

# PETERSBURG ALASKA

**POWER AND LIGHT DIRECTOR**

**\$140,000 - \$160,000**

*Plus Excellent Benefits*

*Apply by*

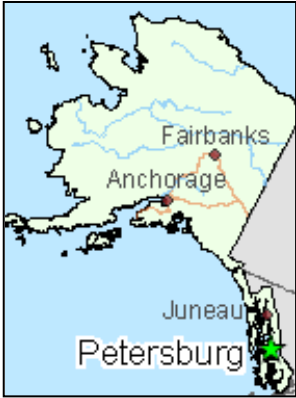
**August 31, 2025**

*(First Review, Open Until Filled)*

***PROTHMAN***



## THE COMMUNITY



Petersburg, Alaska is an island community on Mitkof Island that continues to make a living from the sea. Located on Frederick Sound in Southeast Alaska, the community has three beautiful harbors which attract smaller cruise ships, private yachts and pleasure boats to town in the summer months. Commercial fishing helped found the town and continues to be the main economic driver for the community.

The Stikine-LeConte Wilderness Area, with the spectacular LeConte Glacier calving off tons of bright blue icebergs, is just a short boat ride away.

Petersburg offers extensive opportunities for outdoor recreation, with fishing, hunting, and hiking areas accessible by automobile, boat and trails. The island features an intricate network of old logging roads which are mostly gravel-surfaced and unmaintained during winter that provide access to a wide variety of natural areas and recreational activities. Residents and visitors alike also enjoy hiking, berry picking, biking, birding, beachcombing, and wildlife viewing throughout the seasons.

The region is rich in wildlife, with more than 240 bird species having been recorded on Mitkof Island, including Canada geese, trumpeter swans, and bald eagles, which are commonly seen in the trees and along the beaches near town. The island also supports robust populations of wolves, black bears, moose, deer, and mountain goats. In the surrounding waters, seals and sea lions are frequently spotted in the harbors, and both humpback and orca whales are seen offshore. During the summer months, hundreds of humpback whales feed approximately 40 miles north of Petersburg in Frederick Sound and Stephens Passage, best viewed through local marine tours.

The waters around Petersburg offer excellent fishing, with all five species of wild Alaska salmon present. Anglers can fish from shore, rent skiffs, charter a guided trip, or stay at one of the area's fishing lodges. Crab, shrimp, halibut, and rockfish are also abundant just a short boat ride from town.

Petersburg is known for its wide range of public art, with artistic designs stamped into the concrete of the sidewalks, and Rosemaling (Norwegian flower painting) commonly seen on the fronts of retail stores and residences. The influence of local artists and crafts people is reflected in the murals, totems, and sculpture that line the downtown streets.

The Petersburg School District is recognized as one of the best districts in the state. The community also supports a locally owned and operated acute care hospital, which includes a medical clinic, long-term care facility, and emergency medical services.

The U.S. Coast Guard maintains the Petersburg Mooring, home to the cutter Pike and the buoy tender Elderberry. The U.S. Forest Service also has a strong presence in the community, employing approximately 100 local staff who support operations within the Tongass National Forest. The State of Alaska maintains personnel in Petersburg for various functions, including the operation and upkeep of the all-weather airport. Additionally, year-round air service is provided by Alaska Airlines, with twice-daily 737 jet flights.

With its working waterfront, strong community values, and access to some of Southeast Alaska's most stunning natural landscapes and wildlife viewing, Petersburg offers a unique combination of small-town life and rich cultural and recreational experiences. Residents take pride in their heritage, support one another, and enjoy a way of life deeply connected to the land and sea.





## THE BOROUGH

The Petersburg Borough is the local government and is responsible for providing services to approximately 3,100 residents. The municipality operates as an Assembly-Manager form of government. The Assembly consists of 7 members, which all hold 3-year terms. The Borough operates with 92 full-time employees and is a full-service municipality, providing water, wastewater, solid waste, harbors, an assisted living facility, finance, community development, library, parks & recreation, police, fire, and the municipal electric utility.

