

# Hooper Bay gets training grant

Hooper Bay's sewer and water system received some additional help from the Morrison Knudsen Foundation via the Iroquois Environmental and Education Services (IEES) in the amount of \$5,000. The grant will be used to help fund educational and training programs before engineering and design of wastewater and sewage systems for the community.

The Morrison Knudsen Foundation has been a major contributor to the construction and development of Alaska. "By this grant we are extending our commitment to the development of the state to a different arena; and I hope we are starting a new trend in the ongoing effort to empower Alaska's villages," said Bob Wrentmore of the

Morrison Knudsen Corporation.

IEES is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the environment and ecology of tribal lands through education, training and technical assistance. Their objective is to develop educational and training opportunities that will enable villagers to effectively manage their own environmental programs and to plan and positively affect future development of the villages.

"IEES believes Natives have a right to environmental education and training that will allow them to contribute to decision that so significantly affect village life. Native Americans have long lived in harmony with the land, but in the increasingly complex world full of environmental problems, they are all too often forced to

make decisions that require a choice between their culture and traditional ways, and safe drinking water or modern sewerage systems. We intend that this grant be put to use development culturally sensitive solutions," said Patty Brown-Schwalenberg, IEES board member who accepted the grant on behalf of Hooper Bay. "Perhaps there are environmentally safe solutions to village problems that do not require complex machinery to technologies and highly trained technicians to operate them. These are very important initiatives in developing independence in the villages and we are very appreciative to the Morrison Knudsen Foundation for their commitment to our vision."