

Eskimo Village Coordinator May Sue

John L. Heffle, Sr., project coordinator for Eskimo Village in Fairbanks, said that he is considering legal action against the Municipal Utilities System and the City of Fairbanks because of

the failure of MUS to install water and sewage lines for the Village before freeze-up.

The cost of the water and sewer project, Heffle said, is covered by a federal grant and,

upon completion, will provide the city with over 150 thousand dollars in capital improvements.

Promises by the city and MUS to complete the system have not been kept, he said. "If something is not done immediately to rectify this situation, I will bring legal action against the city, if necessary," Heffle said.

Part of the problem, he indicated, is due to the reaction of MUS to Village refusal to grant an easement through three lots for a power line to service a pumping station. Villagers have since decided to grant the easement.

The decision by Villagers to refuse the right of way was based on the reluctance of MUS to provide telephone service to the area. The request for telephone service was initially made over ten years ago.

Refusal for telephone service, residents of Eskimo Village claim, left the area without communication during emergencies and resulted in the death of a small child during one instance when medical attention could not be immediately obtained.

Villagers relented on the right of way when MUS informed them that an alternative route would delay the project for two months. The delay, Heffle said, has come about in any case.