

Unalaska becomes the first for 14(c)

Alaska's Natives and the federal government shared a benchmark today towards fulfilling terms of the Native Claims Settlement Act with the submission of the first 14(c) plan of survey to the Bureau of Land Management.

The Aleutian Island village of Unalaska became the first to begin compliance with the section which requires portions of Native corporation lands to be turned over to individual shareholders, businesses, residences and municipalities. BLM State Director Curt McVee accepted the plan of survey from Ounalashka Corporation President Vincent M. Tutiakoff Sr., during ceremonies November 20 in Anchorage.

Village corporations are responsible for reconveying land soon after they receive ownership from the federal government. The 14(c) reconveyances require a small percentage of the

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village corporation land; municipalities are eligible for up to 1,280 acres; primary place of residence or business may take 100 to 200 acres; and, if there is an airport, the village corporation must transfer title to the government that will operate it. The 14(c) plans are prepared by the village corporation and are used by the BLM to survey and record the identified property lines.

Others attending Thursday's signing were Wayne F. Lewis, representing the regional Aleut Corp., James Burton, City Manager of Unalaska, Ted Forsi of Ted Forsi & Assoc., consultants to Ounalashka Corp., Bob Pickering, Chief of BLM's Branch of Office Engineering and Bob Arnold, Assistant to the State Director for ANCSA.