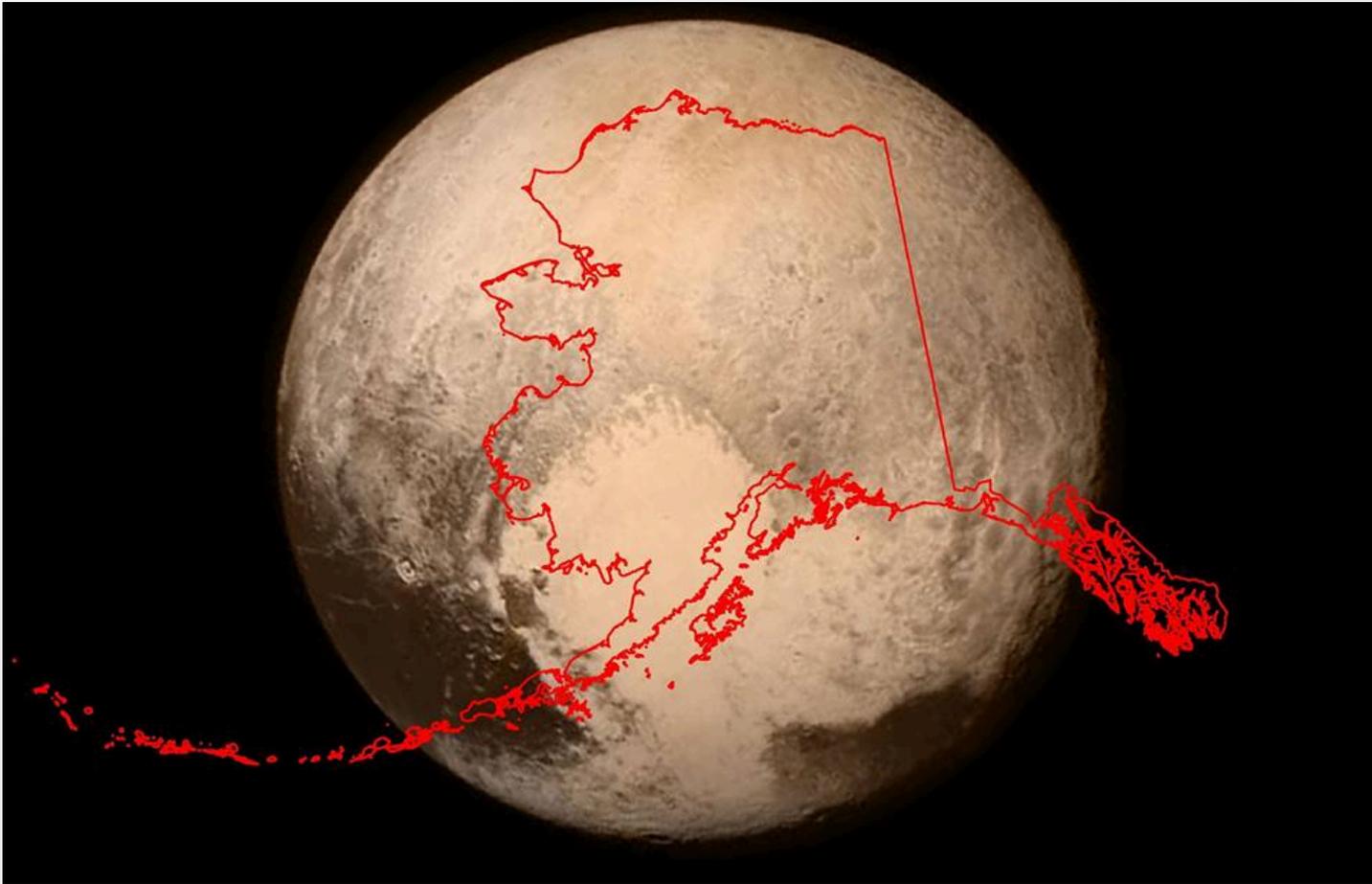


Bering Strait Energy Planning & Technical Assistance Providers Network



Kawerak, Inc.
November 2017

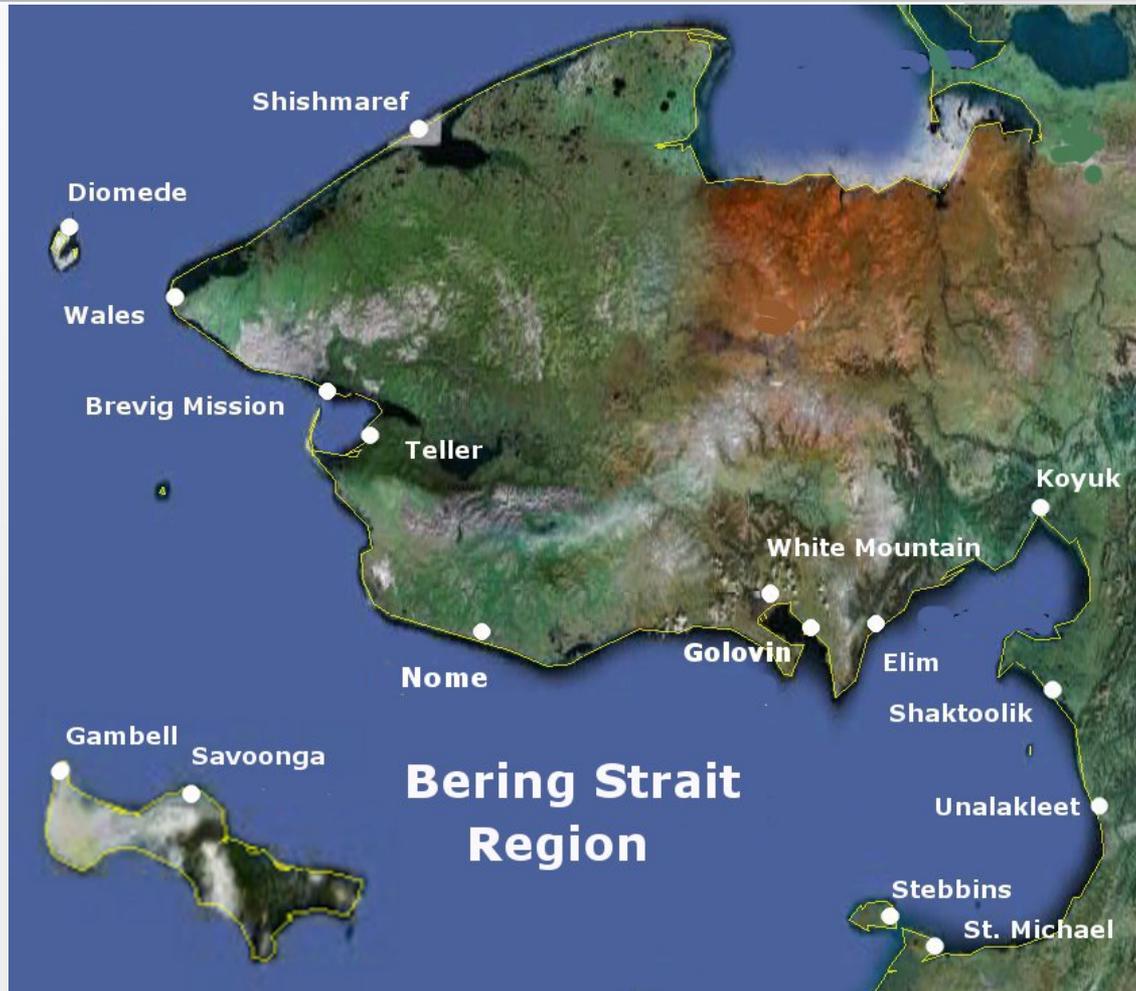
Alaska in comparison to Pluto



Kawerak, Inc.

- Non-profit, tribal consortium serving 20 federally recognized tribes in Nome and outlying area, established in 1972
- Annual budget is \$30 million
- Geographic area is ~23,000 mi², about the size of West Virginia (16 communities not connected by roads to the Alaska highway system)
- Regional population is 10,040 (2010 Census), with 76% Alaska Native tribal members

Kawerak's Service Area



The People We Serve

Three distinct Alaska Native cultures in the area: St. Lawrence Island Yupik, Inupiaq, and Central Yup'ik



15 of the 20 tribal communities are accessible by airplane only, and only 4 have direct access to interconnecting local road systems in the summer

All goods and services must be transported into the region by aircraft (year-round) or by barge during the ice-free summer months

