

Public Utilities	Unit No.	Utility	Unit No.	Division	Unit No.
	8000	Utility Customer Services	8200		
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MISSION

The Utility Customer Services Department has the basic responsibility to provide certain customer service functions to the public for the five (5) Public Utilities. Those functions include, but are not necessarily limited to, establishment and discontinuance of utility services, answering or resolving customer inquiries, collecting utility payments, establishing accounts receivable controls and the preparation and mailing of the consolidated utility bills.

GOALS

- 1. Provide prompt, efficient and courteous service to customers with concern for their individual needs.
- 2. Plan and prepare for increases in the utilities' customer base.
- 3. Improve cash flow and customer relations by enhancements to the present billing operation relative to design, application and production.
- 4. Further customer awareness of functions provided by the department.
- 5. Train and educate employees in good customer relations skills.
- 6. Provide a work environment for employees which is conducive to motivation, individual responsibility, advancement and organizational pride.
- 7. Prepare for and effect an orderly transition from a centralized customer service function to a decentralized function.
- 8. Maintain a high level of communication and coordination with the five utilities to effectively respond to their requirements.
- 9. Maintain revenue losses at an acceptable level to the five utilities with consideration given to the current economic climate of the community.
- 10. Prepare for the reduction-in-force associated with the implementation of the Contel/DCRIS system.

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EXTERNAL FACTORS AFFECTING THE UTILITY CUSTOMER SERVICES DEPARTMENT

- 1. Population growth in the Anchorage area.
- 2. Economic climate of the community.
- 3. Federal/State regulatory requirements regarding credit/collection practices, utility security deposits, utility interface with the banking industry, and common service functions to utilities of differing ownership.
- 4. Deregulation of the Anchorage Telephone Utility.
- 5. Direction of the ATU Service Centers.
- 6. Implementation of the Contel/DCRIS system by ATU.
- 7. Adoption by the various utilities of independent customer service/accounts receivable data systems
- 8. Municipal Data Processing.
- 9. U.S. Postal Service Rates, regulations and procedures.
- 10. Direction of Alascom on billing of tolls.

PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS

The following assumptions have been used in developing the Utility Customer Services Department's 1986-1991 long range plans; they have been developed from the best data available at this time.

- 1. Population (customer base) will continue to increase with a leveling in the second half of the period.
- 2. The economic climate of the community will be good until Prudhoe Bay production starts to decrease.
- 3. Zip-plus 4 will be incorporated in utility billing addresses.

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- 4. ATU will assume an aggressive posture in the deregulated market.
- 5. AWU and AWWU will expand services in Eagle River and Chugiak.
- 6. Eklutna Water Project will be completed.
- 7. Municipal Business Systems Study will be completed and approved with implementation commencing in mid-1985.
- 8. Contel/DCRIS system for ATU will be operational by late 1986 mid-1987.
- 9. New data systems for the remaining utilities will be operational by the end of 1987.
- 10. Responsibility for the UCSD Data Center will be transferred to another department in 1985.
- 11. Utility Customer Service Department will remain an independent entity through 1986.
- 12. Personnel reductions for this department will occur concurrent with the implementation of Contel/DCRIS by ATU.
- 13. Customer contact at the department's location will continue to increase.
- 14. Portions of both this department and ATU with customer contact will be relocated to the first floor.

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SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES/PROGRAM IDENTIFICATION

Administration/Department

- 1. STREAMLINE AND CONSOLIDATE ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS
 - ° Continue to automate as many items as possible on the IBM PC XT
 - Locate administrative functions in a central area.
- 2. IMPROVE WORK ENVIRONMENT FOR EMPLOYEES/CUSTOMERS
 - Expansion of the work area to first floor ATU Building.
- 3. PROMOTE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR EMPLOYEES
 - Extensive ongoing utilization of public relations courses.
 - Provide a high degree of job related technical training.
 - Develop a formalized periodic training program related to refresher courses.
 - Formalize a career development program.
- 4. EMPHASIZE DEPARTMENTAL SAFETY AWARENESS
 - Develop a formalized safety program.
 - Recognize individual/unit safety achievements.
 - Coordinate safety instruction between Risk Management and departmental training coordinators.
- 5. PROMOTE RECOGNITION OF EMPLOYEE ACHIEVEMENTS
 - Continued emphasis on "Employee of the Month" program with further enhancements to the program.
 - Management will become more involved with submissions to the Municipal Employee
 Incentive Committee

