Power Lines
Member Newsletter · 2026 Quarter 4
MEA
MATANUSKA ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

MEA Announces CEO Retirement and Leadership Transition

MEA is preparing for a leadership transition as Chief Executive Officer Tony Izzo plans to retire next spring after more than 45 years in the natural gas and electric utility industries, including over 25 years helping shape Alaska's energy landscape.

Izzo joined MEA in 2012 and has served as CEO since 2016, guiding the cooperative through significant growth and changes in Alaska's energy landscape. Before joining MEA, he served as president of ENSTAR Natural Gas and advised state and private sector organizations as an industry consultant.

MEA Board President Arthur Keyes praised Izzo's contributions to the cooperative and the interconnected Railbelt electric system.



"Tony is a trusted, knowledgeable and authentic leader both inside and outside the organization and has brought tremendous value to our members and the interconnected Railbelt electric system," Keyes said. "He will be greatly missed."

Welcoming Clay Koplin

MEA's Board of Directors has selected Clay Koplin as the cooperative's next CEO, effective January 7, 2027. Koplin comes to MEA from Cordova Electric Cooperative, where he has served as CEO for almost 20 years. A professional electrical engineer with an MBA from Indiana University's Kelley School of Business, he brings extensive experience in Alaska electric systems, utility management and hydroelectric projects.

Koplin has also served in leadership roles on several federal and statewide boards, including as chair of the Alaska Energy Authority Board of Directors.



"Clay brings a unique and valuable combination of technical expertise, proven leadership experience, strong relationships and an innovative approach to problem solving," Keyes said. "We are fortunate to welcome him to MEA and have full trust in his ability to lead the cooperative."

Izzo and Koplin will work together to ensure continuity for MEA's members, employees and operations. Izzo will continue advising the cooperative on gas supply and other strategic matters into the new year.

Members See Overall Rate Decrease for the Fourth Quarter

MEA members will pay less per kilowatt-hour this fall as the cooperative's Cost of Power Adjustment (COPA) decreases for the fourth quarter of 2026. Effective October 1, the COPA dropped approximately 8.4%, from 10.195 cents to 9.34 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh). Base rates remain unchanged.

For a typical residential member using 623 kWh per month, this means a monthly bill of approximately $166.06, down from $171.38 in the third quarter. That's a savings of $5.32 per month, or a 3.1% decrease in the total bill, assuming the same electricity use.

WHAT'S BEHIND THE DECREASE?

The reduction comes mainly from lower costs for electricity MEA purchases from other utilities and a smaller adjustment for past power supply expenses. MEA estimates its power supply costs in advance, then compares those estimates with actual expenses. The difference is reflected in future COPA rates. For the fourth quarter, less is needed to cover past expenses, helping bring the rate down. These savings are partially offset by higher expected fuel and transportation costs during the colder months.

UNDERSTANDING COPA

COPA covers the fuel and purchased electricity MEA uses to supply power to members. These costs are passed through without any additional markup. COPA is updated quarterly and filed with the Regulatory Commission of Alaska for review and approval.

Base rates help pay for operating, maintaining and improving MEA's electric system. As your member-owned cooperative, MEA remains focused on reducing expenses and working to help offset rising costs.

Join MEA at these Community Celebrations and Events!

From Halloween costumes to sparkling holiday lights, there's plenty of community fun ahead! Mark your calendar and join MEA for these upcoming events.

PALMER CHAMBER'S TRICK OR TREAT STREET

Friday, October 30 | 4–7 p.m. | Downtown Palmer

Bring the family for a spooktacular evening of Halloween fun! MEA will be joining the festivities, and tickets are FREE.

NEON COSMIC SKATE NIGHT HOSTED BY MEA

November 28 | 7–9 p.m. | City of Palmer Ice Rink

Brighten up your November with a fun evening on the ice. Gather your friends and family and join us for Neon Cosmic Skate Night!

MEA'S ANNUAL HOLIDAY LIGHTS CONTEST

Does your home shine with holiday cheer? Watch MEA's Facebook page in early December for details on submitting your festive display to our annual holiday lights contest.

COLONY CHRISTMAS PARADE OF LIGHTS

December 12 | 5 p.m. | Downtown Palmer

Celebrate the season with the glow of the Parade of Lights, sponsored by MEA. Bring the family and enjoy this festive community tradition!

Energy Watch: Understanding MEA's Winter Emergency Plan

Recent discussions about "rolling blackouts" have raised questions about what MEA members should expect this winter. Having an emergency plan does not mean rolling outages are scheduled or expected to occur. MEA wants members to be informed and prepared in the event of a natural gas delivery emergency or other situation that could require conservation measures to help keep the lights on in our homes and businesses.

MEA has secured 100% of the natural gas needed to serve our members this winter. However, during prolonged extreme cold, the broader Southcentral natural gas system could face challenges maintaining enough pressure to meet regional heating and electricity demands. ENSTAR has raised concerns about these conditions, and utilities are working together to prepare.

HOW ENERGY WATCH WORKS

MEA's Energy Watch response plan has been in place for a few years and has been practiced with other utilities and first responders to strengthen emergency coordination. The plan includes three main steps:

1. Voluntary Conservation: Members would first be asked to lower thermostats, reduce natural gas use, and turn off unnecessary lights and appliances. Small changes across thousands of homes and businesses can help make an impact.

2. Alternative Power Supply: Utilities would use available resources, including hydropower and any other electricity available through other Railbelt utilities. MEA can also seamlessly switch some or all generating units at its Eklutna Generation Station from natural gas to diesel, conserving gas for regional heating needs. MEA maintains diesel supplies and delivery arrangements, and ENSTAR would reimburse MEA for additional diesel fuel costs if it requests the switch through Energy Watch.

3. Rolling Service Interruptions (Last Resort): If conservation and alternative power supplies are not enough, MEA could implement temporary Rolling Service Interruptions (RSI). Under this plan, affected groups would experience approximately 30-minute outages before power is restored and interruptions rotate to other groups. If continuous rotations were needed, the same group could experience another interruption approximately 4½ to 5 hours later.

MEA would provide advance updates as Energy Watch progresses. If RSI's became necessary, affected groups and available timing information would be shared at activation to ensure members receive the most current information as our electric system continues to grow.

Preparing for energy emergencies is part of MEA's commitment to providing safe, reliable power. Members can stay informed through MEA's website, SmartHub notifications and official social media channels. We encourage everyone to share accurate information and work together to keep our communities prepared.

If there's a natural gas delivery concern, utilities and local officials might issue an alert using the chart below

Know what to do if we ask for your help:

Energy Watch Customer Action Plan

GREEN	STABLE	• Use energy wisely; be conservation minded • Your utilities can provide tips on saving energy
YELLOW	CAUTION	• Set thermostat to 65 degrees in living areas, and 40 in the garage • Lower water heater setting to "warm" or "vacation" • Minimize usage of natural gas range • Postpone doing laundry and dishes • Turn off unnecessary lights and electronics
RED	ALERT	• Set thermostat at 60 degrees in living areas (55 if away) • Turn water heater gas valve to "pilot" • Do not use natural gas fireplaces, decorative heaters or gas grills • Consolidate household activities into as few rooms as possible