## THE DEPARTMENT

The Petersburg Municipal Power and Light (PMPL) is the Petersburg Borough's electric utility. Approximately 75% of the community's power is purchased through a long-term Power Sales Agreement with the Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA) and 25% is generated by the department's legacy hydro plant at Crystal Lake/Blind Slough. The department is responsible for power distribution within the Petersburg Borough as well as providing diesel backup generation to the community during planned and unplanned outages. The department has a compact and strong staff of 10 FTEs including a line crew, mechanic, electrician, meter reader, office manager and customer service representatives. Many of the staff are trained to operate the hydro plant and diesel plant in the event of outages. With an annual budget of \$8.5M, PMPL strives to provide service to Petersburg's small community and performs the following for its customers:

- Power generation and distribution
- AMI metering system – (not fully deployed)
- Electrical permitting and inspection
- Outage management and restoration
- Diesel generation fleet maintenance and operation
- Blind Slough Hydro maintenance and operation
- Line extensions from existing primary backbone
- Subdivision line construction (OH and UG)
- Service installations
- Commercial service installations
- Customer service for billing or service questions
- GIS database/mapping in development
- Support of peer departments within the Borough



The community of Petersburg recognizes the importance of the utility, and has provided gratitude and support for many projects and changes in its history. The department is on solid financial ground, with adequate reserves being held to meet emergency needs and support operations. A rate increase designed to achieve a 4% increase in revenue overall was approved by the Borough Assembly in June of 2025 in order to counteract inflationary impacts to the electric department.

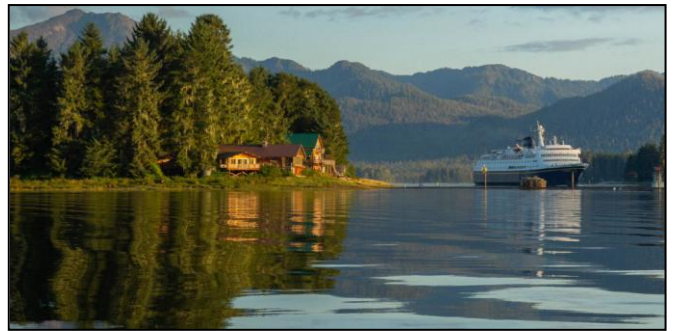


## THE POSITION

Reporting directly to the Borough Manager, the Power and Light Director is responsible for the comprehensive administration of all electric utility projects and facilities within the Borough. This includes oversight of project funding and budgeting, ensuring documentation and regulatory compliance with all applicable Borough policies, ordinances, and procedures. The Director is responsible for preparation and management of capital, operations, and maintenance budgets with input from relevant staff. The Director also collaborates with internal departments and external stakeholders such as federal and state officials, the Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA), interconnected municipal utility managers, consultants, and State of Alaska agencies to ensure the smooth operation and planning of the electric utility system.

The Director provides information and guidance to businesses, contractors, and residents on service availability, costs, and utility planning. The position oversees the approval of local electrical permits and inspection of installations, either directly or through delegation. Additionally, the Director serves as the Chief Dam Safety Coordinator, responsible for all safety aspects at the Crystal Lake Dam and Blind Slough Hydroelectric Project, ensuring ongoing compliance with the Borough's Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license.

To review the full responsibilities of this position, please view the job description [here](#).



## OPPORTUNITIES & PRIORITIES

**A Strong Team Environment:** The incoming Power and Light Director will become part of a tight-knit and highly motivated team. After several years of turnover, the current staff is excellent and stable. The team is cohesive in all aspects of the Borough's operation, and communication between team members is at an all-time high. Many of the staff report directly to the Power and Light Director, which offers valuable contact opportunities for ongoing operations and internal projects.

**Upcoming Projects:** It is anticipated that the new Director will be tasked with several projects over the next few years. See below for a listing of these projects.

