

Cook Inlet Region, Inc. receives land

* On January 15, 1979, Cook Inlet Region, Inc. (CIRI) received title to nearly 300,000 acres of land near Beluga Lake on the west side of Cook Inlet. This was the first major conveyance of land to Cook Inlet Region, Inc.

Title to the land passed to CIRI at a ceremony held at the

Bureau of Land Management offices on January 15, 1979.

Roy M. Huhndorf, President of CIRI, and Kirk McGee, Assistant Land Manager, accepted the conveyance on behalf of the regional corporation. Bob Arnold, Assistant to the State Director for ANCSA, and Judy Kammins, Chief, Division of

ANCSA Operations of BLM, represented the Federal government, which conveyed title to CIRI.

This conveyance was the first major land transfer made under Public Law 94-204 (Cook Inlet Land Exchange). This law was passed in 1976 and provides for a complex three-way exchange

of land among the State of Alaska, the Federal government, and Cook Inlet Region, Inc.

It was the result of lengthy negotiations which settled the problems regarding the Federal land holdings available to fulfill the Native corporation's entitlement. The State of Alaska agreed to make certain of its landholdings available to CIRI in exchange for Federal lands the State wished to acquire elsewhere. The Beluga lands were conveyed by the State of Alaska to the Federal government in 1978 and, on January 15, were re-conveyed to CIRI.

In accepting the conveyance, Roy M. Huhndorf, CIRI President, said, "After years of expensive and time-consuming negotiations to acquire our land entitlement, it is extremely gratifying to begin receiving the end product of these efforts. We

greatly appreciate the cooperation of the State and the Federal government in solving the many problems which made today's conveyance possible."

Bob Arnold, Assistant to the State Director of ANCSA, said, "As a result of today's conveyance of the Beluga lands, CIRI has now received about 25 per cent of the land to which it is entitled."

The land conveyed to Cook Inlet lies on the west side of Cook Inlet in the area of Beluga Lake. It is approximately 40 miles west of Anchorage in the Tyonek area. Both surface and subsurface rights were conveyed for most of the Beluga lands which came to CIRI.

Coal deposits have been identified in the area. Several coal mining leases had been issued by the State of Alaska, which must be honored by Cook Inlet Region, Inc.



COOK INLET'S LAND — Above is an aerial view of the Beluga River, which runs through portions of CIRI's conveyance.