

MEMORANDUM
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

STATE OF ALASKA
Labor Standards & Safety Division

TO: William Harlan
LSS Director

DATE: April 4, 2022

FROM: Elaine Banda. B.A., M.Ed.
Chief, Consultation & Training

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Matanuska Electric
Association, Eklutna Generation Station
Approval into VPP—Merit level

Dear Director Harlan,

This is a recommendation for Matanuska Electric Association to be approved into the Voluntary Protection Program (an OSHA Cooperative Program) at the Merit level.

On September 20, 2021, through September 24, 2021, a Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) on-site evaluation was conducted at Matanuska Electric Association (MEA) located at 28705 Dena'ina Elders Road in Chugiak, Alaska. The purpose of the evaluation was to determine if MEA is eligible for site-based participation in Alaska Occupational Safety and Health (AKOSH) VPP.

The VPP Evaluation Team consisted of Safety Consultant Mitch Wallace Team Leader, Safety Consultant Michael Flint, PSM Safety Consultant Christian Hendrickson, and Health Consultant Heather Miley. The team evaluated the employer's safety and health management system by reviewing written programs, procedures, training records and all records associated with the site's safety and health management system. An in-depth walk around inspection including formal and informal interviews with employees was conducted during this visit.

MEA submitted an application which indicated the site injury and illness rates are above the national average; however, the VPP Team recommends the company be placed in the Voluntary Protection Program at the merit level for 2 years. During this time, they will need to continue to reduce their rates until the three-year average is below the national average. MEA believes they can achieve this goal based on the trajectory of their rate reduction. The AKOSH audit team agree this is a reasonable and obtainable goal.

It has been communicated to the employer that participation in the VPP does not diminish any of the rights and responsibilities provided to employees by the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970. Additionally, if approved the name of this site will be removed from AKOSH's scheduled Enforcement inspection list for two years. Employee complaints, fatalities, or catastrophes at this site will still result in normal AKOSH Enforcement procedures.

The following is the site contact for this establishment:

Matanuska Electric Association
Eklutna Generation Station
28705 Dena'ina Elders Road
Chugiak, Alaska 99567

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Elaine Banda, B.A., M.Ed.

Chief of Consultation and Training

Approved:

Director William Harlan

Date