

Funds sought for Barrow gas lines

Senator Ted Stevens said today that he is seeking \$6.4 million through the Interior Supplemental Appropriations Bill to rebuild the gas distribution system in Barrow.

In a letter to Robert Byrd, chairman of the subcommittee, Stevens noted: "That the present system is elevated with a portion of it running perpendicular to the airport, just 200 feet from the end of the runway. Alaskan pilots have vigorously protested this condition which presents a threat to life and safety. Officials of Barrow and the North Slope Borough have

also voted strong support for the project, which will replace a line built some 20 years ago."

The Army Corps of Engineers has completed a study and cost estimate to replace the system. Through an agreement signed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs last year, the Bureau was to seek funds which would then be transferred to the Corps for actual construction. As no funds were requested for either fiscal year or fiscal 1978, Stevens is moving forward with his request for an add-on. Final Senate action on the supplemental is scheduled for the end of March.