

March 21 Technical Committee Meeting Recap

The first official Technical Committee meeting kicked into gear with an introduction to the Southcentral Mayors' Energy Coalition and the development of the Technical Committee by Anchorage Mayor Dave Bronson. As this is not the first Cook Inlet natural gas shortage to occur, Mayor Bronson described the inspiration for the formation for the Coalition from previous mayor Dan Sullivan. Mayor Bronson also recapped the work done by the Coalition thus far, including the compilation of [the Cook Inlet Economic, Factual, and Political History](#).

Following Mayor Bronson's introduction, the meeting commenced with introductions of the Technical Committee Members and Chair Scott Jepsen. According to Chair Jepsen, the role of the Technical Committee is to provide informational assistance to the mayors on how to accurately communicate with constituents. The Technical Committee discussions will, roughly, be separated into two categories: short term and long-term goals. The goal of the short term is to offset the potentially impending natural gas shortage, and the goal of the long term is to make an energy transition to prevent a shortage from reoccurring.

The Committee also had an in-depth discussion on the groups' charter, considering the base problem, how to address incorrect assumptions about the potential shortage, and how the Technical Committee will interact with existing working groups. The unanimously agreed upon charter is as follows: "Provide the Southcentral Mayors' Energy Coalition with factual information to use in communication with their communities regarding the energy outlook for Southcentral Alaska through presentations by subject matter experts."

The next Technical Committee Meeting will be Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 11:00am and will feature a Natural Gas Producers Panel. BlueCrest and Hex / Furie have already agreed to contribute. The Committee will also plan and produce presentations for the Mayors' Coalition Meetings. Members will also work cooperatively to produce a Cook Inlet basin data analysis guide including a breakdown of the numbers, economic / political factors, and how the various legislative proposals will affect production.

Full meeting minutes can be found [here](#).