hours in 2015, down from 3.14 hours in 2014.

# REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

The Board of Directors  
Chugach Electric Association, Inc.

We have audited the accompanying balance sheets of Chugach Electric Association, Inc. as of December 31, 2015 and 2014, and the related statements of operations, changes in equities and margins, and cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2015. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Chugach Electric Association, Inc. as of December 31, 2015 and 2014, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2015, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

**KPMG LLP**

March 23, 2016  
Anchorage, Alaska



# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## Balance Sheets December 31, 2015 and 2014

Assets	December 31, 2015	December 31, 2014
Utility Plant:		
Electric plant in service	\$ 1,128,474,292	\$ 1,155,500,963
Construction work in progress	15,601,374	21,567,341
Total utility plant	<u>1,144,075,666</u>	<u>1,177,068,304</u>
Less accumulated depreciation	<u>(469,199,226)</u>	<u>(497,601,371)</u>
Net utility plant	674,876,440	679,466,933
Other property and investments, at cost:		
Nonutility property	76,889	76,889
Investments in associated organizations	9,635,519	9,923,552
Special funds	763,913	666,967
Restricted cash equivalents	<u>1,705,760</u>	<u>1,705,086</u>
Total other property and investments	12,182,081	12,372,494
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	15,626,919	16,364,962
Special deposits	74,416	79,390
Restricted cash equivalents	1,143,467	1,143,000
Accounts receivable, less provisions for doubtful accounts of \$425,751 in 2015 and \$346,749 in 2014	28,232,930	36,060,256
Materials and supplies	27,611,184	26,774,512
Fuel stock	7,063,541	9,652,073
Prepayments	1,466,301	2,178,723
Other current assets	<u>225,079</u>	<u>242,682</u>
Total current assets	81,443,837	92,495,598
Deferred charges, net	<u>19,492,653</u>	<u>21,376,596</u>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b><u>\$ 787,995,011</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 805,711,621</u></b>
Liabilities, Equities and Margins	December 31, 2015	December 31, 2014
Equities and margins:		
Memberships	\$ 1,661,744	\$ 1,631,569
Patronage capital	167,447,781	164,135,053
Other	<u>12,527,856</u>	<u>11,158,677</u>
Total equities and margins	181,637,381	176,925,299
Long-term obligations, excluding current installments:		
Bonds payable	426,666,665	448,083,332
National Bank for Cooperatives bond payable	<u>22,241,852</u>	<u>24,941,165</u>
Total long-term obligations	448,908,517	473,024,497
Current liabilities:		
Current installments of long-term obligations	24,115,980	23,889,777
Commercial paper	20,000,000	21,000,000
Accounts payable	9,701,088	9,746,175
Consumer deposits	5,000,684	4,914,260
Fuel cost over-recovery	5,135,745	1,462,057
Accrued interest	5,915,580	6,191,608
Salaries, wages and benefits	7,259,806	7,547,316
Fuel	4,942,310	11,137,609
Other current liabilities	<u>8,076,903</u>	<u>4,594,865</u>
Total current liabilities	90,148,096	90,483,667
Other non-current liabilities:		
Deferred compensation	763,913	666,967
Other liabilities, non-current	1,555,329	1,842,000
Deferred liabilities	1,802,389	1,858,455
Patronage capital payable	11,108,071	10,205,739
Cost of removal obligation	<u>52,071,315</u>	<u>50,704,997</u>
Total other non-current liabilities	67,301,017	65,278,158
<b>Total liabilities, equities and margins</b>	<b><u>\$ 787,995,011</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 805,711,621</u></b>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## Statements of Operations Years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013

	2015	2014	2013
Operating revenues	\$ 216,421,152	\$ 281,318,513	\$ 305,308,427
Operating expenses:			
Fuel	66,534,877	126,038,350	136,610,262
Production	16,886,257	21,082,176	21,911,324
Purchased power	19,599,994	15,608,396	27,836,680
Transmission	6,287,558	6,138,658	6,624,836
Distribution	14,089,862	13,002,157	13,225,242
Consumer accounts	6,117,625	5,887,713	6,014,888
Administrative, general and other	23,623,299	25,036,248	23,131,149
Depreciation and amortization	35,652,086	40,179,181	43,384,116
Total operating expenses	\$ 188,791,558	\$ 252,972,879	\$ 278,738,497
Interest expense:			
Long-term debt and other	22,194,290	23,264,041	24,691,582
Charged to construction	(379,845)	(463,335)	(1,310,110)
Interest expense, net	\$ 21,814,445	\$ 22,800,706	\$ 23,381,472
Net operating margins	\$ 5,815,149	\$ 5,544,928	\$ 3,188,458
Nonoperating margins:			
Interest income	296,788	566,639	686,460
Allowance for funds used during construction	142,881	163,151	141,014
Gain on sale of asset	0	0	6,436,992
Capital credits, patronage dividends and other	248,034	240,827	91,119
Total nonoperating margins	\$ 687,703	\$ 970,617	\$ 7,355,585
Assignable margins	\$ 6,502,852	\$ 6,515,545	\$ 10,544,043

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

## Statements of Changes in Equities and Margins Years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013

	Memberships	Other Equities and Margins	Patronage Capital	Total
Balance, January 1, 2013	\$ 1,559,344	\$ 11,372,355	\$ 153,832,674	\$ 166,764,373
Assignable margins	0	0	10,544,043	10,544,043
Retirement/net transfer of capital credits	0	0	(1,626,828)	(1,626,828)
Unclaimed capital credit retirements	0	(21,456)	0	(21,456)
Memberships and donations received	40,714	95,019	0	135,733
Balance, December 31, 2013	1,600,058	11,445,918	162,749,889	175,795,865
Assignable margins	0	0	6,515,545	6,515,545
Retirement/net transfer of capital credits	0	0	(5,130,381)	(5,130,381)
Unclaimed capital credit retirements	0	(350,776)	0	(350,776)
Memberships and donations received	31,511	63,535	0	95,046
Balance, December 31, 2014	1,631,569	11,158,677	164,135,053	176,925,299
Assignable margins	0	0	6,502,852	6,502,852
Retirement/net transfer of capital credits	0	0	(3,190,124)	(3,190,124)
Unclaimed capital credit retirements	0	1,298,410	0	1,298,410
Memberships and donations received	30,175	70,769	0	100,944
Balance, December 31, 2015	\$ 1,661,744	\$ 12,527,856	\$ 167,447,781	\$ 181,637,381

See accompanying notes to financial statements.



## Statements of Cash Flows Years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013

	2015	2014	2013
<b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>			
Assignable margins	\$ 6,502,852	\$ 6,515,545	\$ 10,544,043
Adjustments to reconcile assignable margins to net cash provided by operating activities:			
Depreciation and amortization	35,652,086	40,179,181	43,384,116
Amortization and depreciation cleared to operating expenses	4,390,385	5,777,628	5,912,254
Allowance for funds used during construction	(142,881)	(163,151)	(141,014)
Write off of inventory, deferred charges and projects	691,035	974,062	430,453
Gain on sale of Bernice Lake Power Plant	0	0	(6,436,992)
Other	(220,496)	56,250	240,836
(Increase) decrease in assets:			
Accounts receivable, net	6,866,956	6,879,762	4,823,879
Materials and supplies	(1,070,896)	(1,197,127)	(907,942)
Fuel stock	2,588,532	3,377,775	(3,563,081)
Prepayments	712,422	(315,316)	293,455
Other assets	215,738	978,338	(1,827,291)
Deferred charges	(405,746)	(1,050,505)	(317,070)
Increase (decrease) in liabilities:			
Accounts payable	(270,416)	(420,041)	1,775,412
Consumer deposits	86,424	62,702	571,657
Fuel cost over-recovery	3,673,688	(173,620)	(12,074,372)
Accrued interest	(276,028)	(321,252)	(294,347)
Salaries, wages and benefits	(287,510)	(385,047)	597,937
Fuel	(6,195,299)	(3,696,976)	(6,033,493)
Other current liabilities	(290,715)	1,653,424	1,134
Deferred liabilities	(123,695)	34,668	3,399
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<b>52,096,436</b>	<b>58,766,300</b>	<b>36,982,973</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>			
Return of capital from investment in associated organizations	352,420	351,162	424,484
Investment in restricted cash equivalents	(1,141)	(142)	0
Investment in marketable securities	0	(217,817)	(327,175)
Proceeds from the sale of marketable securities	0	10,522,620	0
Proceeds from capital grants	2,395,331	6,960,143	20,329,782
Extension and replacement of plant	(35,094,355)	(30,303,133)	(64,473,966)
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>	<b>(32,347,745)</b>	<b>(12,687,167)</b>	<b>(44,046,875)</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities:</b>			
Proceeds from short-term obligations	23,000,000	22,000,000	45,500,000
Repayments of short-term obligations	(24,000,000)	(31,000,000)	(27,000,000)
Repayments of long-term obligations	(23,889,777)	(24,682,812)	(24,493,022)
Memberships and donations received	357,365	(255,730)	114,277
Retirement of patronage capital and estate payments	(182,352)	(4,114,541)	(156,565)
Net receipts on consumer advances for construction	4,228,030	3,991,749	3,398,906
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>	<b>(20,486,734)</b>	<b>(34,061,334)</b>	<b>(2,636,404)</b>
Net change in cash and cash equivalents	(738,043)	12,017,799	(9,700,306)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	\$ 16,364,962	\$ 4,347,163	\$ 14,047,469
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	<b>\$ 15,626,919</b>	<b>\$ 16,364,962</b>	<b>\$ 4,347,163</b>
Supplemental disclosure of non-cash investing and financing activities:			
Cost of removal obligation	\$ 1,366,318	\$ 3,565,605	\$ 2,511,077
Extension and replacement of plant included in accounts payable	\$ 2,582,947	\$ 2,382,117	\$ 3,817,788
Patronage capital retired and included in other current liabilities	\$ 2,105,440	\$ 2,572,670	\$ 2,512,753
Supplemental disclosure of cash flow information - interest expense paid, net of amounts capitalized	\$ 21,891,308	\$ 21,835,216	\$ 21,839,391

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

# NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2015 AND 2014

## (1) Description of Business

Chugach Electric Association, Inc. (Chugach) is the largest electric utility in Alaska. Chugach is engaged in the generation, transmission and distribution of electricity to directly serve retail customers in the Anchorage and upper Kenai Peninsula areas. Chugach is on an interconnected regional electrical system referred to as the Alaska Railbelt, a 400-mile-long area stretching from the coastline of the southern Kenai Peninsula to the interior of the state, including Alaska's largest cities, Anchorage and Fairbanks.

Chugach's retail and wholesale members are the consumers of the electricity sold. Chugach supplies much of the power requirements to the City of Seward (Seward), as a wholesale customer. We provided much of the power requirements of Matanuska Electric Association, Inc. (MEA) and Homer Electric Association, Inc. (HEA) through their contract expiration dates of April 30, 2015, and December 31, 2013, respectively. Through March 31, 2015, we sold economy (non-firm) energy to Golden Valley Electric Association, Inc. (GVEA), which used that energy to serve its own load.

Chugach was organized as an Alaska electric cooperative in 1948 and operates on a not-for-profit basis and, accordingly, seeks only to generate revenues sufficient to pay operating and maintenance costs, the cost of purchased power, capital expenditures, depreciation, and principal and interest on all indebtedness and to provide for reserves. Chugach is subject to the regulatory authority of the Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA).

## (2) Significant Accounting Policies

### a. Management Estimates

In preparing the financial statements in conformity with United States generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), the management of Chugach is required to make estimates and assumptions relating to the reporting of assets and liabilities and the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities as of the date of the balance sheet and revenues and expenses for the reporting period. Estimates include allowance for doubtful accounts, workers' compensation, deferred charges and credits, unbilled revenue, the estimated useful life of utility plant and the cost of removal obligation. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

### b. Regulation

The accounting records of Chugach conform to the Uniform System of Accounts as prescribed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Chugach meets the criteria, and accordingly, follows the accounting and reporting requirements of Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) 980, "Topic 980 - Regulated Operations." FASB ASC 980 provides for the recognition of regulatory assets and liabilities as allowed by regulators for costs or credits that are reflected in current rates or are considered probable of being included in future rates. Our regulated rates are established to recover all of our specific costs of providing electric service. In each rate filing, rates are set at levels to recover all of our specific allowable costs and those rates are then collected from our retail and wholesale customers. The regulatory assets or liabilities are then reduced as the cost or credit is reflected in earnings and our rates, see Note (2) - "Deferred Charges and Credits."

### c. Utility Plant and Depreciation

Additions to electric plant in service are recorded at original cost of contracted services, direct labor and materials, indirect overhead charges and capitalized interest. For property replaced or retired, the book value of the property, less salvage, is charged to accumulated depreciation. The removal cost is charged to cost of removal obligation. Renewals and betterments are capitalized, while maintenance and repairs are normally charged to expense as incurred.

In accordance with FASB ASC 360, "Topic 360 - Property, Plant, and Equipment," certain asset groups are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate the carrying amount of an asset group may not be recoverable in rates. Recoverability of asset groups to be held and used is measured by a comparison of the carrying amount of an asset group to estimated undiscounted future cash flows expected to be generated by the asset group. If the carrying amount of an asset group exceeds its estimated future cash flows, an impairment charge is recognized by the amount by which the carrying amount of the asset group exceeds the fair value of the asset.

Depreciation and amortization rates have been applied on a straight-line basis and at December 31, 2015 are as follows:

Annual Depreciation Rate Ranges		
Steam production plant	4.81%	- 7.04%
Hydroelectric production plant	1.06%	- 3.00%
Other production plant	3.98%	- 10.15%
Transmission plant	1.58%	- 7.86%
Distribution plant	2.17%	- 9.63%
General plant	1.57%	- 20.00%
Other	2.75%	- 2.75%
Southcentral Power Project (SPP) steam production plant	3.09%	- 3.46%
SPP other production plant	3.15%	- 3.84%

On November 1, 2010, the RCA approved revised depreciation rates effective November 1, 2010 in Docket U-09-097. Chugach's depreciation rates include a provision for cost of removal. Chugach records a separate liability for the estimated obligation related to the cost of removal.

