

Coalition Meeting Recap

The focus of the April 10 Southcentral Mayors Energy Coalition meeting was a presentation by John Sims, President of ENSTAR Natural Gas. Mr. Sims gave a [powerpoint presentation](#) and answered questions throughout. He assured the mayors that utility companies have an obligation to deliver service and will continue to do so. The question is where the natural gas necessary for heating and power generation will come from, and how much it will cost.

Mr. Sims contextualized the potential natural gas shortage with a few key issues. First, he described the types of contracts utilities maintain with natural gas suppliers, and the criteria necessary for each contract. He also discussed the role of renewable energy in Southcentral Alaska, and how it is still necessary to maintain a form of baseline power versus variable energy.

Solutions were also discussed during the meeting. The group focused on short-term solutions. The ENSTAR President described how nearly all current solutions will require infrastructure development. The bills currently in the legislature were also brought to the table, and how they may impact the potential shortage.

Future projects include developing talking points for the mayors to communicate with their constituents. John Sims also recommended developing a feasible and actionable energy plan for the Railbelt Communities to implement. The project will be taken into consideration.

For more information, view the full meeting minutes [here](#).