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Sealaska and Viking Lumber Complete First Phase of Biomass Energy Potential

Juneau, AK—Sealaska Corporation and Viking Lumber, Inc. have completed the first phase of examining alternative energy supplies utilizing wood byproducts. In September 2008, Sealaska and Viking signed a letter of intent (LOI) to evaluate wood to energy opportunities in Southeast Alaska. Since then, research has helped determine the potential for a manufacturing plant utilizing wood residues from federal, state, and private forests in Southeast for alternative energy products. “We have been focusing on the potential use of wood byproducts such as bark and byproducts from logging operations and silviculture treatments,” said Ron Wolfe, Sealaska natural resources manager.

“The process to date included evaluation of conventional energy products such as wood pellets, briquettes, logs and pucks,” said Kirk Dahlstrom, Viking Lumber general manager. “The LOI also provided exploration of new innovations that are exciting and could provide new opportunities for the region.”

Sealaska and Viking lumber have received reports from their consultants that address the feedstock supply to produce the products and market potential of the various product options. “The draft report provides positive indications that there is sufficient feedstock to support and sustain such an industry,” said Dahlstrom.

Further analysis is required to determine the cost of delivery of raw material to manufacturing facilities according to Wolfe. “Based on our research, Viking and Sealaska are continuing to the next major stages of business plan development,” he said. “We will define final products, estimate costs of capital, analyze customer requirements and refine cost and logistics of raw material supply.”

The parties have initiated a “non-disclosure agreement (NDA)” enabling the parties to share proprietary information needed to fully evaluate project potential and possible joint venture. Both parties are encouraged about the potential and our new agreements allow us to evaluate financing options including funds available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for creation of alternative energy,” said Chris E. McNeil, Jr., Sealaska president and CEO.

“The collaboration between Sealaska and Viking aligns with two important Sealaska priorities to develop sustainable Southeast economies and to seek solutions to the energy crisis in rural areas of the region,” said McNeil.

About Sealaska Corporation- Sealaska is the Southeast Regional Native Corporation representing nearly 20,000 tribal member shareholders. Sealaska is a growing tradition: strengthening business with culture to benefit tribal member shareholders, the communities it operates in and the environment.

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