On August 31, 2012, in Docket U-12-009, the RCA approved Southcentral Power Project (SPP) depreciation rates effective February 1, 2013, the date the SPP plant was placed in service.

### d. Capitalized Interest

Allowance for funds used during construction (AFUDC) and interest charged to construction - credit (IDC) are the estimated costs of the funds used during the period of construction from both equity and borrowed funds. AFUDC and IDC are applied to specific projects during construction. AFUDC and IDC calculations use the net cost of borrowed funds when used and is recovered through RCA approved rates as utility plant is depreciated. For all projects excluding SPP, Chugach capitalized such funds at the weighted average rate (adjusted monthly) of 4.3% during 2015 and 2014 and 3.7% during 2013. For SPP, Chugach capitalized actual interest expense and related fees associated with its construction.

### e. Investments in Associated Organizations

The loan agreements with CoBank, ACB (CoBank) and National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (NRUCFC) requires as a condition of the extension of credit, that an equity ownership position be established by all borrowers. Chugach's equity ownership in these organizations is less than one percent. These investments are non-marketable and accounted for at cost. Management evaluates these investments annually for impairment. No impairment was recorded during 2015, 2014 and 2013.

### f. Fair Value of Financial Instruments

FASB ASC 825, "Topic 825 - Financial Instruments," requires disclosure of the fair value of certain on and off balance sheet financial instruments for which it is practicable to estimate that value. The following methods are used to estimate the fair value of financial instruments:

Cash and cash equivalents - the carrying amount approximates fair value because of the short maturity of those instruments.

Consumer deposits - the carrying amount approximates fair value because of the short refunding term.

Long-term obligations - the fair value is estimated based on the quoted market price for same or similar issues (see note 11).

Restricted cash - the carrying amount approximates fair value because of the short maturity of those instruments.

The fair value of accounts receivable and payable, and other short-term monetary assets and liabilities approximate carrying value due to their short-term nature.



# NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2015 AND 2014

## g. Cash and Cash Equivalents / Restricted Cash Equivalents

For purposes of the statement of cash flows, Chugach considers all highly liquid instruments with a maturity of three months or less upon acquisition by Chugach to be cash equivalents. Chugach has a concentration account with First National Bank Alaska (FNBA). There is no rate of return or fees on this account. The concentration account had an average balance of \$6,218,015 and \$6,300,149 during the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively.

Restricted cash equivalents include funds on deposit for future workers' compensation claims and interim rates collected from customers and escrowed as required by the RCA. At December 31, 2015 and 2014, restricted cash equivalents included \$2.8 million of funds on deposit for future workers' compensation claims. At December 31, 2015 and 2014, there were no restricted cash equivalents representing interim rates collected from customers.

## h. Accounts Receivable

Trade accounts receivable are recorded at the invoiced amount. The allowance for doubtful accounts is management's best estimate of the amount of probable credit losses in existing accounts receivable. Chugach determines the allowance based on its historical write-off experience and current economic conditions. Chugach reviews its allowance for doubtful accounts monthly. Past due balances over 90 days in a specified amount are reviewed individually for collectability. All other balances are reviewed in aggregate. Account balances are charged off against the allowance after all means of collection have been exhausted and the potential for recovery is considered remote. Chugach does not have any off-balance-sheet credit exposure related to its customers. Included in accounts receivable are invoiced amounts to Anchorage Municipal Light & Power (ML&P) for their proportionate share of current SPP costs, which amounted to \$1.1 million and \$0.9 million in 2015 and 2014, respectively. In addition, accounts receivable includes invoiced amounts for grants to support the construction of facilities to divert water and safely transmit electricity, which amounted to \$0.2 million and \$1.1 million in 2015 and 2014, respectively.

## i. Materials and Supplies

Materials and supplies are stated at average cost.

## j. Deferred Charges and Credits

In accordance with FASB ASC 980, Chugach's financial statements reflect regulatory assets and liabilities. Continued accounting under FASB ASC 980 requires that certain criteria be met. We capitalize all or part of costs that would otherwise be charged to expense if it is probable that future revenue in an amount at least equal to the capitalized cost will result from inclusion of that cost in allowable costs for ratemaking purposes and future revenue will be provided to permit recovery of the previously incurred cost. Management believes Chugach's operations currently satisfy these criteria.

Chugach regulatory asset recoveries are embedded in base rates approved by the RCA. Specific costs incurred and recorded as Regulatory Assets, including the amortization period for recovery, are approved by the RCA either in standard Simplified Rate Filings (SRF), general rate case filings or specified independent requests. The rates approved related to the regulatory assets are matched to the amortization of actual expenses recognized. The regulatory assets are amortized and collected through rates over differing periods depending upon the period of benefit as established by the RCA. Deferred credits, primarily representing regulatory liabilities, are amortized to operating expense over the period required for ratemaking purposes. It also includes refundable contributions in aid of construction, which are credited to the associated cost of construction of property units. Refundable contributions in aid of construction are held in deferred credits pending their return or other disposition. If events or circumstances should change so the criteria are not met, the write off of regulatory assets and liabilities could have a material effect on Chugach's financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

## k. Patronage Capital

Revenues in excess of current period costs (net operating margins and nonoperating margins) in any year are designated on Chugach's statement of operations as assignable margins. These excess amounts (i.e. assignable margins) are considered capital furnished by the members, and are credited to their accounts and held by Chugach until such future time as they are retired and returned without interest at the discretion of the Board of Directors (Board). Retained assignable margins are designated on Chugach's balance sheet as patronage capital. This patronage capital constitutes the principal equity of Chugach. The Board may also approve the return of capital to former members and estates who request early retirements at discounted rates under a discounted capital credits retirement plan authorized by the Board in September of 2002.

## l. Operating Revenues

Revenues are recognized upon delivery of electricity. Operating revenues are based on billing rates authorized by the RCA, which are applied to customers' usage of electricity. Chugach's rates are established, in part, on test period sales levels that reflect actual operating results. Chugach calculates unbilled revenue at the end of each month to ensure the recognition of a calendar year's revenue. Chugach accrued \$10,531,377 and \$9,885,526 of unbilled retail revenue at December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively. Wholesale revenue is recorded from metered locations on a calendar month basis, so no estimation is required. Chugach's tariffs include provisions for the recovery of gas costs according to gas supply contracts, as well as purchased power costs.

## m. Fuel and Purchased Power Cost Recovery

Expenses associated with electric services include fuel used to generate electricity and power purchased from others. Chugach is authorized by the RCA to recover fuel and purchased power costs through the fuel and purchased power adjustment process, which is adjusted quarterly to reflect increases and decreases of such costs. We recognize differences between projected recoverable fuel costs and amounts actually recovered through rates. The fuel cost under/over recovery on our Balance Sheet represents the net accumulation of any under- or over-collection of fuel and purchase power costs. Fuel cost under-recovery will appear as an asset on our Balance Sheet and will be collected from our members in subsequent periods. Conversely, fuel cost over-recovery will appear as a liability on our Balance Sheet and will be refunded to our members in subsequent periods. Fuel costs were over-recovered by \$5,135,745 and by \$1,462,057 in 2015 and 2014, respectively. Total fuel and purchased power costs in 2015, 2014, and 2013 were \$86,134,871, \$141,646,746, and \$164,446,942, respectively.

## n. Environmental Remediation Costs

Chugach accrues for losses and establishes a liability associated with environmental remediation obligations when such losses are probable and can be reasonably estimated. Such accruals are adjusted as further information develops or circumstances change. Estimates of future costs for environmental remediation obligations are not discounted to their present value. However, various remediation costs may be recoverable through rates and accounted for as a regulatory asset.

## o. Income Taxes

Chugach is exempt from federal income taxes under the provisions of Section 501(c)(12) of the Internal Revenue Code and for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013 was in compliance with that provision. In addition, as described in Note (15) – "Commitments and Contingencies," Chugach collects sales tax and is assessed gross revenue and excise taxes which are presented on a net basis in accordance with FASB ASC 605-45-50, "Topic 605 - Revenue Recognition - Subtopic 45 - Principal Agent Considerations - Section 50 - Disclosure."

Chugach applies a more-likely-than-not recognition threshold for all tax uncertainties. FASB ASC 740, "Topic 740 - Income Taxes," only allows the recognition of those tax benefits that have a greater than fifty percent likelihood of being sustained upon examination by the taxing authorities. Chugach's management reviewed Chugach's tax positions and determined there were no outstanding or retroactive tax positions that were not highly certain of being sustained upon examination by the taxing authorities.

Management has concluded that there are no significant uncertain tax positions requiring recognition in its financial statements for all periods presented. Chugach's evaluation was performed for the tax periods ended December 31, 2013 through December 31, 2015 for United States Federal Income Tax, the tax years which remain subject to examination by major tax jurisdictions as of December 31, 2015.

## p. Consumer Deposits

Consumer deposits are the amounts certain customers are required to deposit to receive electric service. Consumer deposits for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, totaled \$3.1 million and \$2.9 million, respectively. Consumer deposits also represent customer credit balances as a result of prepaid accounts. Credit balances for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014 totaled \$1.9 million and \$2.0 million, respectively.

## q. Grants

Chugach has received federal and state grants to offset storm related expenditures and to support the construction of facilities to transport fuel, divert water and safely transmit electricity to its consumers. Grant proceeds used to construct or acquire equipment are offset against the carrying amount of the related assets while grant proceeds for storm related expenditures are offset against the actual expense incurred, which totaled \$1.6 million and \$4.8 million in 2015 and 2014, respectively.

## r. Fuel Stock

Fuel Stock is the weighted average cost of fuel injected into Cook Inlet Natural Gas Storage Alaska (CINGSA), which began service in the second quarter of 2012. Chugach's fuel

# NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2015 AND 2014

balance in storage for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014 amounted to \$7.1 million and \$9.7 million, respectively.

## s. Corrections

For the year ended December 31, 2015, Chugach recorded the following correction for the year ended December 31, 2014:

A correction representing the long-term versus current presentation of long-term obligations associated with bonds payable, previously reported as current installments of long-term obligations and now reported as long-term obligations, excluding current installments. The impact of this correction was an increase to long-term obligations, excluding current installments, and a decrease to current installments of long-term obligations of \$1.0 million as of December 31, 2014.

For the year ended December 31, 2015, Chugach recorded the following correction for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013:

A correction representing the cash received from customers for the undergrounding ordinance, included in net receipts on consumer advances for construction, previously reported as other current liabilities. The impact of this correction was a decrease in cash provided by operating activities and cash used in financing activities of \$3.2 million and \$2.9 million for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively.

## (3) **Accounting Pronouncements**

### Issued, not yet adopted:

#### ASC Update 2014-09 "Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606)"

In May of 2014, the FASB issued ASC Update 2014-09, "Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606)." ASC Update 2014-09 provides guidance for the recognition, measurement and disclosure of revenue related to the transfer of promised goods or services to customers. This update was effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2016, for which early adoption was prohibited. However, in August of 2015, the FASB issued ASC Update 2014-14, "Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606): Deferral of the Effective Date," deferring the effective date of ASC Update 2014-09 to fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2017, and permitting early adoption of this update, but only for annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2016, and interim reporting periods within that reporting period. The standard permits the use of either the retrospective or cumulative effect transition method. Chugach has not yet selected a transition method and is evaluating the effect on its results of operations, financial position, and cash flows.

#### ASC Update 2015-03 "Interest – Imputation of Interest (Subtopic 835-30): Simplifying the Presentation of Debt Issuance Costs"

In April of 2015, the FASB issued ASC Update 2015-03, "Interest – Imputation of Interest (Subtopic 835-30): Simplifying the Presentation of Debt Issuance Costs." ASC Update 2015-03 revises the presentation guidance for debt issuance costs related to a recognized debt liability. The effect of this update is to present the debt issuance costs as a direct deduction to the liability on the balance sheet and retrospective application is required. This update does not change the recognition and measurement guidance for debt issuance costs. This update is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2015, and interim periods beginning after December 15, 2016, with early adoption permitted. Chugach will begin application of ASC 2015-03 with the annual report for the year ended December 31, 2016. Adoption is not expected to have a material effect on its results of operations, financial position, and cash flows.

#### ASC Update 2015-15 "Interest – Imputation of Interest (Subtopic 835-30): Presentation and Subsequent Measurement of Debt Issuance Costs Associated with Line-of-Credit Arrangements"

In September of 2015, the FASB issued ASC Update 2015-15, "Interest – Imputation of Interest (Subtopic 835-30): Presentation and Subsequent Measurement of Debt Issuance Costs Associated with Line-of-Credit Arrangements." ASC Update 2015-15 amends guidance related to the presentation and subsequent measurement of debt issuance costs associated with line-of-credit arrangements for SEC reporting. This update is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2015, and interim periods beginning after December 15, 2016, with early adoption permitted. Chugach will begin application of ASC 2015-15 with the annual report for the year ended December 31, 2016. Adoption is not expected to have a material effect on its results of operations, financial position, and cash flows.

#### ASC Update 2016-01 "Financial Instruments – Overall (Subtopic 825-10): Recognition and Measurement of Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities"

In January of 2016, the FASB issued ASC Update 2016-01, "Financial Instruments – Overall (Subtopic 825-10): Recognition and Measurement of Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities." ASC Update 2016-01 amends guidance related to certain aspects of the recognition, measurement, presentation and disclosure of financial instruments. This update is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2018, and interim periods beginning after December 15, 2019, with early adoption not permitted with certain exceptions. Chugach will begin application of ASC 2016-01 with the annual report for the year ended December 31, 2018. Adoption is not expected to have a material effect on its results of operations, financial position, and cash flows.

