

Angoon Activity Report

Gina Shirey, LGS/RUBA, Southeast Regional Office

General Information:

Angoon has a long history of collection and billing problems with utility customers.

On January 6, 2000, Gina Shirey spoke with Mayor Kookesh to find out if the council was interested in contracting out the billing of their water and sewer service. He said the previous mayor was instructed by the council to gather more information. Gina told him the next step would be to call Mike Black in the Anchorage office and set up a teleconference with him and AVEC to ask questions about the proposed service. Also, Gina asked about the "soft" collection letter that Mayor Kookesh proposed to send out to all customers. He said the letter was being typed up. Gina asked him to send her a copy of the letter when it was ready for distribution.

On January 20, 2000, Gina Shirey received a call from Mayor Kookesh. He wanted to know what we thought about his draft "soft" collection letter. Gina advised him that it was read in the Southeast Regional Office, and we thought it was a good letter. There were some small grammatical errors, but Gina didn't mark them down so she didn't know where they are, but they were only minor. He was glad to hear that we thought the letter was good.

On January 28, 2000, a teleconference was scheduled between RUBA staff, AVEC personnel, and interested communities. Mayor Kookesh was in attendance by phone. Mayor Kookesh asked a lot of good questions and seemed interested in the contract. Since he wasn't in Angoon, he asked Gina to fax a copy of the AVEC proposal. Gina faxed a copy to his office. Gina explained that the next step is for Angoon to send a resolution to Mike Black/AVEC showing commitment to the program.

On January 31, 2000, Gina received a call from Mayor Kookesh. He was impressed by the teleconference on Friday and wanted to know what the next step was. Gina advised the council would need to pass a resolution to be in the pilot program. Mike is drafting the resolution and should have it available soon.

On February 4, 2000, Gina called Mayor Kookesh and advised him that she had the resolution to send to him regarding the AVEC contract. Gina faxed it to him.

On February 23, 2000, Gina received a call from Mayor Kookesh. He said the resolution was passed at the last council meeting and will be sent to her.

Activity in Angoon for this quarter has been slow. First of all, RUBA work was being held up until a response was received from Gina's 11/99 letter. Second, Angoon has been slow to get information to AVEC for the billing service. As of this date, Angoon has submitted the resolution to RUBA and AVEC but has not submitted the required information to AVEC in order to be set up for the billing service. Gina is working with the community to get the information to AVEC.

Observations and Recommendations:

Finances — No financial observations this quarter.

Accounting Systems — No comments on the accounting system.

Tax Problems — There are no apparent tax problems.

Personnel System — Employment is still steady. A new person was hired to help the accounting clerk and her hours were cut to half-time. A VISTA volunteer recently arrived in Angoon for a year of service.

Organizational Management — No comments on organizational management.

Leadership/Governance — While the mayor seems responsive to requests from this office, it takes a while for him to respond.

Operation of Utility — There are no problems with the operation of the utility.

Ranking

1 = Inadequate

4 = Adequate to meet minimum requirements

7 = Exceeds requirements

Category	1	4	7
Finances			
Accounting Systems			
Tax Problems		X	
Personnel System		X	
Organizational Management			
Leadership/Governance	X		
Operation of Utility		X	