

# Energy Source teaches complex issues

A goal of \$75,000 has been set for the 1987 Energy Source Education Program in Alaska, according to Paula Anderson, the state director for the program.

Energy Source is a comprehensive kindergarten through high school energy curriculum, designed to teach basic facts and concepts about energy as well as its more complex social, political and economic implications.

The program, now in use in 12 states, was developed in 1980 by a group of industry and education representatives who realized the need for high-quality energy education materials. Among those involved were representatives of the American Federation of Teachers, the National Education Association, the National Science Teachers Association, Westinghouse Electric Corp. and the Atlantic Richfield Co.

Made up of seven instructional kits, one for every two grade levels, Energy Source provides teachers with their own guides, pupil booklets, home activity booklets for students to do with their parents, filmstrips and posters depicting lessons learned in the unit.

In addition to the state's major urban areas, Energy Source is being us-

ed in the Bering Straits, Yukon Koyukuk and Lower Kuskokwim School Districts.

Molly Ningeulook of Shishmaref was recently featured in the annual



*Shishmaref teacher Millie Ningeulook works with a student in the Energy Source program.*

report of the Energy Source Education Council nationally. Ningeulook volunteered to be a pilot teacher for the Power Switch curriculum while

she was doing her student teaching with fifth and sixth graders last year.

Many of Ningeulook's students had never visited a big city and did not know what a power plant was before using "Power Switch," she said.

"My students interviewed their grandparents about what life was like for them growing up," she said. "Many of the grandparents have lived here their entire lives and have used sources like seal or whale oil for lighting and driftwood for heating the sod houses they lived in at that time."

Financed by private sector sponsors, Energy Source is provided to schools at no cost. More than 75 Alaska businesses contributed to Energy Source during the past year, making it possible to extend the program to many rural areas.

A large part of the distribution is being handled by Anderson, the state director for the program. She is a representative for the Alaska Village Electric Cooperatives and takes the program to AVEC member villages on her business trips.

Teachers interested in obtaining kits for their classrooms for this school year are asked to call Anderson at 561-1818.