

# ALASKA VPP NEWSLETTER

## July 2022

Good day VPP Safety Coordinators!

**Featured Story:** Today's newsletter we're featuring Matanuska Electric Association (MEA,) our newest VPP member. On Wednesday, July 6, MEA hosted their induction ceremony at the MEA site. Several elected officials attended the ceremony including Anchorage Mayor Bronson, the mayors of Eagle River and Wasilla, and various state representatives. Dr. Commissioner Tamika Ledbetter was a guest speaker and presented the approval letter to the MEA safety officer.



As safety coordinators know, VPP is the crème de la crème of all safety programs and a prestigious honor. Until the MEA's acceptance, AKOSH had not approved a new VPP participant in over ten years.

The AKOSH Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) conducted an on-site evaluation at Matanuska Electric Association (MEA) September 20 - 24, 2021. AKOSH sent a 4-person team to evaluate MEA's Eklutna Generation Station. Below is a sample of some of the findings during inspection:

- The VPP team noted MEA is committed to providing employees with a safe and healthful workplace and that safety is recognized as their first core value company wide.
- Every employee has the authority to stop work if an operation or task presents a safety concern.
- Employees are actively involved and participate in hazard assessment, hazard mitigation, hazard elimination, engineering controls, and safe work practice development.
- Employees are involved alongside management in developing solutions regarding safety concerns.

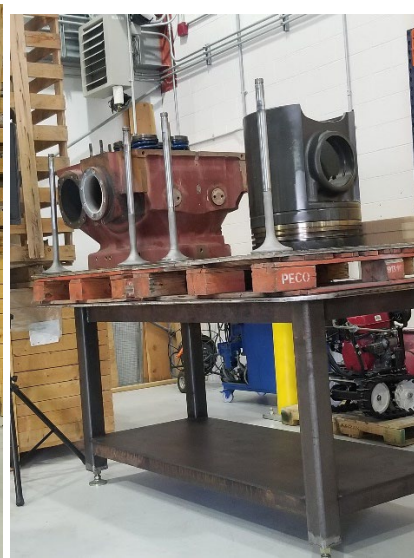


AKOSH is pleased to welcome MEA into Alaska's VPP prestigious family. If you were not able to attend, please enjoy the photos from the ceremony featured on the next page.

**VPP News:** The VPPPA Annual National Conference will take place August 23–August 25, 2022, at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington, D.C. The conference kicks off with an opening general session on Tuesday, August 23, at 10:00 am; however, the Office of Partnerships and Recognition will hold the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter VPP Managers meeting for OSHA and State Plan States on Monday, August 22 from 2:00 pm -3:30 pm, prior to the conference in Room 158AB.

The conference registration cost is \$575.00 if you register prior to July 15, 2022. For complete conference and hotel information you may visit <http://www.vpppa.org/events/Safety+Symposium|VPPPA>





If you have VPP questions, contact the VPP Coordinator, Christian Hendrickson at 907-269-4946 or e-mail him at: [christian.hendrickson@alaska.gov](mailto:christian.hendrickson@alaska.gov) Thanks for taking the time to read this newsletter.



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