


Date: July 11, 2022

To: All Power Cost Equalization (PCE) Program Participants

From: Jeffery Williams, PCE Program Manager 

Subject: Program Fiscal Year 2023 Start-up

It is the start of a new fiscal year and I have outlined several items pertaining to the PCE program for your information and use.

1. Program Administration

The Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) administers the PCE Program in conjunction with the Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA). The RCA determines if a utility is eligible to participate in the program and calculates the amount of PCE per kWh payable to the electric utility. The AEA determines the eligibility of community facilities and residential customers and authorizes payments to the electric utility.

The RCA should have already notified you of your new PCE levels effective July 1, 2022. If you have not received this notification, please contact the RCA immediately at 1-800-390-2782 toll free, at 907-276-6222 direct or online at www.rca.alaska.gov.

Any questions regarding your utility's compliance with any letter orders received from the RCA should be forwarded to the following points of contact at the RCA:

Regulated Utilities

Becki Alvey, Utility Tariff Analyst III
Phone: (907) 263-2139
Toll Free: (800) 390-2782
Fax: (907) 276-0160
Email: becki.alvey@alaska.gov

Unregulated Utilities

Brenda Cox, Utility Financial Analyst II
Phone: (907) 263-2131
Toll Free: (800) 390-2782
Fax: (907) 276-0160
Email: brenda.cox@alaska.gov

2. Program Funding

The Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) will start FY23 with a funding level of 100%. AEA will continue to monitor program costs and will keep you informed of program revisions that may cause further adjustments to the PCE funding level throughout the fiscal year.

3. PCE Web Portal

AEA has now completed its introduction and initial utility staff trainings on its PCE web portal. The web portal allows a utility to enter its PCE monthly report's data directly onto an online,

web based form and attach any required documentation for submission. This eliminates the need of having to print and either mail or e-mail your monthly reports to the PCE department.

To use the web portal, you must have access to the internet, the latest version of Internet Explorer, Microsoft Edge, Safari, Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox and the ability to attach required supporting documentation in PDF or Excel formats.

NOTE: Use of the PCE web portal to submit your PCE monthly reports is now a mandatory requirement.¹ If you have not received your utility's web portal username and login password information, there is a good chance that we do not have you listed as having attended at least one (1) of the required PCE web portal training presentations. We ask that you please contact the PCE department immediately. PCE monthly reports received by any other means for reasons other than web portal technical difficulties will be returned to the electric utility as non-compliant with the Authority's reporting requirements.

4. PCE Utility Monthly Reports (UMR's) & Other Documents

In previous years, you received this information in an email accompanied by additional documents to be used for the current fiscal year's PCE reporting. We will continue to provide you with this information, but those documents will now be found on the PCE web portal's HELP page.

You may now find the following documents in the PCE web portal:

- FY23 New Year Startup Memo
- Contact Information Sheet
- PCE Community Population Figures
- Sample UMR (With explanations of the required information being sought)
- Generic Excel UMR Form (For your use as an optional worksheet)

We are requesting an annual update to the *Contact Information Sheet*. Please take a moment to print, complete and email this form to this department at PCE@akenergyauthority.org. Up-to-date contact information is necessary to ensure your receipt of communications from this office. Please feel free to make copies of this form and submit updates as necessary throughout the fiscal year.

All utilities are required to send, with each PCE utility monthly report submitted to AEA, copies of one (1) residential customer bill and one (1) community facility customer bill that reflects the receipt of PCE credits.

¹ **AS 42.45.110(h)(1) – Entitlement To Power Cost Equalization.** Each electric utility receiving power cost equalization approved by the commission shall (1) report monthly to the authority within the time and in the form the authority requires.....

For those utilities that use AMPY pre-pay (“pay-as-you-go”) metering systems, you are required to print what is commonly known as an *Electric Rate Detail Report* **on the first day of each calendar month** and submit that report to the AEA. You are also required to run, print and submit that report to the AEA immediately following any/all rate changes. Not having these updated reports prevents this office from processing your utility’s PCE monthly report(s) and reimbursing your utility with the proper amounts of PCE credits. **Failure to provide this information will result in your utility’s monthly reports being returned to you as incomplete.**

5. FY2023 Population Figures

A list of FY2023 PCE community population figures has been uploaded to the PCE web portal for your convenience. Your community’s population figure, as well as the monthly maximum number of community facility kWhs, will appear in Section D of your web portal’s UMR forms. These figures were certified on June 1, 2022 and are to be used [for PCE reporting] starting with your utility’s July 2022 billing cycle. **Please pay special attention to these figures as they may have changed since the previous fiscal year.**

6. FY2022 Report Filing Deadline

PCE Program Regulation, 3 AAC 107.240(b), states “Power cost equalization payments will not be made for power consumed through June 30 of a year if the relevant monthly report is received after August 31 of that year.” If you have not submitted all of your FY2022 reports, please do so before the deadline. **The regulation does not allow for any exceptions to the August 31, 2022 deadline.**

7. PCE Staffing Changes & Contact Information

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to the newest members of the PCE team; Katherine Aubry, Michael Noble and Melissa Robertson. All three are brand new to the Authority and the PCE department. Feel free to reach out, say hello and introduce yourself to them. We are happy to have them aboard and are confident that you will be also.

AEA and its PCE department have been working on ways to improve our means of communicating with our PCE participating electric utilities. One such innovation has been the installation of a single, “departmental” phone line that will ring everyone’s phone in the department simultaneously. By dialing this dedicated phone number, you will increase the chances of your calls being answered by someone (i.e. a “live” person) here in the department on your first try. If necessary, you will also be able to leave voicemail messages that are accessible by each member of the PCE team as well. These voicemail messages are checked regularly throughout each workday. This will reduce the wait time for contact with staff, assistance and problem resolutions. Here is the PCE department’s full contact information:

Alaska Energy Authority
ATTN: PCE Department
813 W. Northern Lights Blvd.

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Anchorage, AK 99503
(907) 771-3929 Department Direct Line
(888) 300-8534 (toll free in Alaska)
Email: PCE@akenergyauthority.org

We ask that you please contact the PCE department directly with any PCE related questions rather than contacts you might have in other areas of the agency. Staff in this department is better equipped to address any PCE questions/issues you might have than others at the agency. We find that emails and other communications sent to others not in the PCE department do not always make it back to us in a timely manner, if at all, and therefore does not improve your chances of receiving a speedy response.

You may still wish to contact staff directly using the following:

Katherine Aubry
(907) 771-3931
KAubry@akenergyauthority.org

Michael Noble
(907) 771-3051
MNoble@akenergyauthority.org

Melissa Robertson
(907) 771-3931
MRobertson@akenergyauthority.org

We look forward to working with you on all of your PCE needs. If you have any questions or need any further assistance, please contact myself or any member of the PCE team. I may be reached directly at jwilliams@akenergyauthority.org; or (907) 771-3046.

Your attention to these matters is greatly appreciated.