

State of Alaska FY2002 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Community & Economic Development
Circuit Rider
Component

Component: Circuit Rider

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Component Mission

To increase the reliability and efficiency of rural electric systems and to respond quickly and effectively to electrical emergencies.

Component Services Provided

The Circuit Rider program offers preventive maintenance services, on-site operator training, and emergency response to rural electric utilities, specifically the smaller utilities that have difficulty acquiring and maintaining the necessary technical skills. AEA contracts with private sector firms to provide these services, supplementing with AEA field staff when necessary.

The contract personnel providing these services include qualified plant operators, electricians and linemen. They visit the participating communities on a quarterly or semi-annual basis, depending on the conditions of the electrical systems, local operator skills and utility management. Inspection, testing, and preventive maintenance is performed on diesel engines, generators, control panels, metering systems and other related components. The contractors are assisted by the local plant operators, who acquire training and skills in the process.

As described in our capital budget request for electrical emergency funds, circuit rider contractors are also dispatched to participating communities when power failures occur that the local utility is unable to resolve.

Component Goals and Strategies

Ensure that small diesel power plants, especially those constructed or financed by the State, are properly maintained for safe and reliable service over their expected lives.

Conduct preventive maintenance and repair on a quarterly basis for rural electric utilities that lack the necessary in-house capability.

Conduct on-site operator training needed for local labor to take on regular preventive maintenance tasks.

Reduce the number of electrical emergencies in rural Alaska.

Key Component Issues for FY2001 – 2002

During FY01, AEA has directed its Circuit Rider contractors to gather extensive information for our electric utility database, including detailed information on the condition of electrical system components as well as an inventory of power plant equipment. For the purpose of acquiring this information, our contractors are visiting all rural electric utility systems, not just those participating in the Circuit Rider maintenance program. Indicators of operations and maintenance performance are also being acquired. The data base will be used to help both the State and the Denali Commission set priorities for rural power system upgrade projects.

Major Component Accomplishments for FY2000

Provided circuit rider maintenance services to 29 communities.

Responded to electrical emergencies in 14 communities, including diesel engine failures in 6 communities and distribution system failures due to avalanche or winter storms in 8 communities.

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

AS 42.45

Key Performance Measures for FY2002

Measure: The number of communities receiving Circuit Rider maintenance services at least semi-annually.
(Not yet addressed by Legislature.)

Current Status:

Circuit rider maintenance provided to 29 communities in FY00, and anticipated to be provided to 70 communities in FY01.

Benchmark:

There are 190 communities with central station electrical service in rural Alaska.

Background and Strategies:

Preventive maintenance and correct operating procedures are essential for power system reliability and also for avoiding the cost of premature equipment replacement. Over the long run, the number of power system emergencies in rural Alaska, and their related costs, will be reduced if equipment is properly maintained and if local utility operators acquire more advanced skills in system operations and repair.

Circuit Rider
Component Financial Summary

All dollars in thousands

	FY2000 Actuals	FY2001 Authorized	FY2002 Governor
Non-Formula Program:			
Component Expenditures:			
71000 Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0
72000 Travel	0.0	0.0	0.0
73000 Contractual	100.0	300.0	300.0
74000 Supplies	0.0	0.0	0.0
75000 Equipment	0.0	0.0	0.0
76000 Land/Buildings	0.0	0.0	0.0
77000 Grants, Claims	0.0	0.0	0.0
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
Expenditure Totals	100.0	300.0	300.0
Funding Sources:			
1002 Federal Receipts	0.0	200.0	100.0
1004 General Fund Receipts	100.0	100.0	200.0
Funding Totals	100.0	300.0	300.0

Estimated Revenue Collections

Description	Master Revenue Account	FY2000 Actuals	FY2001 Authorized	FY2001 Cash Estimate	FY2002 Governor	FY2003 Forecast
Unrestricted Revenues						
None.		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unrestricted Total		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Restricted Revenues						
Federal Receipts	51010	0.0	200.0	200.0	100.0	100.0
Restricted Total		0.0	200.0	200.0	100.0	100.0
Total Estimated Revenues		0.0	200.0	200.0	100.0	100.0

Circuit Rider**Proposed Changes in Levels of Service for FY2002**

This program insures the reliable and efficient performance of electrical systems in rural Alaska communities and works towards completion of an inventory and assessment of facilities annually to update the Alaska Energy Authority's (AEA) database. A funding source change switching a portion of federal funds to general funds is requested because a stable source of federal funds is not available.

Summary of Component Budget Changes**From FY2001 Authorized to FY2002 Governor***All dollars in thousands*

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2001 Authorized	100.0	200.0	0.0	300.0
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-Fund Source Reallocation from Federal to GF	100.0	-100.0	0.0	0.0
FY2002 Governor	200.0	100.0	0.0	300.0