#### ASC Update 2016-02 "Leases (Topic 842): Section A – Leases: Amendments to the FASB Accounting Standards Codification; Section B – Conforming Amendments Related to Leases: Amendments to the FASB Accounting Standards Codification; Section C – Background Information and Basis for Conclusions"

In February of 2016, the FASB issued ASC Update 2016-02, "Leases (Topic 842): Section A – Leases: Amendments to the FASB Accounting Standards Codification; Section B – Conforming Amendments Related to Leases: Amendments to the FASB Accounting Standards Codification; Section C – Background Information and Basis for Conclusions." ASC Update 2016-02 amends guidance related to the recognition, measurement, presentation and disclosure of leases for lessors and lessees. This update is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2018, including the interim periods within those years, with early adoption permitted. Chugach will begin application of ASC 2016-02 on January 1, 2019. Chugach is evaluating the effect on its results of operations, financial position, and cash flows.

## (4) **Fair Value of Assets and Liabilities**

### Fair Value Hierarchy

In accordance with FASB ASC 820, Chugach groups its financial assets and liabilities measured at fair value in three levels, based on the markets in which the assets and liabilities are traded and the reliability of the assumptions used to determine fair value. These levels are:

Level 1 – Valuation is based upon quoted prices for identical instruments traded in active exchange markets, such as the New York Stock Exchange. Level 1 also includes United States Treasury and federal agency securities, which are traded by dealers or brokers in active markets. Valuations are obtained from readily available pricing sources for market transactions involving identical assets or liabilities.

Level 2 – Valuation is based upon quoted prices for similar instruments in active markets, quoted prices for identical or similar instruments in markets that are not active, and model-based valuation techniques for which all significant assumptions are observable in the market.

Level 3 – Valuation is generated from model-based techniques that use significant assumptions not observable in the market. These unobservable assumptions reflect Chugach's estimates of assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability. Valuation techniques include use of option pricing models, discounted cash flow models and similar techniques.

Chugach had no Level 2 or 3 assets or liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis. Fair value estimates are dependent upon subjective assumptions and involve significant uncertainties resulting in variability in estimates with changes in assumptions.

## (5) **Regulatory Matters**

### MEA Interim Power Sales Agreement

On August 12, 2014, MEA notified Chugach that their newly constructed power plant, the Eklutna Generation Station (EGS), would not be completed by January 1, 2015. On September 30, 2014, Chugach entered into an Interim Power Sales Agreement (Agreement) to provide MEA with all demand and energy requirements on a firm basis based on existing tariff rates for a minimum one quarter period beginning on January 1, 2015, and ending on March 31, 2015. Under the terms of the agreement, Chugach agreed to purchase from MEA the output of up to four units from their plant upon commercial operation through the term of the agreement. Chugach proposed to purchase the pooled energy and recover the costs from its members, including MEA, through Chugach's fuel and purchased power adjustment process. MEA supplied and delivered all additional gas and attendant transportation necessary for Chugach to produce electric service to MEA arising as a result of the electric services to be provided by Chugach pursuant to the Agreement.

On December 22, 2014, the RCA approved both the Agreement and Chugach's proposal to recover costs incurred under the Agreement through its fuel and purchased power rate adjustment process. As part of the approval, the RCA required Chugach to provide monthly information on MEA gas deliveries to Chugach, system heat rates with and without EGS, and the number of EGS units made commercially available during each month of the contract.

# NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2015 AND 2014

On January 30, 2015, MEA notified Chugach that it had four units available to pool with Chugach units to meet the combined system load of Chugach and MEA. These units were subsequently pooled with Chugach units.

The term of the Agreement was subsequently extended to and expired on April 30, 2015.

## Amended Eklutna Generation Station 2015 Dispatch Services Agreement

On February 13, 2015, Chugach submitted the Amended Eklutna Generation Station 2015 Dispatch Services Agreement (Dispatch Services Agreement) to the RCA for dispatch services to be provided by Chugach to MEA for a one-year period. Under the Dispatch Services Agreement, Chugach provides electric and natural gas dispatch services for MEA's EGS, electric dispatch services for the Bradley Lake Hydroelectric Project (Bradley Lake), and electric dispatch coordination services for the Eklutna Hydroelectric Project (Eklutna Hydro) beginning with EGS' full commercial operation.

On March 23, 2015, the RCA approved the Dispatch Agreement, conditioned on the requirements that 1) MEA and Chugach notify the RCA at least one month prior to forming separate Load Balancing Authorities and include in any such notification details on the tie points and any written agreements contemplated by the utilities; and, 2) Chugach file an update to its tariff to reflect any extension of the Dispatch Services Agreement one week from the receipt of such a request from MEA. As a result, Chugach is receiving \$40,000 per month from MEA for these services. The Dispatch Services Agreement remains in effect through March 31, 2016.

In December of 2015, MEA notified Chugach that it would not be extending the Dispatch Services Agreement for the dispatch of electric service. Chugach and MEA have discussed modification of the Dispatch Agreement. At this time, a final agreement has not been reached.

## June 2014 Test Year General Rate Case

Chugach's June 2014 test year rate case was submitted to the RCA on February 13, 2015. Chugach requested a system base rate increase of approximately \$21.3 million, or 20% on total base rate revenues for rates effective in April 2015. The filing also included updates to firm and non-firm transmission wheeling rates and attendant ancillary services in support of third-party transactions on the Chugach transmission system. The primary driver of the rate changes was the reduction in fixed-cost contributions resulting from the March 31, 2015 expiration of the Interim Power Sales Agreement between Chugach and MEA.

Chugach submitted proposed adjustments to its fuel and purchased power rates under a separate tariff advice letter to become effective at the same time which allows interim base rate increases to be synchronized with reductions in fuel costs resulting from system heat rate improvements and a greater share of hydroelectric generation used to meet the load requirements of the remaining customers on the system. In combination with Chugach's fuel and purchased power rate adjustment filing for rates effective in April 2015, the effective increase to retail customer bills was approximately between two and five percent.

The RCA issued Order U-15-081(1) on April 30, 2015, suspending the filing and granting Chugach's request for interim and refundable rate increases effective May 1, 2015. A scheduling conference was held on May 27, 2015. On June 4, 2015, the RCA issued Order U-15-081(2), granting approval for intervention by HEA, MEA and GVEA. The RCA indicated that a final order in the case will be issued by May 8, 2016. Intervenor responsive testimony was filed by the Attorney General (AG) and MEA on October 28, 2015. The AG's testimony focused on revenue requirement matters and MEA's testimony focused on transmission cost allocation issues. Chugach's responsive testimony was filed on December 15, 2015.

In January of 2016, Chugach and the Attorney General (AG) for the State of Alaska entered into settlement discussions to resolve revenue requirement matters in the case, which resulted in settlement of all outstanding matters related to the determination of Chugach's system revenue requirement for both the interim and permanent rate periods. As a result, Chugach agreed to reduce its revenue requirement by 0.5% (approximately \$0.6 million). In addition, the stipulation provides for a permanent increase in Chugach's system Times Interest Earned Ratio (TIER) from 1.30 to 1.35, which represents an approximate margin increase of \$1.0 million per year. The stipulation was filed with the RCA on January 21, 2016. The RCA has not issued a ruling on the settlement. If the settlement is accepted, Chugach will reduce its revenue requirement by \$0.6 million and expects to issue refunds on demand and energy rates for bills issued during the interim rate period.

The adjudicatory hearing was held from January 25 through January 28, 2016, to address transmission-related matters identified by MEA. Because of the settlement, no revenue requirement matters were addressed during the hearing. A final order in the case is expected by May 8, 2016.

Chugach expects to resume its participation in the SRF process at the conclusion of this case. SRF is an expedited process available to electric cooperatives in Alaska for routine updates to demand and energy rates.

## Fire Island Wind Project

On October 10, 2011, the RCA issued an order approving Chugach's request for assurance of cost recovery associated with a new power purchase agreement (PPA) between Chugach and Fire Island Wind, LLC (FIW), a special purpose entity wholly-owned by Cook Inlet Region, Inc.

Associated with the approval of the PPA, Chugach submitted project status reports on March 31, 2012, June 29, 2012, October 31, 2012, and January 16, 2013. On January 30, 2014, Chugach submitted a status report regarding FIW integration and a cost reimbursement agreement related to possible impacts to an interconnected utility as a result of the project. On July 25, 2014, the RCA issued Order No. 4 approving Chugach's request to file its next status update by September 30, 2014. Chugach filed a status report with the RCA on September 26, 2014. In the filing, Chugach informed the RCA that it had received notification from ML&P that they believe no further proceedings on this matter are necessary. ML&P indicated that fluctuations from the wind project are impacting system frequency but the attendant costs associated with quantifying the impacts likely exceed the attendant benefit. ML&P reserved the right to open this issue at a later time. In the filing, Chugach indicated that it will continue to evaluate the potential impact of the Fire Island Wind Project on the grid and requested that the RCA accept the status report on the integration and cost reimbursement issues and close the docket.

The RCA issued an order in February of 2015 requiring ML&P to file a separate report addressing the nature and estimate of any adverse cost impacts attributable to FIW integration, as well as the estimated costs and equipment needed for measurement. ML&P submitted its compliance filing in April of 2015 addressing the type and range of costs ML&P might experience if it sought to isolate and identify the integration impacts of the FIW Project. In a subsequent order, the RCA acknowledged ML&P's compliance filing and closed the docket.

## AIX Energy LLC: March 1, 2015, through February 29, 2016

On December 22, 2014, Chugach executed an agreement (AIX Agreement) with AIX Energy LLC (AIX) which allows for natural gas purchases by Chugach from AIX beginning March 1, 2015, through February 29, 2016. The AIX Agreement provides flexibility in both the purchase price and volumes, with specific prices and volumes to be determined by each transaction. However, the price of gas cannot exceed \$6.24 per thousand cubic feet (Mcf) and the total volume of gas is capped at 300,000 Mcf, or a maximum total outlay of approximately \$1.9 million.

As the AIX Agreement is for a term less than one year, approval of the agreement by the RCA is not required; however, Chugach submitted a filing to the RCA seeking approval to recover purchases made under the agreement as a new cost element in its fuel and purchased power adjustment process. This agreement was subsequently approved by the RCA.

## AIX Energy LLC: 2016 through March 31, 2029

Chugach entered into a long-term gas contract with AIX, entitled, "Gas Sale and Purchase Agreement between AIX Energy LLC and Chugach" (AIX GSPA), that extends through March 31, 2024, with an option to extend the term an additional 5-year period through March 31, 2029. Under the AIX GSPA, Chugach is permitted to purchase gas as either firm or interruptible, with the specific purchase price and quantity negotiated at the time of each transaction, subject to a maximum price and quantity in each contract year. There is no minimum purchase requirement contained in the AIX GSPA and the purchase price is determined through mutual agreement of Chugach and AIX, subject to a maximum price in each contract year. The AIX GSPA provides Chugach with additional diversity in its gas supply portfolio with the opportunity to purchase gas at prices below existing supplier prices.

The AIX GSPA was filed with the RCA on November 25, 2015, and approved in a letter order issued on January 11, 2016.

## Second and Third Amendments to the Gas Sale and Purchase Agreement with Hilcorp

Chugach submitted the Second Amendment (Second Amendment) to the GSPA between Hilcorp Alaska, LLC and Chugach to the RCA on March 19, 2015. The Second Amendment was administrative in nature and established a more efficient payment procedure and updated notice provisions required under the GSPA. The Second Amendment was approved by the RCA on April 20, 2015.

On July 23, 2015, Chugach filed the Third Amendment (Third Amendment) to the GSPA between Hilcorp Alaska, LLC and Chugach with the RCA. The Third Amendment extends the term of the existing GSPA for firm gas sales from March 31, 2019 to March 31, 2023, and adjusts the volumes and gas price for purchases in 2019. The Third Amendment does not change the underlying terms and conditions of the GSPA as amended, or the pricing and gas quantities in 2015 through March 31, 2018. The Third Amendment reduces the gas price by 8.5 percent on April 1, 2018.

A key provision of the Third Amendment is the option for additional gas volumes during the period of April 1, 2019, through March 31, 2023, on both an annual contract quantity and average daily contract quantity basis. These options provide Chugach with added flexibility in the overall management of its gas supply requirements. The annual volumetric basis option



provides Chugach with the ability to augment its firm gas supply requirements from other independent suppliers. Chugach is permitted to increase the annual contract volumes of up to 1.1 billion cubic feet (Bcf) of gas beginning April 1, 2019, and up to 2.6 Bcf annually on April 1 thereafter, provided advanced notice is given to Hilcorp. This option allows Chugach to continue to obtain firm gas supplies from Hilcorp or alternatively from other gas suppliers if market conditions allow.

The Third Amendment also provides Chugach with shorter-term options to purchase up to 2.0 million cubic feet (MMcf) per day of additional firm gas without impacting established annual contract quantities. This option allows Chugach to purchase additional volumes in response to short-term sales increases due to weather, bulk power maintenance activities, or other events on the Chugach system.

The Third Amendment was approved by the RCA on September 8, 2015.

#### 2013 General Rate Case

To reflect revenue and cost changes resulting from the expiration of HEA's wholesale contract, Chugach submitted its 2013 Test Year General Rate Case to the RCA on November 19, 2013, to increase system base rate revenues by \$16.0 million, or approximately 12.5% on total retail, MEA, and Seward base rate revenues of \$127.4 million. On January 2, 2014, the RCA approved the submitted rates on an interim and refundable basis. Retail rates were effective January 2, 2014, and wholesale rate changes were effective February 1, 2014, for purchases beginning January 1, 2014. The increase, net of both base rate increases and fuel savings, to Chugach retail end-users was approximately six percent.

On April 18, 2014, Chugach submitted an update to its 2013 general rate case to reflect the final results contained in Chugach's compliance filing in the 2012 general rate case that was submitted to the RCA on April 14, 2014. The update reflected final rate design changes contained in the 2012 rate case. On May 30, 2014, the RCA issued Order No. 3 approving Chugach's motion and update to retail and wholesale base rates effective with the first billing cycle in June 2014. There was no impact to the system revenue requirement contained in the 2013 Test Year General Rate Case filing.

