

Guy Martin expresses personal concerns

On the day before Ronald Reagan takes the oath of office Guy Martin, Alaska's highest ranked appointee to in the Carter administration has expressed concern about incoming department's secretary and about the Reagan administration.

Guy Martin, assistant secretary for land and water resources, said that the new administration may possibly push the Outer Continental Shelf oil leasing program at a faster pace.

"The problem will come when Alaska's coastal towns and villages are asked to accommodate a large and very rapid influx of offshore workers and material,"

Martin said. "The present schedule already stretches that capability as far as it can be stretched, and beyond."

Martin said the outgoing Department of Interior has left a legacy of serious efforts to improve the management of federal lands and said that the department's greatest accomplishments were the implementation of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and passage of the Alaska lands bill.

"When we came in, the department had failed to put anything in place to implement the Act and there was nothing but belligerence between the Natives and

the Interior," he said. "Now the Natives will have all their lands conveyed by 1984 and they have the best possible chance of getting all the benefits they were supposed to get under the settlement."

Martin was assistant to the late Rep. Nick Begich before accepting Carter's appointment as Alaska's commissioner of Natural Resources. Martin said he believes that Watt is making some mistakes, even before taking office.

Watt has sharply criticized the Interior's land managers as being "arrogant" in dealing with resource developers, from his experience as a Colorado lawyer who made a name for himself by battling the department's land-use restrictions in court on be-

half of western development interests.

Martin said Watt is falling into the usual need to criticize the department's land managers. Martin said that the people in the department are extremely competent and extraordinarily sensitive to needs brought to their attention.

"It borders on the ridiculous to aim that kind of criticism at the people who are going to be working for you," Martin said.

Martin was pleased to hear Watt say that he opposes major amendments to national environmental laws and additional transfers of federal lands to the western states.



GUY MARTIN