

MEA Focused on Reliability, Fuel Supply and Long-Term Energy Solutions

During MEA’s 2026 Annual Meeting, CEO Tony Izzo shared an update with members on the changing energy landscape facing utilities across Alaska and what it means for MEA members in the years ahead.

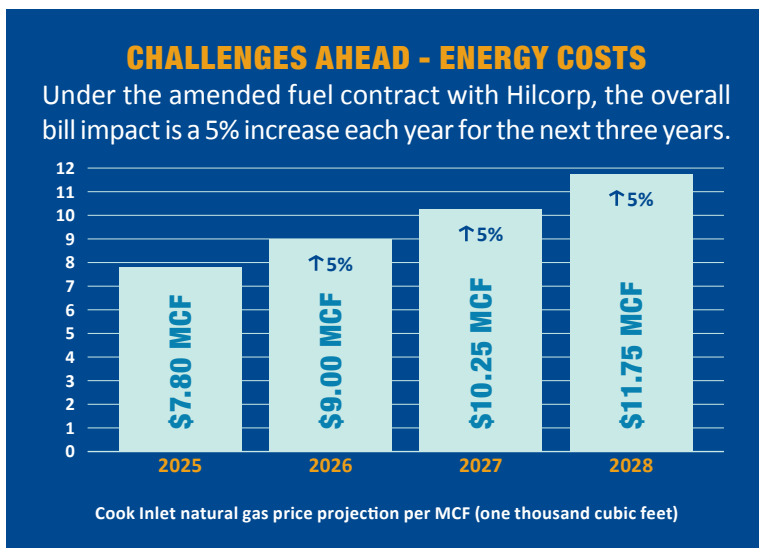
One of the biggest challenges discussed was the future of natural gas supply in Cook Inlet — the primary fuel source used to generate electricity for much of Southcentral Alaska. In 2022, utilities across the Railbelt were notified that long-term natural gas supply could no longer be guaranteed beyond existing contracts, creating uncertainty around future fuel availability and cost.

“Reliability remains our top priority,” Izzo told members during the meeting. “Our responsibility is to make sure the lights stay on while working to keep power as affordable and predictable as possible.”



Members attended the 2026 Annual Meeting at the Glenn Massay Theater on April 28, 2026.

As shown in the chart below, the cost of Cook Inlet natural gas is expected to continue rising over the next several years under MEA’s amended fuel agreement with Hilcorp. Gas prices are projected to increase from approximately \$7.80 per thousand cubic feet (MCF) in 2025 to \$11.75 per MCF by 2028. Because fuel costs are the primary driver of electric rates, members can expect overall bill impacts of approximately 5% annually over the next three years.



While these increases are significant, MEA emphasized that natural gas represents roughly 35% of a member’s total electric bill — meaning increases in gas costs do not directly translate to the same percentage increase in total monthly bills.

To help address these challenges, MEA has taken several proactive steps, including securing firm gas supply through 2029 and adding firm gas storage capability to improve reliability and provide greater flexibility during periods of high winter demand. The cooperative is also evaluating multiple long-term energy solutions, including LNG import options, additional Cook Inlet

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gas opportunities, pipeline participation, new generation resources, battery storage, and diversified energy options.

MEA leaders stressed that no single solution will solve the region's energy challenges and that flexibility will be critical moving forward.

"We are preparing for multiple futures," Izzo said. "MEA is leaving no stone unturned when it comes to identifying short-, mid-, and long-term power supply solutions that protect reliability and serve our members' best interests."

Despite rising fuel costs and inflationary pressures, MEA continues to maintain the lowest base rate on the Railbelt

and one of the lowest average monthly residential bills among interconnected Alaska utilities.

Throughout the meeting, cooperative leaders emphasized MEA's commitment to transparency as the energy landscape evolves.

"We know these are real concerns for our members," Izzo said. "Our commitment is to continue communicating openly about what we know, what we're planning for, and the steps we're taking to navigate these challenges responsibly."

You can watch the CEO Address and 2026 MEA Annual Meeting on MEA's YouTube channel: [@matanuskaelectricassociation](#)

MEA Members Elect Directors During Record 2026 Election Turnout

MEA members participated in record numbers during the cooperative's 2026 Board of Directors election, helping shape the future leadership of their electric cooperative.

Following the close of voting and certification of results, the MEA Board of Directors officially approved the final election results during the Board's regular meeting on May 11.

Members elected Connie Fredenberg to the At-Large seat and re-elected Mark Hamm to represent the Eagle River District. Both directors will serve four-year terms on the MEA Board. Voters also approved a proposed bylaw amendment addressing elections in uncontested races when only one qualified candidate files for a Board seat. The amendment allows a single qualified candidate to be

deemed elected without a full election process, helping reduce unnecessary election costs for the cooperative.

This year's election also marked MEA's transition to primarily online voting through SmartHub, with mail-in ballots available by request. The updated process helped improve participation while reducing printing and mailing costs for the cooperative by \$119,000 compared to last year's election expenses.

During the May 11 Board meeting, directors also selected new Board officers for the coming year. Arthur Keyes was elected Board President, Bill Kendig was elected Vice President, and Dan Tucker was elected Secretary/Treasurer.

Call 811 Before You Dig

As summer projects and construction season begin, MEA is reminding members to always call 811 before digging.

Whether you're installing a fence, planting trees, building a deck, or starting a larger excavation project, underground utility lines may be closer to the surface than you think. A quick call to 811 helps protect you, your property, and critical utility infrastructure by ensuring underground lines are properly located and marked before digging begins.

Striking an underground electric line can cause serious injury, power outages, and costly repairs. Calling 811 is free, easy, and required by law.

