

# REA Launches Survey to Develop Power in Villages

WASHINGTON—The Rural Electrification Administration (REA) has launched a preliminary survey with an eye toward developing a plan to supply Alaska native villages with electric power, it was announced by the office of Senator E. L. (Bob) Bartlett.

A Bartlett aide said that the survey, being conducted by Ralph Mills, former REA field representative in Alaska, sought information on state and federal electric power units now in use in native villages.

In meetings of REA and Office of Economic Opportunity officials and Bartlett assistants, it was determined that under existing programs many villages could not support a power system.

The Senator's aide said that to reduce the cost of maintaining and operating the proposed systems, existing federal and state generating facilities might be expanded to serve nearby villages and that government agencies might buy power from a central source in the area.

Conceivably, expansion of generators now serving government installations could be cheaper than construction of a complete new system, it was explained. Also, the purchase of power by government agencies would ensure a steady income which would help meet operating expenses.

The Bartlett aide said that Mills also was seeking information on economic development possibilities to determine future power needs for individual villages.

Bartlett's office also announced that REA and OEO officials were investigating ways that power cooperatives

might be financed in Northwest Alaska.

Mill will be in Alaska until December 17, it was reported.