

Villages of Ugashik and Pilot Point Run Out of Fuel

Residents of two tiny Southeastern Alaska villages running low on fuel oil have had little response so far from the state to a plea that Gov. William Egan provide immediate disaster assistance.

Reports from the Bristol Bay Area Development Corp., Dillingham, indicated Monday that while the Bureau of Indian Affairs has assessed the situation no move has been made to bring in stove oil to Pilot Point and Ugashik.

"They have enough money to buy the oil, but not for the transportation," said Mark Johnson, program development specialist for the corporation.

Johnson went with BIA representative Jim Dayton during the weekend to the homes of 25 residents of Ugashik and another 70 in Pilot Point to check on whom was eligible for various types of assistance.

Johnson said many personal questions were asked at each

household and in six cases requests for help were turned down, including a Pilot Point resident in Anchorage with two daughters burned in a fire.

"The BIA figured if he was in Anchorage he couldn't qualify," Johnson said.

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Out of Fuel . . .

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Representatives of the Bristol Bay Area Development Corp., and Bristol Bay Area Native Corp. fired off telegrams to the governor's office late last week, advising that half of the residents of Ugashik and Pilot Point were out of fuel and no means of getting fuel into these villages.

"We feel that this should be declared a disaster," they said.

Spokesman for the governor's office said that Egan was quite concerned and had alerted the Alaska Disaster Office and the BIA.

Nels Anderson, executive director of the Bristol Bay Native Corp., said a defective fuel pump used to take fuel oil from a barge during the summer and unload it

into a reserve tank was apparently the culprit.

"Last summer one of the pumps didn't work at Pilot Point, but village officials were not aware of it until late September or early October," he said.

As a result a scow sent to Pilot Point at the end of July unloaded 16,000 barrels less fuel

than was planned.

In response to the Disaster Office comments disputing the urgency of the matter, came a telegram Monday signed by Anderson, Andrew Abyo, president of the Pilot Point Village Council, Paul Matsuno, president of the Ugashik Village Council, Donald Nielsen, executive director of the Bristol Bay Area Health Corp. and Trefon Ange-

son Jr., regional director of the Bristol Bay Area Development Corp.

"We suggest that you travel to Ugashik and Pilot Point and tell the people there that they are not freezing," the telegram said.

Those without fuel in the two villages are borrowing from those who have enough, but more is necessary to meet winter needs.