

Five cities seek dissolution in favor of tribal status

The Alaska Department of Community and Regional Affairs (DCRA) has begun examination of five inactive city governments in western Alaska.

If the department formally concludes that the cities of Atmautluak, Tuluksak, Tunanak, Newtok and Kasigluk are legally inactive, it may recommend to the Local Boundary Commission that the city governments be formally dissolved. The Local Boundary Commission will then conduct public hearings. If the commission determines that the inactive cities meet the requirements for dissolution it may then recommend their dissolution to the legislature.

The commission's recommen-

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dations go into effect automatically 45 days later, unless the legislature vetoes the commission action.

"For several years, residents of these cities have repeatedly indicated that their municipal governments are inactive and that local government functions in these villages have been assumed by local tribal councils. Unfortunately, they are still legally incorporated until they are officially dissolved. This

can cause many problems for these communities with things like utility services and finances. Formal dissolution of these abandoned municipal governments will help prevent residents of these villages from facing future legal, adminis-

trative and financial problems," said Edgar Blatchford, DCRA commissioner.

Since these cities have been inactive, they have not received state revenue sharing funding. After the cities are legally dissolved, the villages will be eligible to participate in the program as unincorporated communities.

"One of our goals is to ensure that questions regarding the local government status of these villages are finally resolved so that delivery of local services can be

restored," said Blatchford.

The department is beginning the review with public informational meetings to be conducted in the five communities.

Any party who may have an interest in this matter, or who would like further information is urged to contact the Local Boundary Commission, 333 West 4th Avenue, Suite 220, Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2341; phone 269-4500.

It is expected that the dissolution process can be concluded by early 1995.