Chugach and the parties to the docket entered into a stipulation resolving revenue requirement and cost of service matters contained in the case. The stipulation was filed with the RCA on October 16, 2014, and required Chugach to issue refunds totaling \$1.1 million (annualized) for service provided beginning January 2014, with an expected financial impact to Chugach of approximately \$0.2 million on an annual basis. The stipulation contained a provision that Chugach be permitted to create a regulatory asset for approximately \$0.9 million of storm-related costs and be permitted to recover \$0.2 million per year over the next five years. On November 13, 2014, the RCA accepted the stipulation.

On February 12, 2015, the RCA issued Order No. 9 of U-14-001 accepting the stipulation on revenue requirement matters and resolving the remaining issues in the docket. The RCA required Chugach to submit updated tariffs reflecting the results of the RCA order and the stipulations entered into the case, including a detailed refund plan, which Chugach submitted on March 13, 2015.

The RCA issued Order U-14-001(11) on April 30, 2015, approving final rates for the January 1, 2014, through April 30, 2015, period, and approving Chugach's refund plan resulting from settlements in the case. Chugach issued refunds to Seward, MEA and transmission wheeling customers in May of 2015, and to retail customers between June and July of 2015. On August 6, 2015, in compliance with Order U-14-001(11), Chugach notified the RCA that it had completed the disbursement of refunds to retail and wholesale customers. On August 25, 2015, the RCA issued Order U-14-001(12) closing the docket.

#### Operation and Regulation of the Alaska Railbelt Transmission System

The 2014 Alaska Legislature directed the RCA to provide a recommendation on whether creating an independent system operator or similar structure in the Railbelt area is the best option for effective and efficient electrical transmission. On February 11, 2015, the RCA voted in favor of opening a docket to investigate and receive input on alternative transmission structures for the Railbelt. The RCA held public meetings and workshops throughout the second quarter of 2015.

On June 30, 2015, the RCA issued its report which recommended an independent transmission company, certificated and regulated as a public utility, be created to operate the transmission system reliably and transparently and to plan and execute major maintenance, transmission system upgrades, and new transmission projects necessary for the reliable delivery of electric power to Railbelt customers. The RCA also wants to be granted authority for siting new generation and transmission and to regulate integrated resource planning of the Railbelt electrical system. Quarterly progress reports on this effort were required for the remainder of 2015. The development of common Railbelt operating and reliability standards and system-wide merit order economic dispatch of the Railbelt's electrical generation units to bring the maximum benefit to ratepayers was also recommended. The RCA expects to analyze and review present efforts in order to assess the organizational and governance structure needed for an independent consolidated system operator. Initial progress reports to develop an independent Railbelt electric transmission company were filed with the RCA on September 30, 2015. A second report on grid unification was filed with the RCA in December 2015. Progress reports associated with system-wide economic dispatch were filed with the RCA in January and early February 2016.

With the support of the RCA, Chugach and several other Railbelt utilities are evaluating possible transmission business model opportunities and associated economic dispatch models that Chugach believes may lead to more optimal Railbelt-wide system operations. Chugach intends to finalize this review and evaluation in the first or second quarter of 2016. While Chugach cannot determine the materiality of any effect on its results of operations, financial condition, and cash flows until a business model and plan are adopted, it anticipates a positive outcome.

#### Cook Inlet Natural Gas Alaska: Found Gas

On January 30, 2015, CINGSA submitted a filing to the RCA providing notice that it had found 14.5 Bcf of gas as a result of directional drilling in the storage facility and now proposes to establish guidelines for commercial sales of at least 2 Bcf of this gas. Chugach submitted comments to the RCA regarding CINGSA's proposed treatment of found gas. Chugach does not believe CINGSA's proposal to retain revenues for the sale of found gas should be permitted in recognition of the risk-sharing agreements made by CINGSA and its storage customers that resulted in the development of the CINGSA storage facility.

The RCA issued an order in March of 2015 suspending the filing for further investigation. CINGSA filed direct testimony in the case on April 13, 2015. Chugach and other intervenors in the case submitted responsive testimony on June 5, 2015. CINGSA submitted its reply testimony on June 29, 2015. The evidentiary hearing was held in September of 2015.

The RCA issued a final order in the case on December 4, 2015, ruling significantly in favor of the intervenors in the case. The RCA granted approval for CINGSA to sell 2 Bcf with 87% of the proceeds allocated to CINGSA's Firm Storage Service (FSS) customers and 13 percent to CINGSA. The RCA also required CINGSA to file a reservoir engineering study by June 30, 2016, and required CINGSA to file notice of all gas sales within 30 days of any sales, including the transaction price, purchaser, quantities, and the terms and conditions of the sale. The RCA also required that all proceeds to the FSS customers be treated as a reduction in fuel costs that are paid by CINGSA's customers.

On January 4, 2016, CINGSA filed an appeal in Superior Court to Order U-15-016(14), stating the RCA violated CINGSA's right to due process of law, erred, and/or acted unreasonably, unfairly, arbitrarily, capriciously, or contrary to applicable law. CINGSA believes additional proceeds resulting from the sale of found native gas should remain with CINGSA. Chugach filed an entry of appearance in the case on January 14, 2016.

#### ENSTAR Natural Gas

ENSTAR Natural Gas Company (ENSTAR) submitted a general rate case to the RCA proposing a 20% system rate increase, and an approximate 100% increase to Chugach for gas transportation services. Chugach submitted responsive testimony in May 2015. ENSTAR submitted reply testimony on June 26, 2015.

Chugach and other parties to the docket entered into mediation in mid-July and reached an agreement to settle in principal the outstanding issues in the case. As a result of the stipulation, the original proposed annual increase of \$2.6 million to Chugach was settled at less than \$0.5 million. The parties also agreed to several tariff changes that remove demand charge penalties for economy transactions. The hearing originally scheduled to begin in late August was vacated. The RCA accepted the stipulation. ENSTAR is required to file another general rate case in the second quarter of 2016.

#### Beluga River Unit

In July of 2015, ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc. (COP) announced the marketing for sale of its North Cook Inlet Unit; its interest in the Beluga River Unit (BRU); and its interest in 5,700 acres of exploration prospects in the Cook Inlet region. In October of 2015, Chugach submitted a joint bid with the Municipality of Anchorage d/b/a Municipal Light & Power (ML&P) for acquisition of COP's one-third working interest in the BRU.

As discussed in "Note 17 – Subsequent Events – Beluga River Unit," Chugach entered into an agreement entitled, "Purchase and Sale Agreement between ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc. and Municipality of Anchorage d/b/a Municipal Light & Power and Chugach Electric Association, Inc." (Purchase and Sale Agreement) on February 4, 2016. The Purchase and Sale Agreement transfers COP's interest in the BRU to Chugach and ML&P. The acquisition and attendant recovery of costs in electric rates is subject to the approval of the RCA.

Chugach and ML&P expect to submit a joint petition to the RCA for approval of the Purchase and Sale Agreement in March of 2016. Chugach expects a two to six month process for RCA review of the Purchase and Sale Agreement. A separate filing detailing the specific rate recovery process is expected to be filed in the second quarter of 2016. Under the recovery structure that will be proposed by Chugach, costs associated with the BRU, including acquisition and on-going operations, maintenance and capital investment, will be recovered on a dollar-for-dollar basis through Chugach's quarterly fuel adjustment process. Chugach recovers its fuel and purchased power costs as a direct pass-through from its retail and wholesale customers with minimal lag between cost incurrence and recovery.

# NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2015 AND 2014

## (6) Utility Plant

Major classes of utility plant as of December 31 are as follows:

	2015	2014
Electric plant in service:		
Steam production plant	\$ 100,938,247	\$ 161,454,274
Hydroelectric production plant	20,591,678	20,594,429
Other production plant	284,035,865	278,389,073
Transmission plant	277,490,606	261,173,934
Distribution plant	290,680,919	281,706,456
General plant	51,841,582	53,452,136
Unclassified electric plant in service <sup>1</sup>	95,611,615	91,446,881
Intangible plant <sup>1</sup>	5,455,371	5,455,371
Other <sup>1</sup>	1,828,409	1,828,409
Total electric plant in service	1,128,474,292	1,155,500,963
Construction work in progress	15,601,374	21,567,341
Total electric plant in service and construction work in progress	<u>\$ 1,144,075,666</u>	<u>\$ 1,177,068,304</u>

<sup>1</sup>Unclassified electric plant in service consists of complete unclassified general plant, generation plant, transmission plant and distribution plant. Depreciation of unclassified electric plant in service has been included in functional plant depreciation accounts in accordance with the anticipated eventual classification of the plant investment. Intangible plant represents Chugach's share of a Bradley Lake transmission line financed internally. Other represents Electric Plant Held for Future Use.

## (7) Investments in Associated Organizations

Investments in associated organizations include the following at December 31:

	2015	2014
NRUCFC	\$ 6,095,980	\$ 6,095,980
CoBank	3,475,664	3,763,697
NRUCFC Capital Term Certificates and other	63,875	63,875
Total investments in associated organizations	<u>\$ 9,635,519</u>	<u>\$ 9,923,552</u>

The Farm Credit Administration, CoBank's federal regulators, requires minimum capital adequacy standards for all Farm Credit System institutions. Loan agreements and financing arrangements with CoBank and NRUCFC require, as a condition of the extension of credit, that an equity ownership position be established by all borrowers.

## (8) Deferred Charges and Credits

### Deferred Charges

Deferred charges, or regulatory assets, net of amortization, consisted of the following at December 31:

	2015	2014
Debt issuance and reacquisition costs	\$ 2,928,378	\$ 3,263,937
Refurbishment of transmission equipment	114,198	123,457
Feasibility studies	551,122	578,806
Beluga gas compression	508,866	1,017,733
Cooper Lake relicensing / projects	5,410,109	5,540,212
Fuel supply	939,768	898,849
Storm damage	841,595	971,071
Other regulatory deferred charges	1,257,809	1,464,784
Bond interest - market risk management	5,871,286	6,402,875
Environmental matters	1,069,522	1,114,872
Total deferred charges	<u>\$ 19,492,653</u>	<u>\$ 21,376,596</u>

Deferred charges, or regulatory assets, not currently being recovered in rates charged to consumers, consisted of the following at December 31:

	2015	2014
Studies and other	\$ 686,348	\$ 387,253
Storm damage	0	971,071
Wind project	0	34,543
Total deferred charges	<u>\$ 686,348</u>	<u>\$ 1,392,867</u>

The amount related to storm damage was approved by the RCA on February 21, 2015, see Note (5) Regulatory Matters - 2013 General Rate Case.

We believe all regulatory assets not currently being recovered in rates charged to consumers are probable of recovery in the future based upon prior recovery of similar costs allowed by our regulator. The recovery of regulatory assets is approved by the RCA either in standard SRFs, general rate case filings or specified independent requests. In most cases, deferred charges are recovered over the life of the underlying asset.

### Deferred Credits

Deferred credits, or regulatory liabilities, at December 31 consisted of the following:

	2015	2014
Refundable consumer advances for construction	\$ 823,115	\$ 787,824
Estimated initial installation costs for meters	105,274	98,964
Post retirement benefit obligation	874,000	874,000
Other	0	97,667
Total deferred costs	<u>\$ 1,802,389</u>	<u>\$ 1,858,455</u>

## (9) Patronage Capital

Chugach has a Board-approved capital credit retirement policy, which is contained in Chugach's Financial Forecast. This establishes, in general, a plan to return the capital credits of wholesale and retail customers based on the members' proportionate contribution to Chugach's assignable margins. At December 31, 2015, Chugach had \$167,447,781 of patronage capital (net of capital credits retired in 2015), which included \$160,944,929 of patronage capital that had been assigned and \$6,502,852 of patronage capital to be assigned to its members. At December 31, 2014, Chugach had \$164,135,053 of patronage capital (net of capital credits retired in 2014), which included \$157,619,508 of patronage capital that had been assigned and \$6,515,545 of patronage capital to be assigned to its members. Approval of actual capital credit retirements is at the discretion of the Chugach Board. Chugach records a liability when the retirements are approved by the Board. In December of 2013, the Board resumed its capital credit retirement program.

# NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2015 AND 2014

Chugach entered into an agreement with HEA to return all of its patronage capital within five years after expiration of its power sales agreement, which was December 31, 2013. This patronage capital retirement was related to a settlement agreement associated with the 2005 Test Year General Rate Case (Docket U-06-134). The RCA accepted the parties' settlement agreement on August 9, 2007. HEA's patronage capital payable was \$7.9 million at December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively.

In an agreement reached in May of 2014 with MEA, capital credits retired to MEA are classified as patronage capital payable on Chugach's Balance Sheet. MEA's patronage capital payable was \$3.2 million and \$2.3 million at December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively.

The Second Amended and Restated Indenture of Trust (the Indenture) and the CoBank Amended and Restated Master Loan Agreement prohibit Chugach from making any distribution of patronage capital to Chugach's customers if an event of default under the Indenture or debt agreements exists. Otherwise, Chugach may make distributions to Chugach's members in each year equal to the lesser of 5% of Chugach's patronage capital or 50% of assignable margins for the prior fiscal year. This restriction does not apply if, after the distribution, Chugach's aggregate equities and margins as of the end of the immediately preceding fiscal quarter are equal to at least 30% of Chugach's total liabilities and equities and margins. Capital credits retired, net of HEA's allocations, were \$3,190,124, \$5,130,381, and \$1,626,828 for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014, and 2013, respectively. With the exception of MEA's and HEA's patronage capital payable, the outstanding liability for capital credits authorized but not paid at December 31, 2015, 2014, and 2013 was \$2,105,440, \$1,042,064 and \$1,470,263, respectively.

## (10) Other Equities

A summary of other equities at December 31 follows:

	2015	2014
Nonoperating margins, prior to 1967	\$ 23,625	\$ 23,625
Donated capital	1,877,193	1,806,424
Unclaimed capital credit retirement <sup>1</sup>	10,627,038	9,328,628
Total other equities	<u>\$ 12,527,856</u>	<u>\$ 11,158,677</u>

<sup>1</sup>Represents unclaimed capital credits that have met all requirements of Alaska Statute section 34.45.200 regarding Alaska's unclaimed property law and has therefore reverted to Chugach.

