# Energy costs have doubled in the last 10 years.

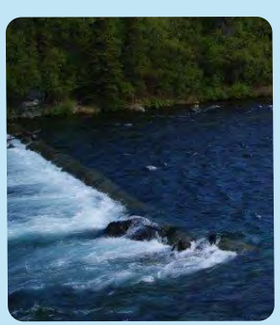
*The high cost of electricity impacts families and local economies.*

Many rural Alaskans struggle to pay their electric and heating bills. **More than 50% of the monthly income of some families in rural Alaska is spent on heating their homes and turning on their lights.** Even though the costs of electricity for residents are currently reduced by Alaska's Power Cost Equalization (PCE) program, residents of Bethel and Dillingham still pay more than twice what their urban neighbors pay for electricity.


High energy costs make it difficult to start and run a business. **Businesses in rural communities pay four to five times more for electricity than in urban areas of Alaska.**

Because electricity in most of rural Alaska is produced by diesel-powered generators, electricity costs are directly linked to the price of fuel. Fuel prices are volatile and continue to rise. **We need new solutions and alternatives to the diesel-powered system.**

Nuvista seeks to develop stable, affordable, locally generated, renewable electricity for western Alaska.



**Nuvista's mission** is to improve the energy economics in rural Alaska by creating energy generation and transmission infrastructure to serve, connect, and enable the region to attain affordable, long term energy sustainability and self-sufficiency.

## How Do I Get Involved?

**Contact the Nuvista Team**

Elaine Brown, Executive Director | ebrown@nuvistacoop.org

Chuck Casper, P.E. Program Manager | ccasper@nuvistacoop.org

Patty Murphy, Project Administrator | pmurphy@nuvistacoop.org

**VISIT THE NUVISTA WEBSITE**

**www.NuvistaCoop.org**

**SUBSCRIBE TO THE PROJECT DOCKET**

With the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
www.ferc.gov Project: P-14369

ENERGY SOLUTIONS FOR THE PEOPLE OF WESTERN ALASKA

# Nuvista Light & Electric Cooperative

***The Chikuminuk Lake Hydroelectric Project***

# Western Alaska needs affordable, reliable, low impact energy

*Why this project? What could it mean for the region?*

The Chikuminuk Lake Hydroelectric Project has the potential to solve some of western Alaska's energy problems. It could provide stable priced electricity for 50 to 100 years or longer.

**Hydroelectric power offers many advantages. By harnessing the energy of moving water, hydro:**

- Creates a renewable, non-polluting energy alternative.
- Does not emit climate-changing gases.
- Works well with alternatives like wind power.
- Becomes more affordable over time, holding down the cost of living and making it more possible to start or expand a business.


## The Chikuminuk Lake Hydroelectric Project

*Why this site? How much power?*

The Chikuminuk Lake site has several advantages for hydroelectric power and has been considered as a possible energy source for 30+ years. The first study of the lake's hydropower potential dates to 1954.

Initial estimates of Chikumunuk's power generation capacity range from 13-60 MW.

The project could meet or exceed the current generating capacity of Bethel and Dillingham's diesel-powered generators.

Dillingham capacity: 6.6MW*
Bethel capacity: 12.6 MW*

*Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) 2011

Unlike other Wood-Tikchik lakes, natural barriers keep salmon from reaching Chikuminuk Lake, minimizing potential impacts to salmon runs.


State park records show that few people make their way to this very remote lake; there is limited recreation and subsistence.

The project would harness the water's energy at the point where Chikuminuk Lake empties into the upper Allen River.

Allen River

## What next?

*What do we know now and what questions need to be answered?*

While the project promises real benefits, many questions remain to be answered before Nuvista, regional residents and organizations can be confident this is the right project.

- **What are the possible impacts on fish, recreation, subsistence, etc.?** Environmental and engineering studies are underway and local workgroups are being formed.
- **What is the expected cost to build the project?** Estimates are being developed.
- **What will be the cost of energy generated by the hydro plant to ratepayers?** Estimates are being developed.
- **Who will get the power?** Distribution options include Bethel and/or Dillingham plus some nearby communities.

Nuvista does not want to move ahead with the project unless it is clear that the Chikuminuk Lake Hydroelectric Project is good for the region. The process is explained in the timeline below.

# The Chikuminuk Lake Hydroelectric Project could help sustain the viability of rural communities.

## We're just getting started

**PROJECT TIMELINE**

**2012-2016 Preliminary Permit Period**
- Researchers in the field
- Community + agency consultation
- Environmental + engineering studies 2012-2016
- Preparation + filing of license application

**2015-2018 FERC License Processing**
- Ongoing public + agency consultation
- Continuing environmental + engineering studies
- FERC license issued

**2015-2016 Decision Point**
- Benefits, impacts, costs
- **At this point, we must determine whether to carry on with the project**

**2017-2019 Project Design**
- Survey rights of way and easements
- Design, permitting, and bids

**2019-2022 Construction**
- Dam, powerhouse
- Transmission lines

**2022 Start Producing Energy**