

Arctic Village, Venetie Vote To Keep Land

Residents of Venetie and Arctic Village have voted 259-9 in favor of taking full ownership of those lands lying within the huge Venetie Indian Reservation.

The vote means some 300 residents of these two Athabaskan Indian villages above the Arctic Circle will get full rights of ownership to 1,788,000 acres of land . . . Attorneys for Alaska Legal Services Corp. had estimated this to be about 10 times as much land as the villagers would have gotten under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

The vote, however, means they will not become stockholders in Doyon, Limited, the powerful regional Native corporation of the Interior established under ANCSA.

Both villages still retain membership in the Tanana Chiefs Conference, the regional Native social services organiza-

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Vote for Land . .

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tion of the Interior to which they have traditional ties.

Doyon and the Tanana Chiefs had maintained a hands off attitude on the election, choosing to let the villages make their own decision at the village level, in accordance with area tradition.

As for the future business relationship of Arctic Village and Venetie with Doyon, "we don't know," said Doyon executive director Sam Kito. "That's something that has to be discussed.

"Our board has addressed the subject, but made no decisions yet. Now that the election is over, however, we will be addressing the matter again in the near future," he said.