

***For Waste Treatment Systems—***

# **Pres. Ford to Release \$4 Billion Impounded Federal Funds**

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Senator Mike Gravel (Democrat-Alaska) said today he has learned that President Ford will immediately release \$4 billion in previously impounded federal

funds to build municipal waste treatment systems.

"This means that Alaska will receive at least \$9 million to begin construction of sewage treatment facilities," Senator Gravel said.

The Administration announced early this week that it would release \$4 billion of a total of \$9 billion in sewage treatment funds that were impounded by the Nixon Administration.

Senator Gravel, along with several Senate colleagues, urged that the money be made available at once after learning that the Environmental Protection Agency was delaying the allocation of the funds until a distribution formula was established.

"The allocation formula was provided for in the law that made the 1973 and 1974 money available: it is consistent with all

recent court decisions relating to this program," Senator Gravel said he had learned.

"The availability of this money will enable a number of Alaskan communities to build needed sewage treatment plants. I have urged that the remaining \$5 billion also be released," Senator Gravel added.