## (11) Debt

Long-term obligations at December 31 are as follows:

	2015	2014
2011 CoBank bond, 2.77% variable rate bond maturing in 2022, with interest payable monthly and principal due annually beginning in 2003	\$ 24,941,165	\$ 27,414,275
2011 Series A Bond of 4.20%, maturing in 2031, with interest payable semi-annually March 15 and September 15 and principal due annually beginning in 2012	72,000,000	76,500,000
2011 Series A Bond of 4.75%, maturing in 2041, with interest payable semi-annually March 15 and September 15 and principal due annually beginning in 2012	160,333,332	166,499,999
2012 Series A Bond of 4.01%, maturing in 2032, with interest payable semi-annually March 15 and September 15 and principal due annually beginning in 2013	63,750,000	67,500,000
2012 Series A Bond of 4.41%, maturing in 2042, with interest payable semi-annually March 15 and September 15 and principal due annually between 2013 and 2020 and between 2032 and 2042	102,000,000	109,000,000
2012 Series A Bond of 4.78%, maturing in 2042, with interest payable semi-annually March 15 and September 15 and principal due annually beginning in 2023	<u>50,000,000</u>	<u>50,000,000</u>
Total long-term obligations	\$ 473,024,497	\$ 496,914,274
Less current installments	<u>24,115,980</u>	<u>23,889,777</u>
Long-term obligations, excluding current installments	<u>\$ 448,908,517</u>	<u>\$ 473,024,497</u>

### Covenants

Chugach is required to comply with all covenants set forth in the Indenture that secures the 2011 Series A Bonds, the 2012 Series A Bonds and the 2011 CoBank bond. The CoBank bond is governed by the Amended and Restated Master Loan Agreement, which is now secured by the Indenture dated January 20, 2011.

Chugach is also required to comply with the 2010 Credit Agreement, between Chugach and NRUCFC, KeyBank National Association, Bank of America, N.A., Bank of Montreal, CoBank, ACB and Chang Hwa Commercial Bank, Ltd., Los Angeles Branch as amended June 29, 2012, governing loans and extensions of credit associated with Chugach's Commercial Paper Program, in an aggregate principal amount not exceeding \$100.0 million at any one time outstanding.

Chugach is also required to comply with other covenants set forth in the Revolving Line of Credit Agreement with NRUCFC.

### Security

The Indenture, which became effective on January 20, 2011, imposes a lien on substantially all of Chugach's assets to secure Chugach's long-term debt obligations. Assets that are generally not subject to the lien of the Indenture include cash (other than cash deposited with the indenture trustee); instruments and securities; patents, trademarks, licenses and other intellectual property; vehicles and other movable equipment; inventory and consumable materials and supplies; office furniture, equipment and supplies; computer equipment and software; office leases; other leasehold interests for an original term of less than five years; contracts (other than power sales agreements with members having an original term exceeding three years, certain contracts specifically identified in the indenture, and other contracts relating to the ownership, operation or maintenance of generation, transmission or distribution facilities); non-assignable permits, licenses and other contract rights; timber and minerals separated from land; electricity, gas, steam, water and other products generated, produced or purchased; other property in which a security interest cannot legally be perfected by the filing of a Uniform Commercial Code financing statement, and certain parcels of real property specifically excepted from the lien of the Indenture. The lien of the Indenture may be subject to various permitted encumbrances that include matters existing on the date of the Indenture or the date on which property is later acquired; reservations in United States patents; non-delinquent or contested taxes, assessments and contractors' liens; and various leases, rights-of-way, easements, covenants, conditions, restrictions, reservations, licenses and permits that do not materially impair Chugach's use of the mortgaged property in the conduct of Chugach's business.

### Rates

The Indenture also requires Chugach, subject to any necessary regulatory approval, to establish and collect rates reasonably expected to yield margins for interest equal to at least 1.10 times total interest expense. If there occurs any material change in the circumstances contemplated at the time rates were most recently reviewed, the Indenture requires Chugach to seek appropriate adjustment to those rates so that they would generate revenues reasonably expected to yield margins for interest equal to at least 1.10 times interest charges, provided, however, upon review of rates based on a material change in circumstances, rates are required to be revised in order to comply and there are less than six calendar months remaining in the current fiscal year, Chugach can revise its rates so as to reasonably expect to meet the covenant for the next succeeding 12-month period after the date of any such revision.

The CoBank Master Loan Agreement also required Chugach to establish and collect rates reasonably expected to yield margins for interest equal to at least 1.10 times interest expense. The Amended and Restated Master Loan Agreement with CoBank, which became effective on January 19, 2011, did not change this requirement.



# NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2015 AND 2014

The 2010 Credit Agreement governing the unsecured facility providing liquidity for Chugach's Commercial Paper Program requires Chugach to maintain minimum margins for interest of at least 1.10 times interest charges for each fiscal year. Margins for interest generally consist of Chugach's assignable margins plus total interest expense.

## Distributions to Members

Under the Indenture and debt agreements, Chugach is prohibited from making any distribution of patronage capital to Chugach's customers if an event of default under the Indenture or debt agreements exists. Otherwise, Chugach may make distributions to Chugach's members in each year equal to the lesser of 5% of Chugach's patronage capital or 50% of assignable margins for the prior fiscal year. This restriction does not apply if, after the distribution, Chugach's aggregate equities and margins as of the end of the immediately preceding fiscal quarter are equal to at least 30% of Chugach's total liabilities and equities and margins.

## Maturities of Long-term Obligations

Long-term obligations at December 31, 2015, mature as follows:

Year ending December 31	2011 Series A Bonds	CoBank Bond	2012 Series A Bonds	Total
2016	10,666,667	2,699,313	10,750,000	24,115,980
2017	10,666,667	2,945,954	10,750,000	24,362,621
2018	10,666,667	3,215,267	10,750,000	24,631,934
2019	10,666,667	3,509,142	10,750,000	24,925,809
2020	10,666,667	3,829,809	10,750,000	25,246,476
Thereafter	178,999,997	8,741,680	162,000,000	349,741,677
	<u>\$ 232,333,332</u>	<u>\$ 24,941,165</u>	<u>\$ 215,750,000</u>	<u>\$ 473,024,497</u>

## Lines of credit

Chugach maintains a \$50.0 million line of credit with NRUCFC. Chugach did not utilize this line of credit in 2015 or 2014, and therefore had no outstanding balance at December 31, 2015 and 2014. The borrowing rate is calculated using the total rate per annum and may be fixed by NRUCFC. The borrowing rate was 2.90% at December 31, 2015 and 2014.

The NRUCFC Revolving Line Of Credit Agreement requires that Chugach, for each 12-month period, for a period of at least five consecutive days, pay down the entire outstanding principal balance. The NRUCFC line of credit expires October 12, 2017, and is immediately available for unconditional borrowing.

## Commercial Paper

On November 17, 2010, Chugach entered into a \$300.0 million Unsecured Credit Agreement, which is used to back Chugach's Commercial Paper Program. The participating banks were NRUCFC, Bank of America, N.A., KeyBank National Association, JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., Bank of Montreal, CoBank, ACB, Goldman Sachs Bank USA, Bank of Taiwan, Los Angeles Branch and Chang Hwa Commercial Bank, Ltd., Los Angeles Branch. Effective May 4, 2012, Chugach reduced the commitment amount to \$100.0 million and on June 29, 2012, amended and extended the Credit Agreement to update the pricing and extend the term. The new pricing includes an all-in drawn spread of one month London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) plus 107.5 basis points, along with a 17.5 basis points facility fee (based on an A- unsecured debt rating). The Amended Unsecured Credit Agreement now expires on November 17, 2016. The participating banks include NRUCFC, KeyBank National Association, Bank of America, N.A., Bank of Montreal, CoBank and Chang Hwa Commercial Bank, Ltd., Los Angeles Branch. Our commercial paper can be repriced between one day and 270 days. Chugach is expected to continue to issue commercial paper in 2016, as needed, however, the requirement for short-term borrowing has decreased.

Chugach had \$20.0 million and \$21.0 million of commercial paper outstanding at December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively.

The following table provides information regarding 2015 monthly average commercial paper balances outstanding (dollars in millions), as well as corresponding weighted average interest rates:

Month	Average Balance	Weighted Average Interest Rate	Month	Average Balance	Weighted Average Interest Rate
January 2015	\$ 17.8	0.26	July 2015	\$ 10.1	0.26
February 2015	\$ 11.6	0.22	August 2015	\$ 12.0	0.25
March 2015	\$ 16.0	0.29	September 2015	\$ 19.5	0.25
April 2015	\$ 23.8	0.28	October 2015	\$ 24.0	0.25
May 2015	\$ 16.0	0.27	November 2015	\$ 22.4	0.25
June 2015	\$ 12.1	0.31	December 2015	\$ 21.4	0.49

## Financing

On January 21, 2011, Chugach issued \$275.0 million of First Mortgage Bonds, 2011 Series A, in two tranches, Tranche A and Tranche B, for the purpose of refinancing the 2001 and 2002 Series A Bonds in 2011 and 2012, and for general corporate purposes. Interest is paid semi-annually on March 15 and September 15 commencing on September 15, 2011. Principal on the 2011 Series A Bonds is paid in equal annual installments beginning March 15, 2012. On January 11, 2012, Chugach issued \$250.0 million of First Mortgage Bonds, 2012 Series A, in three tranches, Tranche A, Tranche B and Tranche C, for the purpose of repaying outstanding commercial paper used to finance SPP construction and for general corporate purposes. Interest is paid semi-annually March 15 and September 15 commencing on September 15, 2012. The 2012 Series A Bonds, Tranche A and Tranche C, pay principal in equal installments on an annual basis beginning March 15, 2013, and 2023, respectively. The 2012 Series A Bonds, Tranche B, pay principal beginning March 15, 2013, through 2020, and on March 15, 2032, through 2042. The bonds and all other long-term debt obligations are secured by a lien on substantially all of Chugach's assets, pursuant to the Indenture, which became effective on January 20, 2011.

The following table provides additional information regarding the 2011 Series A and 2012 Series A bonds at December 31, 2015:

	Maturing March 15,	Average Life (Years)	Interest Rate	Issue Amount	Carrying Value
2011 Series A, Tranche A	2031	10.0	4.20 %	\$ 90,000	\$ 72,000
2011 Series A, Tranche B	2041	15.5	4.75 %	185,000	160,333
2012 Series A, Tranche A	2032	10.7	4.01 %	75,000	63,750
2012 Series A, Tranche B	2042	15.7	4.41 %	125,000	102,000
2012 Series A, Tranche C	2042	20.7	4.78 %	50,000	50,000
Total				<u>\$ 525,000</u>	<u>\$ 448,083</u>

Chugach has a term loan facility with CoBank. Loans made under this facility are evidenced by the 2011 CoBank Note, which is governed by the Amended and Restated Master Loan Agreement dated January 19, 2011, and secured by the Indenture.

## Fair Value of Debt Instruments

The fair value of long-term debt has been determined using discounted future cash flows at borrowing rates currently available to Chugach. Level 1 measurement was used to determine the fair value of the 2011 and 2012 Series A Bonds. Level 2 measurements were used to determine all other long-term obligations. The estimated fair value (in thousands) of the long-term obligations included in the financial statements at December 31 is as follows:

	Carrying Value	Fair Value
Long-term obligations (including current installments)	\$ 473,024	\$ 480,135

# NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2015 AND 2014

## (12) Employee Benefit Plans

### Pension Plans

Pension benefits for substantially all union employees are provided through the Alaska Electrical Pension Trust Fund and the UNITE HERE National Retirement Fund, multi-employer plans. Chugach pays an hourly amount per eligible union employee pursuant to the collective bargaining unit agreements. In these master, multi-employer plans, the accumulated benefits and plan assets are not determined or allocated separately to the individual employer.

Pension benefits for non-union employees are provided by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Retirement and Security Plan (RS Plan). The RS Plan is a defined benefit pension plan qualified under Section 401 and tax-exempt under Section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code. Under ASC 960, "Topic 960 – Plan Accounting – Defined Benefit Pension Plans," the RS Plan is a multi-employer plan, in which the accumulated benefits and plan assets are not determined or allocated separately to individual employers. Chugach makes annual contributions to the RS Plan equal to the amounts accrued for pension expense.

Chugach made contributions to all significant pension plans for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013 of \$6.7 million, \$6.8 million and \$6.8 million, respectively. The rate and number of employees in all significant pension plans did not materially change for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013.

The following table provides information regarding pension plans which Chugach considers individually significant:

	Alaska Electrical Pension Plan <sup>3</sup>			NRECA Retirement Security Plan <sup>3</sup>		
	2015	2014	2013	2015	2014	2013
Employer Identification Number	92-6005171			53-0116145		
Plan Number	001			333		
Year-end Date	December 31			December 31		
Expiration Date of CBA's	June 30, 2017			N/A <sup>2</sup>		
Subject to Funding Improvement Plan	No			No <sup>4</sup>		
Surcharge Paid	N/A			N/A <sup>4</sup>		
Zone Status	Green	Green	Green	N/A <sup>1</sup>	N/A <sup>1</sup>	N/A <sup>1</sup>
Required minimum contributions	None	None	None	N/A	N/A	N/A
Contributions (in millions)	\$3.1	\$3.3	\$3.4	\$3.5	\$3.5	\$3.4
Contributions > 5% of total plan contributions	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No

<sup>1</sup>A "zone status" determination is not required, and therefore not determined under the Pension Protection Act (PPA) of 2006.

<sup>2</sup>The CEO is the only participant in the NRECA RS Plan who is subject to an employment agreement, which is effective through July 17, 2016.

<sup>3</sup>The Alaska Electrical Pension Plan financial statements are publicly available. The NRECA RS Plan financial statements are available on Chugach's website at [www.chugachelectric.com](http://www.chugachelectric.com).

<sup>4</sup>The provisions of the PPA do not apply to the RS Plan, therefore, funding improvement plans and surcharges are not applicable. Future contribution requirements are determined each year as part of the actuarial valuation of the RS Plan and may change as a result of plan experience.

