



Messenger

Expansion at the Bradley Lake Hydro Facility

In a recent edition of the *Bradley Daily News*, an article provided an update to work being performed at the Bradley Lake Hydro Facility. It was so interesting, it's being shared here.

Work on the expansion of Bradley Lake Hydro Facility to expand the state's largest hydroelectric facility reached a critical milestone at 2:35am on Feb. 16, 2020, when crews completed the last large structural concrete pour for the Battle Creek Diversion Dam, as it's known. The expansion will divert glacial runoff via a 1.7-mile-long pipeline to the Bradley Lake Dam and increase the facility's production by about 10%. Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) manages the state-owned facility. Per an AEA spokesperson, it's estimated this expansion will produce an additional 37,000 megawatt hours per year.

The Bradley Lake Hydro Facility is located 27 miles southeast of Homer. GVEA receives 17% (approx. 20 megawatts) of Bradley Lake's generated power.

Solar Farm Panels and Snow Removal

GVEA performed an analysis regarding the removal of snow from the solar panels during the winter months. It was concluded that the cost of labor to remove the snow would cost more than the cost benefit of the minimal solar generation. Instead, GVEA will be testing a variety of coatings that will allow the snow to slide off the panels without expending manual labor. This year, a contractor will be manually clearing the panels in the next week or so.

Special Ruralite Series Begins in March 2020 Edition

"A Performance to Remember" offers healing, connection and hope

The year-long series, called "Heroes Among Us: Everyday Helpers Make a Difference," is a testament to the power of community. The first of these yearlong, sensitive storytelling features focuses on how a group of singers from Anchorage, who call themselves Voices of the Last Frontier and is comprised of people living with dementia, their caregivers and choral friends, came together for a performance in November 2019. The results were astounding, since familiar music seems to push the challenge of everyday living aside and they're able to tap into a distant memory and recall the words of the song. One line in the feature reads: "Music excites and awakens our memory, connecting us to times and places, to our deepest emotions the way nothing else can."

On page 15 of the March 2020 edition of the *Ruralite*, you can learn how to nominate an adult and/or student to be featured in a future edition of this series. The adult winner will receive a \$500 gift card, plus \$500 will be awarded to the charity of their choice. The student winner will receive a \$1,000 scholarship from Pioneer Utility Resources. The winners, both the adult and student, will be profiled in a future edition of *Ruralite*.

MAC Meeting

Wednesday, Mar 11, 2020, 6:30 pm
GVEA's Training Room, Fairbanks

Agenda

1. Refreshments (6:15pm)
2. Call to Order (6:30pm)
 - Roll Call
 - Approve Agenda
 - Approve February 12, 2020 Meeting Minutes
 - MAC Report Volunteer at the GVEA Board on Mon, Mar 30 at 6:30pm: Terry Hinman
 - Safety Moment
3. Visiting Member Comments (3-minute limit)
4. New Business:
 - Sign Up to Work Annual Mtg
 - Gary Betsill, VP of Operations: *An Update on GVEA's Right-of-Way Maintenance Program*
5. Board Report: Rick Schikora, District 3 Director
6. Unfinished Business
7. MAC Roundtable
8. Adjournment (8 to 8:30pm)

Next Scheduled MAC Gatherings:

- Wed, Apr 8, 2020 at 6:30pm
- Thurs, May 7, 2020 at 4:30pm: Annual Members' Meeting at LHS's Hering Auditorium
- Thurs, June 11, 2020 at 2pm: GVEA Ballot Count

