

Welcome to Kotlik

In late July of this year, I was invited by the community of Kotlik to pay a visit and talk about the possibility of them becoming a part of the AVEC community. I spent a day with them, and there was significant interest, but the city council was unable to reach a decision then.

During the next month, numerous community meetings were held and they discussed many options. Finally, on August 27, the council officially decided that joining the AVEC family was their best option. The AVEC board held an emergency meeting and accepted Kotlik into our cooperative.

AVEC prepared an emergency order within a couple of days, requesting authority to operate the Kotlik utility. I am pleased to say the Regulatory Commission of Alaska acted in what I'm sure is record time to approve the order to allow us to take over operations as of September 1, 2007.

You can read more about this inside this edition of Ruralite magazine, but I particularly wanted to add my heartfelt welcome to the residents of Kotlik.

Continuing Erosion in Kivalina

A storm in the Chuckchi Sea last month continued to wreak havoc in Kivalina, further eroding the seawall that was built to protect the community last year, and the water's edge is creeping ever closer to AVEC's tank farm. The action was fierce enough that on September 13, 75 percent or more of the community evacuated to the Red Dog mine and to Kotzebue to seek shelter from the pounding seas.

Although they returned home safely a day or two later, the village's residents are ever more threatened by the erosion that has been accelerating for the past decade or more. As a member of the community and a vital component of their infrastructure, AVEC is heavily impacted by nature's heavy hand here, and we continue our battle to serve the community with their much-needed electric power.

IEEE Award

AVEC was pleasantly surprised recently when it was selected by the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers-Alaska Division to receive the prestigious Engineering Company of the Year award. It is gratifying to be selected by your peers and recognized for the pioneering work AVEC has been doing for almost four decades in developing innovative engineering solutions to serve communities in some of the remotest places in the world.

I hope you are as proud as we are here at AVEC!

Until next time



Meera Kohler
President & CEO



Meera Kohler, President & CEO

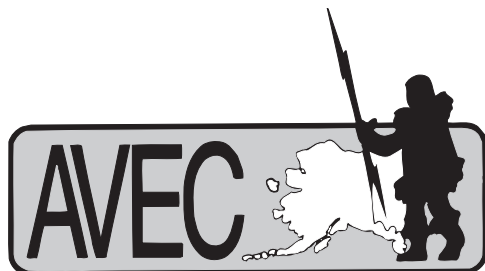
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