Project Partners

- **Bering Straits Development Company (BSDC)**
- **Alaska Center for Energy & Power (ACEP)**
- **Cold Climate Housing Research Center (CCHRC)**
- **Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC)**
- **DeerStone Consulting**
- **ADEC Village Safe Water**
- **US Department of Energy**
- **Office of Indian Energy**



Project Goals

- Coordinate energy solutions throughout the Kawerak service area
- Deliver technical assistance
- Build human capacity
- Serve as a clearinghouse for energy info
- Facilitate networking between tribes and regional and national energy organizations
- Enhance the DOE's technical assistance to Alaska Native tribes



Project Activities

- Hire an **Energy Development Specialist**
- Establish a **regional energy planning network**
- Host an annual **Regional Energy Summit**



- Form an **Energy Leadership Team** made up of 3 village representatives to report energy issues to Bering Strait Development Council biennially (spring and fall meetings)



- Provide remote assistance to tribes via newsletters, emails, and faxes, including new funding opportunities for energy projects
- Coordinate technical assistance to tribes with energy partners





- Provide remote and on-site individualized energy planning or technical assistance to tribes
- Enable tribes to access energy experts needed for project planning and development
- Tribes that have identified energy projects in Local Economic Development Plans will be our first priority

- 6 site visits per year to facilitate meetings in villages
- Work one-on-one with project planners



White Mountain, population 190

- Gather information needed for baseline energy planning or shovel-ready project development
- Bring village project planners to Nome for individualized technical assistance on energy project development



Teller, population 165

- Host regional energy summit in Nome
- Collect and distribute relevant energy information to tribes
- Provide training needed for future energy projects to tribes
- Provide input and updates to our regional energy plan
- Generate ideas for improving local energy plans



- Provide individualized technical support for local energy planning and project development
- Promote networking with other communities working on similar projects or addressing similar energy-related challenges/problems
- Provide travel scholarships to 25 community members to attend annual energy summit in Nome



Kawerak's Regional Project Goals:

Leverage this funding and the expertise of the technical assistance partners for Tribes and communities to develop well-planned, implementable, impactful, and fundable energy projects for their villages

Capture regional funds available through NSEDC for shovel-ready energy projects valued up to \$1 million, to improve village energy infrastructure and/or energy delivery, utilize these funds as match for new/upcoming DOE FOA

Bering Strait Regional Energy Plan

- Dynamic, living document that is reviewed and updated as projects are completed, technology evolves, and knowledge of energy industry issues is acquired
- Developed by Kawerak and BSDC, building on the 2009 Bering Strait Energy Report
- Foundation of the Bering Strait Region's Energy Strategy
- Funded by the Alaska Energy Authority
- Completed in Fall 2015

Outcomes and Updates

- Leroy Sepillu – Energy Planning Specialist
- Introductions to all of our regional tribes, cities and village corporations
- Participated in the Native Village of Solomon's Renewable Energy Planning meeting
- Energy tract during Kawerak's 2018 Regional Conference



Ongoing Project Activities & Progress

- Met with Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) on regional energy projects
- Power Cost Equalization assistance to communities
- Assisting City of Brevig Mission with their Norton Sound Economic Development renewable energy project funds
- Completing projects using Norton Sound Economic Development Community Energy Funds.



Unalakleet Technical Troubleshooting

- Optimizing Wind-Diesel, Heat Recovery, Communications & Data Collection, Local Capacity for Unalakleet Valley Electric Cooperative (UVEC)



Lessons Learned

- Collaboration is key
- Energy issues are a growing challenge for villages, in terms of cost, impact, and technological changes
- Tribes need more advanced technical assistance to address energy issues effectively
- Vendors and equipment need to be vetted for regional suitability (we're not a testing ground)
- Tribes rely on Kawerak to coordinate efforts in such complex and technical domains
- Be flexible

Savoonga on
St. Lawrence
Island
Population 800



Contact Information

Obie Simonis, Director

Community, Planning & Development

Phone: (907) 443-4248

Email: osimonis@kawerak.org

Leroy Sepillu, Energy Planning Specialist

Phone: (907)443-4253

Email: lsepillu@kawerak.org

Website: www.kawerak.org

Kawerak, Inc.
PO Box 948
Nome, AK 99762

