

Association of Village Council Presidents Press Release

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For Immediate Release

AVCP Committed to Protecting the PCE Program

Vivian Korthuis, CEO

On July 16, 2021 the Association of Village Council Presidents Executive Board of Directors called a special board meeting and voted to join the Alaska Federation of Natives and 18 other plaintiffs who sued the state of Alaska seeking to preserve the Alaska Power Cost Equalization (PCE) program.

The Alaska Superior Court ruled on August 11, 2021 in the plaintiffs' favor. The court's decision confirms that the PCE is not in the general fund and subject to be swept. This ruling directs the State to keep funding for the PCE program in place, meaning PCE payments can go out immediately to the utilities that provide electricity to 90,000 residents in rural Alaska including those that live in our region.

On August 12, 2021, the Governor's Office published a press release stating that Governor Dunleavy will not appeal the PCE ruling.

On the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta, this ruling directly impacts villages that rely on PCE to lower the cost of electricity in rural Alaska to make it comparable to the urban parts of Alaska. Electricity bills were expected to double for many customers if the decision was not in favor of upholding PCE.

"At the direction of our Executive Board, we will continue to advocate to protect the PCE program as it is vital to our communities and families in the AVCP Region" said Vivian Korthuis, CEO.

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For additional information, please contact AVCP Communications Director, Gage Hoffman at 907-543-7308 or email at ghoffman@avcp.org

AVCP is a regional nonprofit tribal consortium comprised of the 56 federally recognized tribes of the YK Delta. The geographic boundaries of AVCP extend from the Yukon River Village of Russian Mission downstream to the Bering Sea coast, north up through Kotlik and south along the coastline to Platinum and then extending up the Kuskokwim River to Stony River, including Lime Village on the Stony River tributary. The area encompasses approximately 6.5 million acres, or 55,000 square miles, in Western Alaska.