- Completion of a full AMI deployment to all electric meter locations.
- Completion of the Scow Bay Generation project – a 3.5MW diesel generator installation and commissioning which should be near completion by summer of 2026.
- Seeking funding sources and development of a project to replace the penstock at the Blind Slough Hydro.
- Completion of an in-house project to eliminate the last remnants of 2400V distribution at the airport.
- Completion of the Downtown Street Lighting replacement project.
- Budgeting and funding of a roof replacement at the main power plant.
- Evaluating the timing for the next increment of diesel backup generation.
- Completion of a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) mandated Comprehensive Assessment at Crystal Lake in 2029.
- Completion of the Blind Slough Hydro relicensing process, starting in 2032.



**Education and Growth Opportunities:** Other aspects of the Power and Light Director's position provide educational growth opportunities:

- The Director serves as the Chief Dam Safety Coordinator (CDSC) for Crystal Lake Dam and has responsibility and oversight over safety issues at the dam. The Director works with a contracted Chief Dam Safety Engineer (CDSE) to ensure that the dam is safe and able to provide service at all times.
- The Director is the main point of contact for many regulatory agencies, including FERC and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC).
- The Director executes electrical permits through the building official's office and assigns inspections by PMPL staff as required.
- The Director shall become familiar with the SEAPA operations and may be called upon to serve on the SEAPA Board of Directors. Healthy relationships with Wrangell and Ketchikan utilities and coordination with those entities and SEAPA is paramount to PMPL's success on a daily basis.
- The Director serves as the department's Project Manager and will be responsible for leading projects through all phases of budgeting, development, design, procurement, construction and commissioning. The small staff requires many hats to be worn during the course of a project.



## THE IDEAL CANDIDATE

### Education & Experience:

- Seven (7) to ten (10) years of staff supervision and leadership experience for a minimum of six (6) to ten (10) employees.
- Experience as a manager or supervisor in a public electric utility environment in a decision-making role.
- A valid Alaska Driver's License within six (6) months of hire.

### Any combination of experience and education which provides the applicant with the following attributes:

- Knowledge of various public electric utility operations, including experience with operational planning and budgeting, development of capital improvement plans, and rate setting in a municipal environment.
- Knowledge of OSHA safety standards that apply to municipal utility operations and ability to implement and enforce applicable safety regulations.
- Knowledge of energy efficiency programs; their development, implementation, and management.
- Knowledge of performance management and cost savings efforts.
- Five (5) to ten (10) years of experience in a decision-making role for standard human resources practices; including hiring, terminations, and conflict resolution in a municipal organized labor environment.
- Must possess excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- Knowledge of NEC, NESC and NFPA codes as they apply to electric utility operations and safety is desired.
- Knowledge of electrical metering applications and demand side management is desired.
- Knowledge of Geographical Information System (GIS) software and its application in a utility setting is desired.

## COMPENSATION & BENEFITS

- **\$140,000 - \$160,000 DOQ**
- Alaska Public Employees Retirement System (PERS)
- Health Insurance (Borough pays 80% of premiums for employee and their dependents)
- Life Insurance – Borough provides a plan of \$10,000 at no cost, employees can opt for additional voluntary coverage
- Longevity increases (outlined on Borough website)
- Paid time off accrual – 8 hours/pay period
- Additional retirement plan (457b) – after 6 months of enrollment Borough will match 3%, after 5 additional years Borough will match 4%
- 12 ½ holidays per year



**For more information on the Petersburg Borough and the community, please visit:**

[www.petersburgak.gov](http://www.petersburgak.gov)

[www.petersburg.org](http://www.petersburg.org)

The Petersburg Borough is an Equal Opportunity Employer. All qualified candidates are strongly encouraged to apply by **August 31, 2025** (First Review, Open Until Filled.) Applications, supplemental questions, resumes and cover letters will only be accepted electronically. To **apply online**, go to **www.prothman.com** and click on "Open Recruitments", select "**Petersburg Borough, AK – Power and Light Director**" and click "**Apply Online**," or click [here](#). Resumes, cover letters, and supplemental questions can be uploaded once you have logged in. Bottom three cover page photos provided by Wild Iris Photography. Page three hiking photo provided by E. Thompson.



[www.prothman.com](http://www.prothman.com)

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