

Governor supports Red Dog

The NANA Red Dog Mine operation will provide jobs to NANA Region residents and has the full backing of Gov. Bill Sheffield who spoke at the annual meeting of the NANA Regional Corp. in Shungnak last week.

Speaking to more than 400 NANA shareholders and other guests, Sheffield emphasized his support for the successful development of the Red Dog Mine operation.

"If the project is carried out in the right way, Red Dog will provide a number of jobs for the residents of the NANA Region."

Sheffield pointed out that a number of decisions have yet to be made but the feasibility study conducted by his administration brings the project one step closer to reality, and he is determined to get the project started.

Another step in the mine development was made recently when NANA and the Department of Interior exchanged land between Red Dog and a tide-water port for a transportation route.

Sheffield also emphasized the need for the passage of the "Major Projects Fund" resolution (HJR 56 currently in House Finance and its companion SJR 32 now in the Senate Resources Committee).

He indicated that while a number of matters have to be ironed out on the bill, he is working closely with the Legislature to ensure its passage this year. The Major Projects Fund legislation includes defining the state's role in participating in private economic development projects, such as Red Dog.

Also addressing the meeting were Rep. Al Adams and Sen. Frank Ferguson (both NANA shareholders). Adams indicated

that he was optimistic that the concerns of the Legislature would be addressed through debate on the Major Project Fund bill.

Adams also supported the Red

Dog operation stating that "... at least 350 to 400 new jobs would be created" in the NANA Region when the project comes on line sometime in the last '80's.