### Health and Welfare Plans

Health and welfare benefits for union employees are provided through the Alaska Electrical Health and Welfare Trust and the Alaska Hotel, Restaurant and Camp Employees Health and Welfare and Pension Trust Fund. Chugach participates in multi-employer plans that provide substantially all union workers with health care and other welfare benefits during their employment with Chugach. Chugach pays a defined amount per union employee pursuant to collective bargaining unit agreements. Amounts charged to benefit costs and contributed to the health and welfare plans for these benefits for the years ending December 31, 2015, 2014, and 2013 were \$4.5 million, \$4.5 million, and \$4.1 million, respectively.

Chugach participates in a multi-employer plan through the Group Benefits Program of NRECA for non-union employees. Amounts charged to benefit cost and contributed to this plan for those benefits for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014, and 2013 totaled \$2.6 million, \$2.9 million, and \$2.9 million respectively.

### Money Purchase Pension Plan

Chugach participates in a multi-employer defined contribution money purchase pension plan covering some employees who are covered by a collective bargaining agreement. Contributions to the Plan are made based on a percentage of each employee's compensation. Contributions to the money purchase pension plan for the years ending December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013 were \$133.6 thousand, \$149.2 thousand and \$147.9 thousand, respectively.

### 401(k) Plan

Chugach has a defined contribution 401(k) retirement plan which covers substantially all employees who, effective January 1, 2008, can participate immediately. Employees who elect to participate may contribute up to the Internal Revenue Service's maximum of \$18,000, \$17,500 and \$17,500 in 2015, 2014 and 2013 respectively, and allowed catch-up contributions for those over 50 years of age of \$6,000 in 2015 and \$5,500 in 2014 and 2013. Chugach does not make contributions to the plan.

### Deferred Compensation

Effective January 1, 2011, Chugach participates in Vanguard's unfunded Deferred Compensation Program (the Program) to allow highly compensated employees who elect to participate in the Program to defer a portion of their current compensation and avoid paying tax on the deferrals until received. The program is a non-qualified plan under Internal Revenue Code 457(b).

Deferred compensation accounts are established for the individual employees, however, they are considered to be owned by Chugach until a distribution is made. The amounts credited to the deferred compensation account, including gains or losses, are retained by Chugach until the entire amount credited to the account has been distributed to the participant or to the participant's beneficiary. The balance of the Program for the years ending December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013 was \$763,913, \$666,967 and \$536,546, respectively.

### Potential Termination Payments

Pursuant to a Chugach Operating Policy, non-represented employees, including the executive officers except the Chief Executive Officer, who are terminated by Chugach for reasons unrelated to employee performance are entitled to severance pay for each year or partial year of service as follows: two weeks for each year of service to a maximum of 26 weeks for 13 years or more of service.

## (13) Bradley Lake Hydroelectric Project

Chugach is a participant in the Bradley Lake Hydroelectric Project (Bradley Lake). Bradley Lake was built and financed by the Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) through State of Alaska grants and \$166.0 million of revenue bonds. Chugach and other participating utilities have entered into take-or-pay power sales agreements under which shares of the project capacity have been purchased and the participants have agreed to pay a like percentage of annual costs of the project (including ownership, operation and maintenance costs, debt service costs and amounts required to maintain established reserves). Under these take-or-pay power sales agreements, the participants have agreed to pay all project costs from the date of commercial operation even if no energy is produced. Chugach has a 30.4% share, or 27.4 megawatts (MW) as currently operated, of the project's capacity. The share of Bradley Lake indebtedness for which we are responsible is approximately \$21.6 million. Upon the default of a Bradley Lake participant, and subject to certain other conditions, AEA is entitled to increase each participant's share of costs pro rata, to the extent necessary to compensate for the failure of another participant to pay its share, provided that no participant's percentage share is increased by more than 25%. Upon default, Chugach could be faced with annual expenditures of approximately \$5.7 million as a result of Chugach's Bradley Lake take-or-pay obligations. Management believes that such expenditures, if any, would be recoverable through the fuel recovery process.

The State of Alaska provided an initial grant for work on a project to divert water from Battle Creek into Bradley Lake. The project is being managed by the Alaska Energy Authority. Based on stream flow measurements from 1991 through 1993, diverting a portion of Battle Creek into Bradley Lake has the potential to increase annual energy output up to 40,000 megawatt-hours (MWh). Chugach would be entitled to 30.4% of the additional energy produced.

# NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2015 AND 2014

The following represents information with respect to Bradley Lake at June 30, 2015 (the most recent date for which information is available). Chugach's share of expenses was \$5,663,304 in 2015, \$5,228,907 in 2014, and \$4,882,163 in 2013 and is included in purchased power in the accompanying financial statements.

(In thousands)	Total	Proportionate Share
Plant in service	\$ 167,235	\$ 50,839
Long-term debt	62,585	19,026
Interest expense	3,668	1,115

Chugach's share of a Bradley Lake transmission line financed internally is included in Intangible Electric Plant.

## (14) Eklutna Hydroelectric Project

Along with two other utilities, Chugach purchased the Eklutna Hydroelectric Project from the Federal Government in 1997. Ownership was transferred from the United States Department of Energy's Alaska Power Administration jointly to Chugach (30%), MEA (17%) and ML&P (53%).

Plant in service in 2015 included \$4,401,440, net of accumulated depreciation of \$2,203,659, which represents Chugach's share of the Eklutna Hydroelectric Project. In 2014, plant in service included \$4,442,440, net of accumulated depreciation of \$2,017,032. The facility is operated by Chugach and maintained jointly by Chugach and ML&P. Each participant contributes their proportionate share for operation, maintenance and capital improvement costs to the plant, as well as to the transmission line between Anchorage and the plant. Under net billing arrangements, Chugach then reimburses MEA for their share of the costs. Chugach's share of expenses was \$689,501, \$761,613, and \$730,122 in 2015, 2014, and 2013, respectively, and is included in purchased power, power production and depreciation expense in the accompanying financial statements. ML&P performs major maintenance at the plant. Chugach performs the daily operation and maintenance of the power plant, providing personnel who perform daily plant inspections, meter reading, monthly report preparation, and other activities as required.

## (15) Commitments and Contingencies

### Contingencies

Chugach is a participant in various legal actions, rate disputes, personnel matters and claims both for and against Chugach's interests. Management believes the outcome of any such matters will not materially impact Chugach's financial condition, results of operations or liquidity. Chugach establishes reserves when a particular contingency is probable and calculable. Chugach has not accrued for any contingency at December 31, 2015, as it does not consider any contingency to be probable nor calculable. Chugach faces contingencies that are reasonably possible to occur; however, they cannot currently be estimated.

### Concentrations

Approximately 70% of our employees are members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW). Chugach has three Collective Bargaining Unit Agreements (CBA) with the IBEW. We also have an agreement with the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees (HERE). All three IBEW CBA's have been renewed through June 30, 2017. The HERE contract has been renewed through June 30, 2016.

Chugach was the principal supplier of power under wholesale power contracts with MEA and HEA, which expired April 30, 2015, and December 31, 2013, respectively. The MEA contract, including the fuel component, represented \$26.2 million through its expiration, or 13% of 2015 sales revenue, and \$70.7 million, or 26% of 2014 sales revenue. The MEA and HEA contracts, including the fuel component, represented \$103.1 million, or 35% of 2013 sales revenue. All rates were established by the RCA.

### Fuel Supply Contracts

Chugach has fuel supply contracts from various producers at market terms. A gas supply contract between Chugach and ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc. and ConocoPhillips, Inc. (collectively "ConocoPhillips"), approved effective by the RCA on August 21, 2009, began providing gas in 2010 and will terminate December 31, 2016. The total amount of gas under the contract is currently estimated to be 60 Bcf. The RCA approved a natural gas supply contract with Marathon Alaska Production, LLC (MAP) effective May 17, 2010. This contract includes two contract extensions that were exercised in 2011. Effective February 1, 2013, this gas purchase agreement was assigned to Hilcorp, who purchased MAP's assets in Cook Inlet. This contract began providing gas April 1, 2011, and will expire March 31, 2023. The total amount of gas under contract is currently estimated up to 49 Bcf. These contracts fill 100% of Chugach's needs through March 31, 2023. All of the production is expected to come from Cook Inlet, Alaska.

In 2015, 86% of our power was generated from gas, with 30% generated at the Beluga Power Plant and 61% generated at SPP. In 2014 and 2013, 87% of our power was generated from gas, with 57% and 47%, respectively, generated at Beluga, and 43% and 31%, respectively, generated at SPP.

The terms of the ConocoPhillips and Hilcorp agreements require Chugach to handle the natural gas transportation over the connecting pipeline systems. We have gas transportation agreements with ENSTAR and Hilcorp. The following represents the cost of fuel purchased and or transported from various vendors as a percentage of total fuel costs for the years ended December 31:

	2015	2014	2013
Hilcorp	30.3 %	50.4 %	46.4 %
ConocoPhillips (COP)	58.7 %	43.6 %	42.8 %
AIX Energy	4.7 %	0.0 %	0.0 %
ENSTAR	3.3 %	2.0 %	2.1 %
Harvest (Hilcorp) Pipeline	1.6 %	3.0 %	3.8 %
Miscellaneous	1.4 %	1.0 %	4.9 %

### Patronage Capital Payable

Pursuant to agreements reached with HEA and MEA, and discussed in Note (9) – "Patronage Capital," patronage capital allocated or retired to HEA or MEA is classified as patronage capital payable on Chugach's balance sheet. HEA's patronage capital payable was \$7.9 million at December 31, 2015 and 2014. MEA's patronage capital payable was \$3.2 million and \$2.3 million at December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively.

### Regulatory Cost Charge

In 1992, the State of Alaska Legislature passed legislation authorizing the Department of Revenue to collect a Regulatory Cost Charge from utilities to fund the governing regulatory commission, which is currently the RCA. The tax is assessed on all retail consumers and is based on kilowatt-hour (kWh) consumption. The tax is collected monthly and remitted to the State of Alaska quarterly. The Regulatory Cost Charge has changed since its inception (November of 1992) from an initial rate of \$0.000626 per kWh to the current rate of \$0.000732, effective July 1, 2015. The tax is reported on a net basis and the tax is not included in revenue or expense.

### Sales Tax

Chugach collects sales tax on retail electricity sold to Kenai and Whittier consumers. The tax is collected monthly and remitted to the Kenai Peninsula Borough quarterly. Sales tax is reported on a net basis and the tax is not included in revenue or expense.

### Gross Revenue Tax

Chugach pays to the State of Alaska a gross revenue tax in lieu of state and local ad valorem, income and excise taxes on electricity sold in the retail market. The tax is accrued monthly and remitted annually.

### Production Taxes

Production taxes on Chugach fuel purchases are paid directly to our gas producers and are recorded under "Fuel" in Chugach's financial statements.

### Underground Compliance Charge

In 2005, the Anchorage Municipal Assembly adopted an ordinance to require utilities to convert overhead distribution lines to underground. To comply with the ordinance, Chugach must expend two percent of a three-year average of gross retail revenue within the Municipality of Anchorage annually in moving existing distribution overhead lines underground. Consistent with Alaska Statutes regarding undergrounding programs, Chugach is permitted to amend its rates by adding a two percent charge to its retail



# NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2015 AND 2014

members' bills to recover the actual costs of the program. The rate amendments are not subject to RCA review or approval. Chugach's liability was \$5,184,551 and \$2,761,921 for this charge at December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively. These funds are used to offset the costs of the undergrounding program.

## Environmental Matters

Since January 1, 2007, transformer manufacturers have been required to meet the US Department of Energy (DOE) efficiency levels as defined by the Energy Act of 2005 (Energy Act) for all "Distribution Transformers." As of January 1, 2016, the specific efficiency levels are increasing from the original "TP1" levels to the new "DOE-2016" levels. The Energy Act mandates specific types of low voltage dry-type transformers manufactured and sold in the USA to have efficiencies as defined by the 10 CFR Part 431 standard when loaded to 35% of maximum capacity. Chugach is in the process of evaluating our transformer specifications and will make modifications as necessary with our alliance transformer manufacturers to ensure DOE-2016 is met. At this time a small increase in capital costs is anticipated along with a reduction in energy losses.

The Clean Air Act and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations under the Clean Air Act establish ambient air quality standards and limit the emission of many air pollutants. New Clean Air Act regulations impacting electric utilities may result from future events or new regulatory programs. On August 3, 2015, the EPA released the final 111(d) regulation language aimed at reducing emissions of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from existing power plants that provide electricity for utility customers. In the final rule, the EPA took the approach of making individual states responsible for the development and implementation of plans to reduce the rate of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the power sector. The EPA initially applied the final rule to 47 of the contiguous states. At this time, Alaska, Hawaii, Vermont, Washington D.C. and two U.S. territories are not bound by the regulation. Alaska may be required to comply at some future date. On February 9, 2016 the U.S. Supreme Court issued a stay on the proposed EPA 111(d) regulations until the DC Circuit decides the case, or until the disposition of a petition to the Supreme Court on the issue. The EPA 111(d) regulation, in its current form, is not expected to have a material effect on Chugach's financial condition, results of operations, or cash flows. While Chugach cannot predict the implementation of any additional new law or regulation, or the limitations thereof, it is possible that new laws or regulations could increase capital and operating costs. Chugach has obtained or applied for all Clean Air Act permits currently required for the operation of generating facilities.

Chugach is subject to numerous other environmental statutes including the Clean Water Act, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, the Toxic Substances Control Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act and to the regulations implementing these statutes. Chugach does not believe that compliance with these statutes and regulations to date has had a material impact on its financial condition, results of operation or cash flows. However, the implementation of any additional new law or regulation, or the limitations thereof, or changes in or new interpretations of laws or regulations could result in significant additional capital or operating expenses. Chugach monitors proposed new regulations and existing regulation changes through industry associations and professional organizations.