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Customer Service Division

- 1. 90% OR MORE OF ALL CALL-BACKS RETURNED WITHIN ONE (1) HOUR
 - Maintain an operator queue of four (4) temporary employees during peak annual contact periods.
 - New Utilities Data Systems
 - a. Reduce contact time per customer.
- 2. MAINTAIN WAITING TIME FOR WALK-IN CUSTOMERS AT OR BELOW FIVE (5) MINUTES
 - New Utilities Data Systems
 - a. Reduce contact time per customer
 - Renovate walk-in area.
- 3. REDUCE PERSONNEL EXPENSE, RELATIVE TO INFLATION/COST-OF-LIVING INCREASES, THROUGH AUTOMATION
 - New Utilities Data Systems will result in reductions in the departmental labor force by late 1986 and substantial reduction or complete department phase-out by late 1987.
- 4. MAINTAIN HIGH EMPLOYEE MORALE
 - ° Continue to encourage participative management.
 - Endeavor to relocate employees whose positions are effected by the reduction in force to other areas within the Municipality.

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Credit and Collections

- MAINTAIN NET BAD DEBT INDEX BELOW 1% AND DOLLARS OVER 60 DAYS ARREARS BELOW 10%
 - ° Priority on contacting customers with final notices and customers on the high toll reports.
 - Retention of trained personnel.
 - Equalizing distribution of accounts to Collection Representatives on a regular basis.
 - Ensure proper time management principals are being used by employees.
- 2. IMPROVE EFFICIENCY IN THE CREDIT SECTION
 - Provide on-line credit applications.
- 3. ENHANCE SECURITY MEASURES
 - o Install camera(s) in conjunction with renovation of customer facilities to the first floor ATU.
 - Continue to provide training for all personnel in hold-up procedures.
- 4. REDUCE WALK-IN CUSTOMER TRAFFIC
 - Reduce emphasis on delinquent customers being required to appear in person.
 - Install payment drop boxes at all ATU Customer Service Centers.
 - Establish a program whereby customers could remit payment with major credit cards.

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5. IMPROVE CASH FLOW FUNCTIONS

- Orop boxes at all service centers with security pickup for processing at a central location.
- ° Zip + 4 on utility billings.

7. MAINTAIN HIGH EMPLOYEE MORALE

- Continue to encourage participative management.
- Endeavor to relocate employees whose positions are effected by the reduction in force to other areas within the Municipality.

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	8000	Utili	ty Custom	er Serv	lces	8200				
			MANPOW	ER FORE	CAST					
Division	19	<u>185</u> <u>1</u>	986 1	987	1988	1989	1990	1991		
Administration		4	4	3	0	0	. 0	0		
Customer Service	5	58	58	14	0	0	0	0		
Credit & Collections	6	54	64	21	0	0	0	0	•	
UCSD Data Center	1	.3	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Total	13	<u> </u>		38	 	0	0	0		
Net Increase/Decrease			-13 –	88	-38	0	0	0		

Note: Manpower forecase from 1987 to 1991 reflects projections based on the various utilities data systems developing into functioning realities.

