



155 S. SEWARD STREET ▪ JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801
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Mayor Appoints Lessons Learned Commission

Panel and consultants to review response to the April avalanches

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 12, 2008

Mayor Bruce Botelho has enlisted three Juneau residents to serve on an independent panel to review the response to the April avalanches that destroyed sections of the Snettisham transmission lines. The panel—chaired by Sally Smith and including Robert Martin, Jr., and Rick Edwards— will begin its work immediately and expects to produce a report by the beginning of September.

Mayor Botelho said that “the purpose of the Commission is not merely passing judgment and making the easy calls in hindsight. I want the Commission to look at how the City and Borough, AEL&P, and the community at large responded to this energy crisis and what everyone could do differently — better — if faced with a similar catastrophe in the future.”

Michael A. Conway of MAC Services, LLC and David Eley of Cape International, Inc. have been hired to provide services to assist the Commission evaluate the community’s preparedness and response. Both companies are Juneau businesses with extensive experience in disaster emergency training, preparedness, and response.

The Commission intends to gather information that will help the community and key infrastructure entities prepare and respond more effectively in the event of a disaster emergency in the future. Sally Smith said she was “looking forward to hearing from the community about ways we can be better prepared for future emergencies.”

Though AEL&P contributed funds to pay for the services of Mr. Conway and Mr. Eley and the mayor made the appointments, the Commission will operate independently of both the City and Borough of Juneau and AEL&P. The City will host a website to assist the Commission in its work.

The first two meetings of the Commission are set for June 25 and July 2. Both will begin at 5:00 p.m. and will be held in Room 224 of City Hall. Residents wishing to learn more about the process or provide input to the Commission should visit the City’s website (www.juneau.org/energy/lessonslearned.php) or email the Commission at lessonslearned@ci.juneau.ak.us

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Note to the media: brief biographies of the three Commission members are attached. Information on Mr. Conway and Mr. Eley can be obtained at www.macleadership.com and www.capeintl.com, respectively.

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Lessons Learned Commission

Sally Smith served as Mayor of Juneau (2000-2003) and represented Fairbanks in the Alaska State House (1977-1983). While in the legislature, she chaired Rules and served on various other committees, most notably Resources and Finance.

In addition to elective office, Smith has served as an administrator in several areas of Alaska state and local government through appointments with the Fairbanks North Star Borough, Governor Egan's office, Department of Revenue, Department of Administration, Legislative Affairs Agency, and Department of Community and Regional Affairs (DCRA). While at DCRA, she worked on electrification projects in the communities of Ruby and Allakaket, enlisting the assistance of fellow Commissioner Robert Martin, then on staff with the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Long a Juneau community activist, Smith has recently completed twelve years on the UAS Campus Council having served the last three as chair. She has also served as President of Juneau Rotary.

Robert Martin Jr. is the vice president of operations at the Goldbelt Corporation. Martin was born in Kake and raised in Kake and Juneau. He holds a degree in electrical engineering from the University of Alaska. He served as the director of the Southeast Region for the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, as regional roads engineer for the Alaska Bureau of Indian Affairs, and spent 14 years in the utility industry, serving as general managers of Tlingit Haida Regional Electrical Authority and Chugach Electric. He is the former chairman of the Alaska Energy Authority and has served at Sealaska Corporation in positions of vice president of administration and corporate development.

Rick Edwards, Ph.D., is a supervising research aquatic ecologist and team leader for the Juneau Aquatic and Lands Interaction program at the Pacific Northwest Research Station of the USDA Forest Service. His research has included microbial ecology, stream and riparian biogeochemistry, primary and secondary production in rivers, wetland/soil/stream interactions, and the role of salmon in biogeochemistry of coastal temperate rainforest streams. His research team is active in climate change and carbon cycling, stream restoration, and soil-stream interactions.