

Gas Well for Barrow

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Senator Mike Gravel announced today that the Navy will drill a new gas well in Alaska's Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 4 in or-

der to meet the growing demand for gas by the City of Barrow.

The Alaska Democrat said that the Navy had secured approval to include an additional \$630,000 in the 1972 budget for its activities in Pet No. 4 and that these funds would be used to drill the new well.

According to the Senator, seismic work will be done this month, to determine the location for the well, which will tap the same gas field presently supplying gas to the Navy.

The Navy, in turn, sells almost half the gas from the well to the City of Barrow.

Senator Gravel said that the Navy expects the new well to be drilled in April of 1973 and to be operational by late May of the same year.

He pointed out that this will only be a short run solution to the growing demand for gas in Barrow.

"The new well will provide a second access to a gas field which has been in use for almost 10 years. The supply in this field will one day be exhausted."

"I have urged," he said, "that the Navy have additional funds to undertake a major study of the total potential of Pet 4 and to locate additional gas fields. Last week I asked that the budget for the Navy's Petroleum activities be increased four times so that such exploratory work can be conducted.

"It is important," Senator Gravel continued, "that the full potential of Pet No. 4 be known, because I look forward to the day when the Navy will either lease Pet 4 into the private sector or dispose of it altogether. This will be of immense importance to all of Alaska."