QUARTERLY TECHNICAL PROGRESS REPORT:
WIND-FUEL CELL HYBRID PROJECT IN RURAL ALASKA

For The Period January 1 – March 31, 2000

David Lockard

ALASKA DIVISION OF ENERGY

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Summary of Work Performed:

1. Project Manager David Lockard ordered wind monitoring towers and equipment for the sites in Nome and Unalaska.
2. Tom Anderson, the Environmental Assessment consultant from Battelle Labs, worked with Lockard and Tim Howell, NEPA Compliance Officer, to determine the FAA forms required to install wind turbines at the preferred sites in Nome and Unalaska. The local utility directors, with assistance from Lockard, submitted the FAA forms and received conditional FAA approval on 2/18/00 to install towers at the indicated sites. The requirements include marking and lighting the turbines in accordance with FAA Advisory Circular 70/7460-1J.
3. Anderson and Lockard investigated the need for a Wetlands Permit at the Nome and Unalaska sites. Questions were raised regarding the need for fill to improve the road and the placement of utility poles to the Nome site. Faye Heitz of the US Army Corps of Engineers provided a copy of Nationwide Permit #12, which addresses utility line discharges. According to Heitz, the proposed power line and associated poles leading to the project site would fall under this permit if the permit guidelines are properly followed. If improvements are needed to the access road in order to deliver wind turbine equipment to the top of Anvil Mountain, the need for a wetlands permit would be determined based on the scope of the improvements.
4. In meetings and correspondence with U.S. Fish and Wildlife and Alaska Fish and Game biologists in January and February, it was agreed that the Unalaska coastal site was not acceptable due to avian concerns. At the same time, it became clear that the inland Unalaska site is not feasible due to the cost of the line extension, the depth of snow accumulation (25' this year), and the extreme wind gusts that are expected on ridges in the area. Therefore, Unalaska has been dropped from consideration. That leaves only the single Nome site on Anvil Mountain.
5. On February 14, Steve Blazed took over from Tim Howell as the project's NEPA Compliance Officer.
6. On February 14, a teleconference was held to discuss the project and address the question of whether the funding should be transferred to the proposed Selawik wind energy project. Percy Frisby, Director of AEA's Rural Energy Group, decided to keep the project funding for the Nome project.
7. Lockard contacted several contractors who have moved heavy equipment up the road to Anvil Mountain. The general feedback was that, aside from during heavy snow conditions or breakup, it would be feasible to transport the wind turbine equipment up the road by flatbed or lowboy trailer. Also, a contract has been let to improve the road for heavy equipment use this summer.

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