## Economy Energy Sales

On October 5, 2012, Chugach and GVEA finalized arrangements for Chugach to provide economy energy to GVEA until March of 2015. Sales were made under the terms and conditions of Chugach's economy energy sales tariff. The price to GVEA included the cost of fuel, variable operations and maintenance expense, wheeling charges and a margin. Chugach had also entered into specific gas supply arrangements to make economy energy sales to GVEA. Sales revenue to GVEA amounted to \$8.0 million in 2015 through the expiration of their contract, and \$36.9 million in 2014.

## Cooper Lake Hydroelectric Project

The Cooper Lake Hydroelectric Project received a 50-year license from FERC in August of 2007. A condition of that license is a requirement to construct a Stetson Creek diversion structure, a pipeline to Cooper Lake, and a bypass structure to release warmer water from Cooper Lake into Cooper Creek. If the project was not feasible or if the cost estimate materially exceeded the terms of the license, Chugach had the option to request a license amendment. At the time the project was being relicensed the estimated cost to complete the project was \$12.0 million. Due to a change in FERC requirements, the completed project cost \$22.2 million. As an alternative to requesting a license amendment from FERC, Chugach requested grants from the State of Alaska. Funding for this project included \$9.3 million in grants awarded. The Chugach Board authorized expenditures for the project November 15, 2012. The diversion project began construction in 2013 and was put into service on July 25, 2015. It will operate through the duration of the license.

## **(16) Gain on Sale of Asset**

On July 12, 2011, Chugach sold the Bernice Lake Power Plant to AEEC and HEA. Chugach recognized the proceeds from this sale as a liability on its Balance Sheet and continued to dispatch the power plant until the expiration of its power sales agreement with HEA. In December of 2013, Chugach recognized the gain associated with this sale which amounted to \$6.4 million.

## **(17) Subsequent Events**

### Beluga River Unit

On February 4, 2016, Chugach entered into an agreement entitled, "Purchase and Sale Agreement between ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc. and Municipality of Anchorage d/b/a Municipal Light & Power and Chugach Electric Association, Inc." The Purchase and Sale Agreement transfers COP's working interest in the BRU to Chugach and ML&P. The total purchase price is \$152 million, with Chugach's portion totaling \$45.6 million.

Under the joint bid arrangement, Chugach's ownership of COP's working interest is 30% and ML&P's ownership is 70%. The ownership shares include the attendant rights and privileges of all gas and oil resources, including 15,500 lease acres (8,200 in Unit / Participating Area and 7,300 held by Unit), Sterling and Beluga producing zones, and COP's 67% working interest in deep oil resources. The acquisition is subject to the approval of the RCA (see "Note 5 – Regulatory Matters – Beluga River Unit").

Chugach's interest in the BRU is to reduce the cost of electric service to its retail and wholesale members by securing an additional long-term supply of natural gas to meet on-going generation requirements. The acquisition complements existing gas supplies and is expected to provide greater fuel diversity at an effective annual cost that is \$2 million to \$3 million less than alternative sources of gas in the Cook Inlet region. Approximately 80% of Chugach's current generation requirements are met from natural gas, 16% are met from hydroelectric, and 4% are met from wind.

The acquisition is expected to provide gas to meet Chugach's on-going generation requirements over an approximate 18-year period, or from 2016 to 2033. Gas associated with the acquisition is expected to provide about 15% of Chugach's gas requirements through 2033, although actual gas quantities produced are expected to vary on a year-by-year basis.

Chugach has firm gas supply contracts with COP and Hilcorp, as discussed in "Note 15 – Commitments and Contingencies – Fuel Supply Contracts". In addition to Chugach, COP has contractual gas sales obligations to ENSTAR through 2017. These contracts are expected to be assumed by ML&P and Chugach on the basis of ownership share. In addition to these firm contracts, Chugach has gas supply agreements with Aurora Gas LLC through September 30, 2016, AIX Energy LLC through March 31, 2024 (with an option to extend the term an additional 5-year period through March 31, 2029), and with Cook Inlet Energy LLC through March 31, 2018 (with an option to extend the term an additional 5-year period through March 31, 2023). Collectively, these agreements provide added diversification and optionality for Chugach to minimize costs within its gas supply portfolio.

The BRU is located on the western side of Cook Inlet, approximately 35 miles from Anchorage, and is an established natural gas field that was originally discovered in 1962. Currently, the BRU is jointly owned (one-third) by COP, Hilcorp, and ML&P. If the transaction is approved, ML&P's ownership of the BRU would increase to approximately 56.7%, Hilcorp's ownership would remain unchanged at 33.3%, and Chugach's ownership would be 10.0%.

## **(18) Quarterly Results of Operations (unaudited)**

	2015 Quarter Ended			
	Dec. 31	Sept. 30	June 30	March 31
Operating Revenue	\$ 50,640,703	\$ 43,109,512	\$ 47,697,820	\$ 74,973,117
Operating Expense	42,182,178	39,667,546	43,490,558	63,451,276
Net Interest	5,415,131	5,428,774	5,381,167	5,589,373
Net Operating Margins	3,043,394	(1,986,808)	(1,173,905)	5,932,468
Nonoperating Margins	368,403	79,028	126,010	114,262
Assignable Margins	\$ 3,411,797	\$ (1,907,780)	\$ (1,047,895)	\$ 6,046,730

# NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2015 AND 2014

	<b>2014 Quarter Ended</b>			
	Dec. 31	Sept. 30	June 30	March 31
Operating Revenue	\$ 69,272,422	\$ 65,677,900	\$ 70,269,305	\$ 76,098,886
Operating Expense	58,795,411	61,712,934	66,997,011	65,467,523
Net Interest	5,673,940	5,622,892	5,661,316	5,842,558
Net Operating Margins	4,803,071	(1,657,926)	(2,389,022)	4,788,805
Nonoperating Margins	411,590	96,181	249,820	213,026
Assignable Margins	<u>\$ 5,214,661</u>	<u>\$ (1,561,745)</u>	<u>\$ (2,139,202)</u>	<u>\$ 5,001,831</u>

# POWER SUPPLY

Power Supply is responsible for operating and maintaining Chugach's power plants, power control center, environmental compliance, Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system and communications infrastructure.

A major water project at Chugach's Cooper Lake Hydroelectric Project became operational in July when water began flowing through the Stetson Creek diversion. Chugach installed infrastructure to divert much of the flow of Stetson Creek into the Cooper Lake reservoir, plus an outfall structure to siphon water from the reservoir into the Cooper Creek drainage. Construction on the \$22.2 million project began in 2013.

By replacing the cold water of Stetson Creek with relatively warmer water from the reservoir, agency biologists hope to restore fish habitat in the lower reaches of Cooper Creek where it flows into the Kenai River. Resource managers estimate the combination of projects will raise the water temperature by about 3 degrees fahrenheit.

Chugach estimates the diversion project will increase the annual energy output of the Cooper Lake project by about 10 percent.

The Stetson Creek diversion project was a condition of a new 50-year license Chugach received from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in 2007 for the continued operation of the Cooper Lake project. Like other hydro projects, the 19.2-megawatt Cooper Lake project provides some of the most economical energy on the Chugach system.

Two long-time generating units were decommissioned in 2015. Chugach retired Beluga Unit No. 8 from service in April and IGT Unit No. 3 in August. The units had been commissioned in 1981 and 1969, respectively.

Since coming online in 2013, the South-central Power Project has become the primary source of thermal generation to meet the needs of Chugach members. SPP contains a total of four generating units that operate in combined-cycle mode. Three are powered by natural gas turbines and the fourth by a steam turbine. To minimize downtime during maintenance, joint owners Chugach (70 percent) and Municipal Light & Power (30 percent) elected to purchase a fourth gas turbine at the time the plant was built. The General Electric gas turbines are similar to the jet engines used on 747s. Exchanging engines allows the plant to return to full production while crews perform maintenance on the swapped-out turbine. In November, Chugach performed the first engine exchange at SPP to permit a routine inspection after 25,000 fired-hours of service.

With SPP providing most of the energy for Chugach customers, the role of the Beluga Power Plant has shifted to meeting peak and contingency demands on the system. Some infrastructure modifications were necessary to accommodate that transition. In 2015 Chugach completed a project to replace a pressure control valve at the Beluga gas house to ensure a reliable fuel supply for the plant.

Power Supply continued to lead a team of Chugach staff from various departments in a project to replace the utility's outage management system. An OMS uses computer programs to take information from multiple sources and databases, help diagnose problems, manage work assignments and keep interested parties informed of the status of events. The initial components of

Chugach's new OMS were installed in the fall of 2015.

In a project that works with the new OMS, Power Supply remains involved in the multi-year project to replace older-generation meters with advanced metering infrastructure, or AMI, technology. The utility made good progress in 2015. By the end of the year, 11,823 new AMI meters were on the system.



*Chugach raised the height of its communications tower at the University Substation to provide a microwave link for the future Hane Substation being constructed on the Anchorage Hillside.*



*In November a Chugach crew, with the assistance of an on-site GE representative, performed the first engine swap at the Southcentral Power Project. Swapping engines is a planned activity that occurs after so many hours of operation and allows the plant to continue full production while crews perform maintenance offline on the turbine.*

Through its Engineering, Substation & Line Operations functions, Power Delivery is responsible for delivering safe and reliable power from the generators to Chugach members. The division managed a number of major projects in 2015.

Chugach rebuilt six miles of its 115-kilovolt transmission line connecting Anchorage to the Kenai Peninsula. The line segment that was reconstructed runs from Powerline Pass to the community of Indian, and had been the source of outages in recent years. The rebuild was accomplished with only a 30-day outage to the transmission line using a heavy lift helicopter to set most of the new structures. Chugach chose to construct the new line segment at 230-kv standards, providing the dual benefits of resistance to extreme weather and increased future capacity.

Elsewhere on the same transmission line, Chugach performed clearing and design in preparation for the rebuild of another segment, and repaired a corroded foundation on a tower alongside Turnagain Arm.



*Chugach rebuilt a six-mile section of transmission line between Powerline Pass and Indian.*

Within the Anchorage Bowl, Chugach worked with the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities to raise and relocate a section of 138-kv transmission line to accommodate construction of an overpass over Arctic Boulevard as part of the Dowling Road extension.

A construction contract was awarded in 2015 for a major upgrade of the Dowling Substation. The work included retiring old circuit switchers and installing new metalclad switchgear and associated cable, bus and steel structures to increase the functionality and reliability of the 34.5-kv feed to the substation. New underground subtransmission and distribution getaways were installed. Site upgrades also included new fencing, ground grid, lighting, conduit, cable trench and control cabling. A modern control and protection system was designed and installed by Chugach to increase the safety and reliability of the facility.



*New metalclad switchgear was installed as part of the rebuild of the Dowling Substation.*



*Construction of the Hane Substation continued throughout the winter.*

Work began on Chugach's newest distribution substation in 2015. The Hane Substation is being built to meet load growth and provide increased reliability on the Anchorage Hillside. Site work took place in the summer, with electric construction following in the fall and through the winter. The substation is expected to be completed and placed in service during the summer of 2016.

Distribution system work across the Anchorage Bowl included 24 cable injection projects that treated 189 segments totaling 51,427 feet. Injections extend the life of existing underground cable. Chugach also completed seven cable replacement projects. Replacement projects are necessary in areas where injection cannot compensate for cable deterioration. Additional projects were undertaken in compliance with a Municipal requirement that seeks to speed the conversion of existing overhead lines to underground facilities. Several conversion projects were designed and some started construction in 2015 for completion in 2016. These include feeders at the Dowling Substation, Bentzen Subdivision, Tudor Road west of the Old Seward Highway and along the Old Seward Highway south of Tudor Road.



*Chugach linemen installed a sleeve to repair broken strands of conductor on one of the phases of the 115-kv transmission line along the Seward Highway.*



# FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

The Finance and Administration Division is responsible for Chugach's Accounting and Finance, Information Services and Administration functions.

The Accounting and Finance Department continued to devote considerable time complying with reporting requirements associated with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, indenture of trust and debt agreements. The department completed the 2016 budget, updated the 10-year Financial Forecast, supported rate case activities and completed the update and documentation of key internal controls.

The transmission component of the multi-year implementation of a fixed asset system was completed. It was the final piece of a four-part implementation that included general plant, distribution, generation and transmission assets.

The department was also able to maintain consistent financial performance due to prudent management of expenses despite lower sales caused by mild weather. In addition, Chugach's ratings with Fitch Ratings and Moody's Investors Service were affirmed.

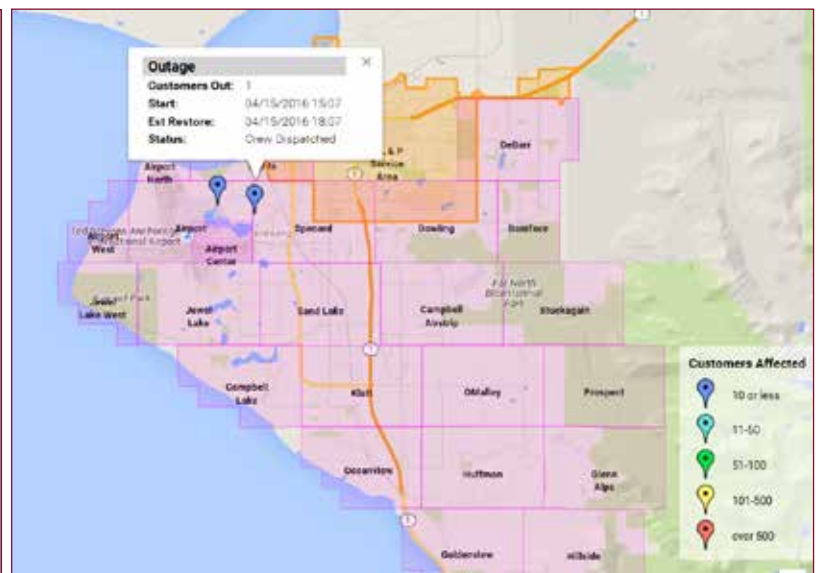
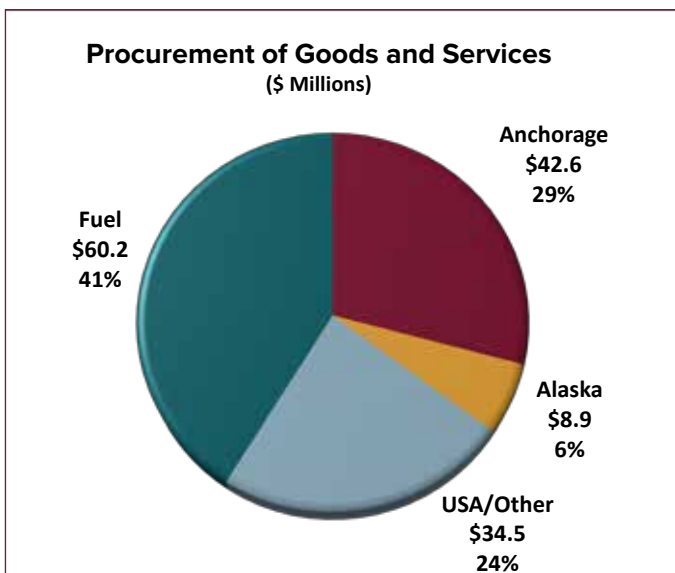
Information Services supports the technical needs of a wide variety of systems that enable efficient performance of Chugach's business processes.

