

Igtanloc stands by local hire in public works department

"We strive to maximize local hire on our projects. We insist to the maximum limits of the law that our local people be used," says Irving J. Igtanloc, the man that Mayor Eugene Brower has appointed as Director of the North Slope Borough's Public Works Department.

In Igtanloc's view, the millions in construction projects passing through his department should provide local employment both now and in the future.

"Our goal is not only to maximize their (North Slope residents) use in construction but eventually, after the projects are finished, to have community residents do the maintenance."

To provide the necessary maintenance skills, the new director says that on-the-job and regular training programs are being planned through his department.

The Public Works Department is the great provider for North Slope residents. It is bringing the amenities of modern living to even the most remote villages of the North Slope.

Modern houses, sewage and water treatment facilities, power, heat and lighting sys-

tems, schools, communication systems, health and public safety buildings, roads, airports, libraries, cultural and recreational facilities have either been built or are being planned for construction through Public Works.

Igtanloc believes his department can be made even more responsive to community needs.

"We want to ensure that what we are building is what the community really needs. We don't want to practice paternalism and say 'We know what is good for you' and build it. For that reason we are trying to maximize community input through the Planning Department and close ties throughout construction with the user agencies that will be using the facilities."

Ironically for the department responsible for improving housing conditions across the Slope, Igtanloc says the Department faces a lack of housing and work space.

Legal land wranglings around Barrow have stayed needed house construction and as a result the Public Works Department has been unable to find room for some of the technical staff it needs.

Consultants are being used to fill in but Igtanloc sets building up his staff as a major necessity. An apparent end to the land dispute around Barrow should make way for more housing and when it comes, Public Works will be growing, according to Igtanloc.

"With so many projects we will still need consultants, but there are some things that can be better done in-house. Building the staff to the point where we can do those things is a major goal."

Igtanloc has climbed quickly up the ladder to his new post as Public Works Director. He began with the Public Works Department two years ago as the Capital Improvements Program Coordinator and Inspector.

He moved up to CIP Coordinator and Chief Inspector and then to Special Assistant to the Director, and finally, to Deputy Director of Design and Construction serving under Eugene Brower who was then Director of Public Works.

Rising through the ranks means Igtanloc enjoys an intimate understanding of the Public Works Department and how important a role it plays in the future of the North Slope Borough.



New Director of Public Works Irving J. Igtanloc pledges to uphold local hire to the maximum limits of the law.