



Native Village of Kotzebue | P.O. Box 296 | 600 5th Avenue | (907) 442-3467 | www.kotzebueira.org

For Immediate Release:

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Native Village of Kotzebue Collaborates with KEA Supporting Swan Lake Loop Residents

Kotzebue, Alaska – March 19, 2024 – The Native Village of Kotzebue is providing relief to tribal members experiencing increases in electric bills related to the Swan Lake Loop disaster. Working in conjunction with Kotzebue Electric Association, NVOK will pay the monetary difference between a member’s standard electric bill and the increase associated with the state of emergency declared by the city of Kotzebue, NVOK, and the state of Alaska.

NVOK has set qualification guidelines for Tribal members to be eligible to receive assistance while the issue is being resolved.

- Must be a NVOK Tribal member and provide Tribal verification
- 1 qualifying assistance per member household
- Must reside in Kotzebue as your primary residence
- Must provide NVOK with a copy of electricity bill to verify the difference in costs, or, request that KEA provide NVOK a monthly average of your bill

Currently, NVOK anticipates possibly covering the difference in an eligible applicant’s standard electric bill for 1 to 2 payments. They will then reassess the situation and determine the potential of additional assistance.

“Our primary goal is the health and safety of our residents and providing swift assistance to Elders and families in our community who have been severely impacted by the Swan Lake Loop disaster,” says Christina Hensley, Executive Director, Native Village of Kotzebue. “This devastating event has shown the resiliency of our people and demonstrated our community’s commitment to helping one another through challenging times.”

NVOK Tribal members who are interested in applying for assistance should access the NVOK - KEA application at www.kotzebueira.org/programs/swan-lake-emergency-updates/.

Paper application forms will also be available at KEA and NVOK corporate offices, located at 600 Fifth Avenue, Kotzebue.

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