A major accomplishment in 2015 was the implementation of the Outage Management System that provides for the effective management and restoration of outages, supports improved outage communication with the public and increases efficiency through automated integration between information systems. The OMS includes integrations with the Customer Information System for customer data, Geographic Information System for electrical network connectivity and location information and Advanced Metering Infrastructure for meter Power On and Power Off notices. Additionally, IS supported the continued deployment of the AMI system which saw the installation of almost 12,000 AMI meters in 2015.

Administrative Services is responsible for Chugach's contracting, purchasing and administrative functions. The department procured \$146.2 million of goods and services in 2015. Of that total, \$60.2 million or 41 percent, was for fuel and

purchased power. Chugach spent \$42.6 million within the local Anchorage economy and another \$8.9 million elsewhere in the state. Of the remainder, \$28.9 million was spent outside of Alaska for goods and services. Goods and services included materials and supplies for routine operations and maintenance, capital projects, utilities and professional services.

Chugach continued to successfully utilize grant funding to complete and develop projects. During 2015, Chugach completed the Stetson Creek diversion project, which was partially funded with State grants, including from the Renewable Energy Fund. Chugach also completed improvements to the 115-kilovolt transmission line that runs from Kenai to Anchorage, which was partially funded by State of Alaska grant appropriations. Chugach also has a \$720,000 Emerging Energy Technology Fund grant to develop an energy storage project to help manage intermittent energy purchased from Fire Island Wind.



The new outage management system provides a web-based map where members and the public can monitor the status of outages.

# MEMBER & EMPLOYEE SERVICES

Member and Employee Services has the responsibility for Chugach's Human Resources, Member Services, Safety and Security functions.

At the end of 2015, the Chugach workforce was comprised of 294 employees. Approximately two-thirds of Chugach employees are represented by a labor union. Most represented employees work under one of three contracts between Chugach and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, with a small group at the Beluga camp covered by an agreement with UNITED HERE.

Safety remains a top priority at Chugach and is key to everything the utility does. 2015 saw continuous improvement of existing safety programs. By year-end, Chugach's selected safety management system (DATs) was being used for all employees to review individual training plans and complete assigned training. This system was also

being used to assign and track to completion a variety of safety-related action items

and activities. Additionally, more than 90 percent of employees were using the Chugach Smartcard Positive Reinforcement Program. This voluntary program focuses on safety conversations and the reinforcement of safe work practices and disciplined craftsmanship.

Member Services spearheaded communications with the membership for the multi-year Advanced Metering Infrastructure project. Efforts included development and implementation of advance notifications and coordination with members, resources for members available at Chugach's website, a dedicated phone line for member inquiries and training for staff to handle member concerns.

Seeking continuous improvement, Member Services also partnered with the Information Services Department to incorporate the new metering system into existing computer systems and develop the business processes to correspond with the enhanced capabilities. One example of this is the ability to remotely connect and disconnect meters. That feature provides members reconnects within minutes from the Chugach's headquarters.

Member Appreciation Week was held in Oc-

tober and served as an opportunity for Chugach to connect with members across many parts of the community. Reaching out to veterans, several took the opportunity to tour Chugach facilities and share stories with some of Chugach's veterans. The groups, along with Veterans Affairs personnel, discussed job and internship possibilities with Chugach.

Over the course of the week more than 700 members visited the Chugach lobby – nearly double the visitorship from the 2014 inaugural event.

In December, Chugach teamed up with Matanuska Electric Association, Municipal Light & Power, and Renewable Energy Alaska Project to celebrate the conclusion of the 2015 Power Pledge Challenge. The Challenge was for middle school students to better understand how they use energy, how to calculate the cost of their usage and the importance of taking measures to use energy efficiently at home and in school.

This two-week Challenge, held in cooperation with the Alaska Energy Authority, had more than 2,000 local middle school students participate from 74 classrooms in 10 middle schools.

*Clockwise from top: Employees greeted members in the lobby during Member Appreciation Week. Local veterans toured the Power Control Center. The 2015 Power Pledge Challenge grand prize-winning class from Romig Middle School was presented with an award by Alaska First Lady Donna Walker. The first place class in the Challenge toured the Southcentral Power Project.*



# STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT & REGULATORY AFFAIRS

Strategic Development and Regulatory Affairs is responsible for long-term planning, fuel supply, new business development, corporate business analysis, government relations, corporate communications and regulatory affairs.

In recent years Chugach's gas supply needs have been significantly reduced by the construction of the highly efficient Southcentral Power Project and the end of wholesale power supply contracts. However, natural gas remains Chugach's primary generation fuel. In 2015 Chugach and Hilcorp negotiated an amendment to its Hilcorp-Chugach gas agreement that will provide natural gas into 2023.

In 2015, the Regulatory Commission of Alaska took up the issue of "found gas" at an underground commercial storage facility at Kenai that provides service to utilities. The RCA ruled the majority of proceeds of a sale should be shared with Chugach and other customers of the facility. By early 2016, the issue had moved to Superior Court on appeal by the facility's owner.

After ConocoPhillips announced in the summer of 2015 that it was interested in divesting itself of some Cook Inlet-area assets, Chugach spent months evaluating the potential to the utility of acquiring a portion of the Beluga River Unit gas field. This activity culminated with a February 2016 offer by Chugach and Municipal Light & Power to jointly purchase ConocoPhillips' interest in the BRU. If approved by the RCA, Chugach estimates its 30 percent share of ConocoPhillips' BRU interests will provide about 15 percent of its natural gas supply through 2033 and save its ratepayers \$2-3 million per year compared to what it would otherwise pay for market purchases of natural gas.

On May 1, 2015, Chugach began providing electric and gas dispatch services to Matanuska Electric Association for its new power plant, electric dispatch services for

MEA's share of the Bradley Lake Hydroelectric Project and electric dispatch coordination services for MEA's share of the Eklutna Hydroelectric Project. The terms of these agreements run through March 2016.

Chugach remains supportive of more hydropower in the Railbelt. Chugach's Stetson Creek diversion project became operational in July. The project is expected to increase production from Chugach's Cooper Lake Hydroelectric Project by about 10 percent – or 5,000 megawatt-hours per year. Chugach has worked with the Alaska Energy Authority as it pursues a license amendment for a similar project to divert Battle Creek into the reservoir of the Bradley Lake Hydroelectric Project. Chugach also continued to support AEA's efforts to advance the Susitna-Watana hydro project to a license application.

Chugach continued to be a proponent of Railbelt grid unification throughout the year, both in testimony before legislators and in proceedings before the RCA. In June, the RCA released a report on its study of the Railbelt transmission system. Among other things, it encouraged utilities to work voluntarily to form a Railbelt transmission company – or Transco. Chugach joined with the other electric utilities of the Railbelt and representatives of the American Transmission Company from Wisconsin to work through the issues in pursuit of a business model for the new organization – and to keep the RCA apprised of the effort. In a separate but related effort, Chugach worked with some other Railbelt utilities to develop a model for a

Unified System Operator. The two new organizations are envisioned as a means to address regional transmission issues and enable economic dispatch of generation units throughout the Railbelt.

Chugach's Regulatory Affairs department remained active in 2015, participating in rate cases and a variety of matters before the RCA. In particular, a general rate case was filed in February to adjust rates in light of MEA's departure from Chugach as a wholesale customer. The department was also involved in reviewing the opportunity to purchase a share of the Beluga River Unit gas field.

Other filings made during the year dealt with natural gas matters, telecommunications, RCA regulation dockets and tariff updates.



*Months of analysis led to Chugach's decision to join with Municipal Light & Power to submit a proposal to acquire ConocoPhillips' one-third ownership interest in the Beluga River Unit natural gas field.*



*Chugach continued supporting unification of the Railbelt transmission grid, working with other utilities toward the goals of creating both a regional transmission company (Transco) and a Unified System Operator.*



# GENERATION RESOURCES

Chugach uses various generation resources to ensure reliable, affordable power. At the end of December 2015, Chugach had 531.2 megawatts of installed commissioned capacity at Chugach-owned facilities (which includes Chugach's share of the jointly owned Southcentral Power Project and Eklutna Power Plant). The unit ratings shown are taken at 30 degrees Fahrenheit. Chugach also took power from the state-owned Bradley Lake Hydroelectric Project near Homer and from the Fire Island wind project. In 2015, 86 percent of the kilowatt-hours Chugach sold came from natural gas units, 11 percent from hydroelectric resources and 3 percent from wind.



## Beluga

Located on the west side of Cook Inlet near Tyonek; all units are fueled by natural gas.

Units	Commissioned	Power Rating (megawatts)
No. 1	1968	19.6
No. 2	1968	19.6
No. 3	1973	64.8
No. 5	1975	68.7
No. 6	1976	79.2
No. 7	1978	80.1
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>332.0</b>



## Cooper Lake

Located near Cooper Landing on the Kenai Peninsula; units are hydro turbines.

Units	Commissioned	Power Rating (megawatts)
No. 1	1960	9.6
No. 2	1960	9.6
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>19.2</b>



## Eklutna

Located along the Knik River and jointly owned with Municipal Light & Power and Matanuska Electric Association. Chugach's share is 30 percent, up to an 11.7-megawatt maximum. Units are hydro turbines.

Units	Commissioned	Power Rating (megawatts)
No. 1	1955	23.5
No. 2	1955	23.5
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>47.0</b>



## International

Located off International Airport Road in Anchorage; units are natural gas combustion turbines.

Units	Commissioned	Power Rating (megawatts)
No. 1	1964	14.1
No. 2	1965	14.1
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>28.2</b>



## Southcentral Power Project

Located off International Airport Road in Anchorage; Units 11-13 are natural gas combustion turbines and Unit 10 is a steam turbine. Chugach's share is 70 percent, or 140.1 megawatts.

Units	Commissioned	Power Rating (megawatts)
No. 10	2013	57.4
No. 11	2013	47.6
No. 12	2013	47.6
No. 13	2013	47.6
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>200.2</b>

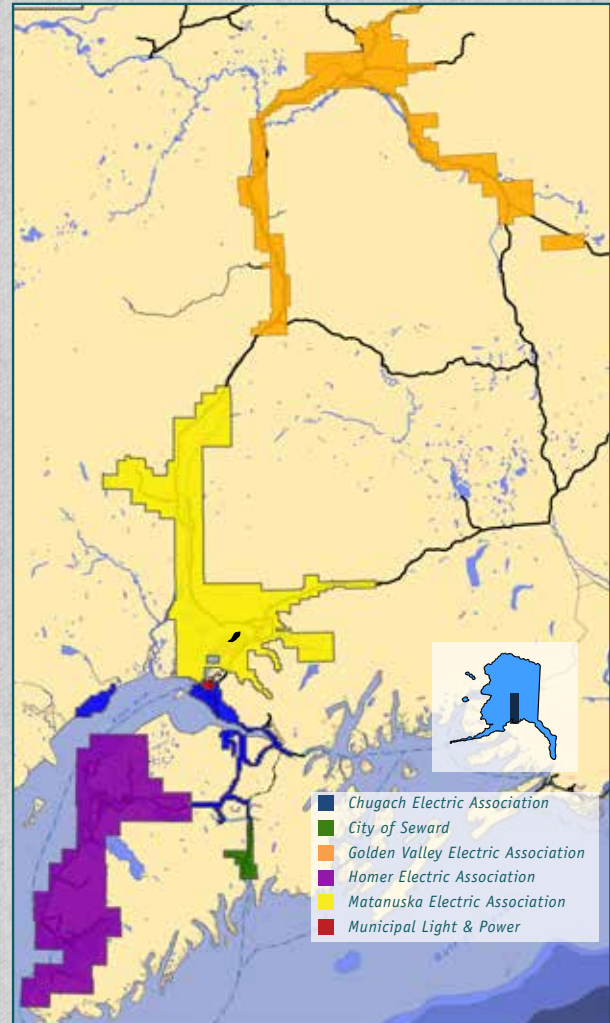


## The Railbelt

At the end of 2015, Chugach served 83,383 metered-locations in an area extending from Anchorage to the northern Kenai Peninsula, and from Whittier on Prince William Sound to Tyonek on the west side of Cook Inlet. In 2015, Chugach provided power for Railbelt Alaskans through wholesale and economy energy sales to the City of Seward, Matanuska Electric Association and Golden Valley Electric Association.

On Dec. 31, 2015, Chugach had 531.2 megawatts of generation capacity at Chugach-owned facilities, which included Chugach's shares of the jointly owned Southcentral Power Project and Eklutna Power Plant. Chugach operated 2,113 miles of energized line at year-end. Chugach had 407 miles of transmission line, which included Chugach's share of the Eklutna transmission line. Chugach had 897 miles of overhead distribution line and 809 miles of underground distribution line.

Chugach set its 2015 system peak load on Jan. 26, when demand hit 353 megawatts in the hour ending at 7 p.m. The temperature at the time at Chugach headquarters was 2 degrees Fahrenheit. Power sales for the year totaled 1.6 billion kilowatt-hours.



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