# Sustainable Solar Energy for Hughes Village Council, Hudotl'eekkaakk'e Tribe

A project to increase energy security and tribal resiliency in Hughes Alaska



#### Hughes, Alaska

- Koyukon Athabascan community
- 210 Air miles northwest of Fairbanks
- Fly in Only for Fuel using DC4's built in the 50's and 60's





#### Hughes, Alaska – Community Vision

"We are a community who value their subsistence way of life, our children and elders, and our healthy lifestyles. We will take direction from our elders through hands-on learning and story-telling. We are preparing our next generation to continue our work. We approach our work with open minds and open hears and the intention to build a community that is designed by its members to be a place safe from floods and reflective of our values and our lifestyles. We are continuously seeking a higher quality of life."



#### Community Planning Progress

#### Community Planning Initiated in 2002, Successes:

- -Construction of new teacher clinic (Completed)
- -Construction of outdoor basketball court (Completed)
- VHF Radios for residents (Completed)
- Completion of a new landfill (Completed)
- Biomass Heating Project (Completed)
- Reduce Reliance on Imported Diesel fuel for electric generation (ongoing, Thanks DOE!)

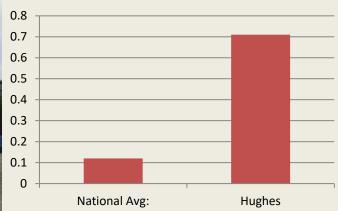




#### Where does YOUR Electricity come from?



#### \$/kWh Hughes Vs. National Avg

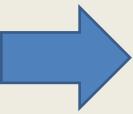




## The Challenge?

How do we get Hughes from HERE... To ...HERE

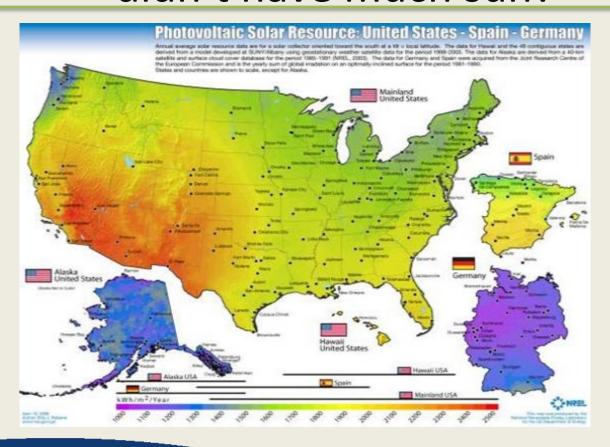








# But wait a sec, I thought Alaska didn't have much sun?





#### Did we mention the DC 4's...



#### Renewable Portfolio Standard

#### Renewable/Efficiency Portfolio Standard:

"NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the city of Hughes, Alaska and the Hughes Tribal Council recognize the importance of communities working together to improve their energy situation...[and] that these entities choose to establish a goal of 50% diesel displacement in our community by the year 2025....meaning that 50% of the electricity generated and sold by the local utility will be from renewable energy sources"





#### **Hughes Plant Operators and Gensets**



#### **Project Goals**

- 1. Increase Tribal Energy Security and Resiliency
- Development of a replicable PV-Diesel hybrid electrical system that can be deployed in other villages
- Implement a financial model that allows tribal ownership, reduces energy costs and does not negatively effect the PCE contribution to electric rates



