



Media Contact: Erica Wilson
(907) 502-0854
erica.wilson@akrrc.org

News Release

Alaska Railbelt Reliability Council selects Black & Veatch to lead first-ever regionwide energy plan guiding power reliability for three-quarters of Alaskans

PALMER, Alaska (December 2, 2025) — The Alaska Railbelt Reliability Council (RRC) has selected Black & Veatch to develop the Railbelt’s first-ever systemwide Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) — a comprehensive, long-term strategy for ensuring that the power system serving most Alaskans stays reliable, affordable and ready for the future.

This is a major moment for Alaska’s electric utilities. For the first time, the Railbelt — a 700-mile corridor stretching from Fairbanks to Homer and home to roughly 75% of the state’s population — will have one coordinated roadmap for how we generate, move and store electricity. Instead of each utility planning on its own, the IRP will bring together the entire region to chart smart, cost-conscious investments that are designed to deliver power in every season and every community.

The planning process will be a team effort led by Black & Veatch in close partnership with the Railbelt’s five utilities — Golden Valley Electric Association, Matanuska Electric Association, Chugach Electric Association, Homer Electric Association and Seward Electric System — as well as independent producers, businesses, consumer groups and energy experts. The goal is simple: build a plan that reflects the needs and priorities of Alaskans.

“I am excited for the opportunity to lead the RRC and realize the value provided through Railbelt-wide standards and regional planning. This IRP will help achieve long-term reliability, sustainability and affordability for Alaskans.”

— **Ed Jenkin, CEO, Alaska Railbelt Reliability Council**

“We are honored to support the Railbelt Reliability Council in this landmark initiative. Our team will bring proven methodologies and deep industry expertise to ensure a resilient, cost-effective and sustainable energy future for Alaska. We look forward to working closely with RRC, the utilities and other stakeholders to deliver a robust and actionable plan.”

— **Ann Bui, Senior Managing Director, Black & Veatch**

The RRC was created by the Alaska Legislature to improve reliability and reduce long-term costs through shared planning and clear standards across the Railbelt system. By

coordinating infrastructure decisions, the Railbelt can avoid unnecessary expenses, strengthen grid resilience and ensure that Alaskans receive the best value for every dollar invested.

Black & Veatch brings more than 40 years of experience in integrated resource planning, including extensive work in Alaska's challenging energy environment. Their team will use advanced modeling, real-world data and community input to help develop a plan that balances reliability, resiliency, fuel supply, renewable integration, affordability and environmental goals.

Over the next two years, the IRP process will include public meetings, technical workshops and opportunities for Alaskans to ask questions and share feedback. To begin the process, the RRC plans to host an open webinar to provide the public with an overview of the IRP process and share information on how to get involved. An announcement on the RRC website with webinar registration details will be posted soon. The final plan is expected to be submitted to the Regulatory Commission of Alaska in early 2027.

For more information, visit **www.akrrc.org** or **www.bv.com**.