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	Utility Cu	stomer Services	8200				
		1004	ions		1986	1986	
CES		1984 ACTUAL	1985 PRO-FOR	MA	1986 PROPOSED	1986 ADOPTED	
		4,305,000	5,179,0	00	5.389.000	5,389,000	
						408,000	
arges		884,000			1,002,000	1,002,000	
		5,556,000	6,545,0	00	6,799,000	6,799,000	
rges		1,609,000	1,422,0	00	1,618,000	1,618,000	
Budget Unit Cost			7,967,0	00	8,417,000	8,417,000	
enues		7,165,000	7,967,0	00	8,417,000	8,417,000	
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			1025		1986	1986	
RCES		RANGE & STEP			PROPOSED	ADOPTED	
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	8000	Utility Cus	stomer Services	8200				
				198	5	1986	1986	
PERSONNEL RESOUR	RCES		RANGE & STEP	BUDGE	т	PROPOSED	ADOPTED	
Office Assistant Driver/Courier Office Aide			AMEA AMEA AMEA	9 1 2		9 1 2	9 1 2	
Total			·	126		126	. 126	
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Unit No.	Utility		Unit No.	Division			Unit No.
8000	Utility C	ustomer Services	8200	Adm	inistration		8210
URCES		1984 ACTUAL	1985 PRO-FOR	MA	1986 PROPOSED	1986 ADO	DPTED
Charges t harges evenues		189,000 13,000 19,000 221,000 51,000 272,000 272,000 -0-	13,00 193,00 453,00 158,00 611,00	00 00 00 00 00 00	267,000 14,000 196,000 477,000 168,000 645,000 -0-	267 14 196 477 168 645	,000 ,000 ,000 ,000 ,000
			1985		1986	198	36
DURCES		RANGE & STEP	BUDGE	T	PROPOSED	ADOP	TED
Services icer		22 E 15N 12N 10N	1 1 1		1 1 1	1 1 1	
			4		4	4	
	8000 URCES Charges t harges evenues	8000 Utility Counces Charges tharges evenues DURCES	8000 Utility Customer Services	8000 Utility Customer Services 8200	1980 Utility Customer Services 8200 Adm.	1984 1985 1986	1984 1985 1986

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	8000	Utility C	ustomer Services	8200	Cust	omer Service	8220
FINANCIAL RESOURC	CES		1984 ACTUAL	1985 PRO-FOR	ма	1986 PROPOSED	1986 ADOPTED
8100 Personnel Services 8200 Supplies 8300 Other Services and Char Direct Organizational Cost 8700 Intragovernmental Charg Budget Unit Cost 8800 Intragovernmental Reven	ges		1,943,000 .33,000 .346,000 2,322,000 .383,000 2,705,000 2,705,000 -0-	2,295,00 33,00 323,00 2,651,00 433,00 3,084,00 3,084,00	00 00 00 00	2,399,000 35,000 327,000 2,761,000 453,000 3,214,000 3,214,000 -0-	2,399,000 35,000 327,000 2,761,000 435,000 3,214,000 3,214,000
		,		1985	5	1986	1986
PERSONNEL RESOUR	CES		RANGE & STEP	BUDGE	T	PROPOSED	ADOPTED
Principal Administrative Off Principal Customer Service For Customer Service Representate Customer Service Representate Customer Service Representate Office Associate Senior Office Assistant Office Assistant Office Aide	lepresen :ive III :ive I/I	I	16N 13N AMEA AMEA AMEA AMEA AMEA AMEA	1 6 5 31 3 1 5 4 2		1 6 5 31 3 1 5 4 2	1 6 5 31 3 1 5 4
Total				58		58	58

Public Utilities	Unit No. Utility		Unit No. Division				Unit No	
	8000	Utility Co	stomer Services	8200	Credi	t & Collections		8230
FINANCIAL RESOURCES			1984 ACTUAL	1985 PRO-FORMA		1986 PROPOSED	1986 ADOPTED	
8100 Personnel Services 8200 Supplies 8300 Other Services and Charges Direct Organizational Cost 8700 Intragovernmental Charges Budget Unit Cost 8800 Intragovernmental Revenues Function Cost			2,173,000 321,000 519,000 3,013,000 1,447,000 4,460,000 -0-	2,637,000 349,000 455,000 3,441,000 1,442,000 4,883,000 4,883,000		2,723,000 359,000 479,000 3,561,000 1,642,000 5,203,000 5,203,000	2,723,000 359,000 479,000 3,561,000 1,642,000 5,203,000 5,203,000	
PERSONNEL RESOURCES			RANGE & STEP	1985 BUDGET		1986 PROPOSED	1986 ADOPTED	
Collection Supervisor Senior Collector Junior Administrative Officer Collection Representative III Collection Representative I/II Senior Office Assistant/Office Associate Senior Office Assistant Office Assistant Driver/Courier Total			15N 13N AMEA AMEA AMEA AMEA AMEA AMEA	2 6 1 5 32 5 7 5 1		2 6 1 5 32 5 7 5 1	2 6 1 5 32 5 7 5 1	