## Community Wide 3-phase Upgrade



# Community Wide LED Lighting Upgrade





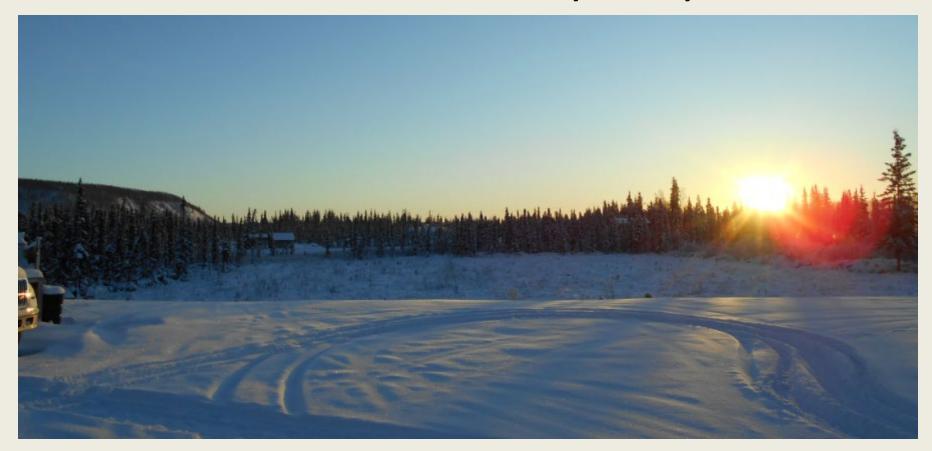


# Site of Solar PV Array





## Site of Solar PV Array last year





#### Solar PV Array



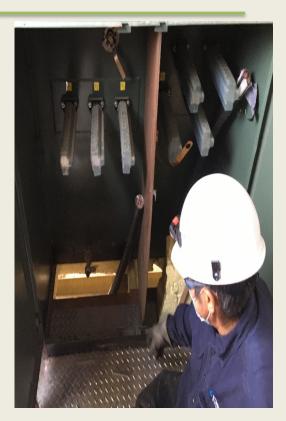
#### Summer 2019 Wiring PV Panels



#### Summer 2020 Battery Shelter







Hughes 250kw/335kWh ABB Emesh unit inside Quonset Hut



#### Logistics...





#### **Project Logistics**

Material Cost of Racking and Solar PV Panels: \$102,000

Cost of Shipping: \$15k SEA→ Nenana + \$15k Nenana → Hughes

Racking From Ohio →

Trucked to SEA →

Barged to ANC→

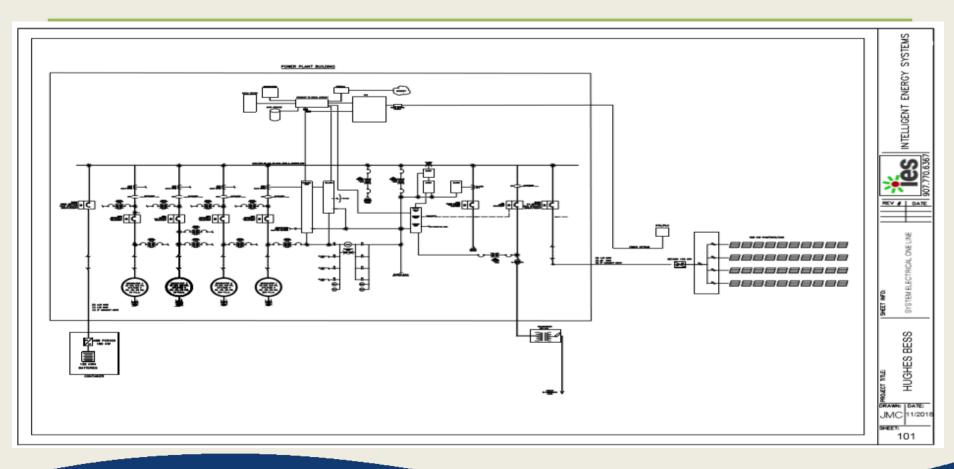
Trucked to NEN→

→ Barged 450 miles down the Yukon Tanana and Yukon River and 400 miles up the Koyukuk River

Installed Cost w/shipping: \$2.10/watt Installed Cost w/out shipping \$1.84/watt



# Micro Grid Control Package





#### ABB E-Mesh 250/335

MICROGRID AND ENERGY STORAGE SOLUTIONS

#### e-mesh<sup>™</sup> PowerStore<sup>™</sup> Integrated 250/500

Energy storage with a compact footprint

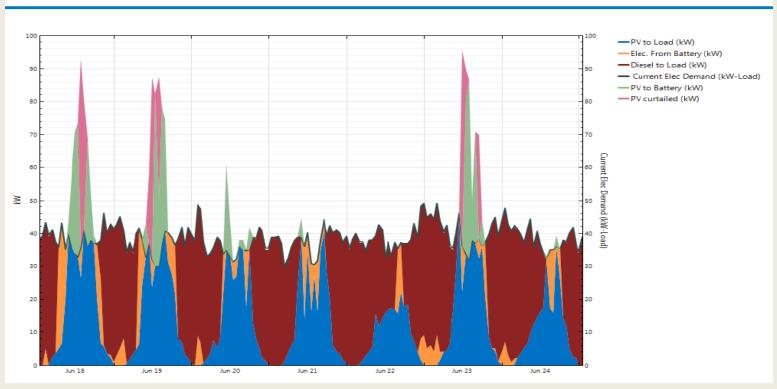


e-mesh<sup>™</sup> PowerStore<sup>™</sup> Integrated 250/500, is ABB's latest battery energy storage solution that helps ensure power reliability and availability, grid stability, and the integration of renewable energy enabled by advanced automation technology.



#### NREL Modeling in Hughes

#### **Dispatch – Nominal battery cost**





#### Delays = Budget

Original Budget All In Cost Estimates

\$623k DOE \$696k DOE

\$127k Hughes/TCC \$526k Hughes/TCC

\$751k Total Project \$1.2M Total Project



#### Why is DOE Funding so Important?

#### **Hughes Village Light and Power FY18**

Customers: 63

Annual kWh Sales: 443,942

Expense/kWh (Fuel, parts, Staff): \$.79/kWh (\$.55 Fuel \$.24 non Fuel)

10 year loan at 4% interest for this project:

**Payments:** \$11,370/mo x12 = \$136,332 - \$66k Fuel Savings = \$70,332

\$70,332/443,942kwh = \$.16/kWh

New \$/kWh = \$.95/kWh = 20% cost increase



#### **Project Challenges**

- Cost effective design and battery bank in a changing Battery Market
- 2. Single Phase limitation in the community of Hughes
- 3. Getting panels and battery bank out of the flood plain
- 4. Implementation of Effective Micro-grid Control System
- 5. Budget





# Ana Basee' (Thank you!) Dept. of Energy for your support!

"Self Sufficiency is the greatest of All Wealth" - Epicurus

#### **Questions?**

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