

Safe Water Act Passes Senate

The Alaska Village Safe Water Facilities Act passed the Senate Wednesday as an amendment to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act.

Senator Ted Stevens (R-Alaska) and Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.), the original co-sponsors of the amendment said the program will now go to a Senate-House conference committee.

Stevens said the safe water provision was certain to receive close scrutiny in the committee.

The Stevens-Kennedy amendment to authorize safe water facilities for Alaska villages was co-sponsored by Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield (D-Mont.) and Senators Milton Young (R-N. Dakota), Walter Mondale (D-Minn.) Ralph Smith (R-Ill.), Steven Young (D-Ohio), George McGovern (D-S. Dakota), Harold Hughes (D-Iowa), and Harrison William, Jr. (D-N.J.).

The Alaska Village Safe Water Facilities Act if approved will provide for a federal expenditure of \$5 million the first year and additional amounts as required over the next three years, to establish a central source of clean, safe water in Alaska villages.

The bill also provides for an educational program to assist the villages to maintain safe water supplies. The systems will be turned over to the villages.

"In no way should this act be misinterpreted as a replacement for any long-range program. . ." Stevens said.