



U.S. Parks Service

Interior Secretary James Watt congratulates Frank Stein, president of the Kotzebue Village Corp., as Watt hands the conveyance to 148,312 acres of land to village control. Watt was in Kotzebue two weeks ago to make the conveyance and talk with village leaders.

## UIC, NSB still oppose Arctic research bill

Despite the introduction of an amended Arctic Research Policy bill in the U.S. Senate, the two North Slope groups opposed to that bill have not withdrawn opposition, said a representative of both.

Bob Harcharek, science advisor for Ukpeagvik Inupiat Corp., of Barrow and a national policy advisor to North Slope Borough Mayor Eugene Brower, said late Monday that the amendment to the policy bill is not enough to change their opposition.

The new bill was introduced on Monday, Sept. 13, and makes slight mention of the needs of the people of the North Slope as a reason for the bill's existence.

The original Arctic Research Policy Bill had heavy emphasis on the needs of the people of the North Slope as one reason for research.

It was amended, however, and dropped all mention of

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# Amended Arctic research bill still opposed by UIC, NSB

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North Slope residents needs and picked up a strong emphasis on industrial and defense needs.

The North Slope Borough and Ukeagvik Inupiat Corp. both pulled back their support for the bill because of that and other changes.

On Monday, however, a new

amended version of the research bill was introduced in the Senate which added some mention of local needs.

The bill added the clause that stated "research into the long-range environmental and social effects of development in the Arctic is necessary to mitigate the adverse consequences of such development

to the land and its residents."

It also designates that an Arctic Research Commission shall be formed to review Arctic research, establish a data collection and retrieval Center for Arctic research, consult and recommend on Arctic research and make recommendations on the future use of government-operated research laboratories.

Under the amended version that commission shall include two members chosen from among residents of the Arctic who are "representative of the needs and interests of Arctic residents and live in areas directly affected by Arctic resource development.

The commission also will include four research-related people, two private industry representatives, and one member familiar with the U.S. Coast Guard.

Harcharek said, however, that he and Brower still oppose the bill because the geographic area it uses to define Arctic has not changed.

"We feel their criteria dilutes the impact of the bill and all the research money can be siphoned off to other areas," said Harcharek.

That geographic definition also makes the chance greater that representative of the North Slope won't be seated on the Policy Commission.

The definition that the North Slope people would like is one which includes areas north of the Yukon-Porcupine-Kuskokwim Rivers and above the Arctic Circle including Kotzebue.

The bill's new definition includes the Bering Sea and the Aleutian Chain.

Brower and Harcharek fear that if the definition stands, money for Arctic research would be spent on research benefitting only oil development in the Aleutian basin.

The amendment also does

not change the clause that excluded any research done under the bill's auspices, such as seismic testing, from environmental impact statements.

According to Tonja Musko, an aide to U.S. Sen. Ted Stevens, one of the bill's co-sponsors, the original bill was amended because it was too "parochial." The amendment took the bill out of the realm of being special interest bill and gave it a tone that was nationally oriented, she said.

She said meetings were going on with representatives of the North Slope, state of Alaska, and U.S. Office of Management and Budget constantly in the fine-tuning process on the bill.

Musko said that attorneys in Washington D.C. said last week they had full approval for the amendment.