

UA Researches Ground Water Filter

COLLEGE—Although Alaska has a bountiful supply of surface water, cities and towns in the state's interior and northwest—subject to severe winter weather—must rely on ground water, which in many cases contains high concentrations of iron and other minerals.

Conventional filters clog easily under these circumstances, demanding frequent replacement. The Institute of Water Resources on the College campus of the University of Alaska last year conducted a study of alternative filters, and this study has now been published in booklet form.

Research leading to the report was conducted by Dr. Steve W. Kim, a Korean-born specialist in sanitary engineering, who concluded that modification of presently-used filters would lead to more efficient removal of iron from ground water.

The "greensand" or "ferrosand" filter, used most frequently in Alaska, is criticized for

clogging rapidly as oxidized iron flows through it. But Kim concludes that "downflow, uniform sized filters looked very promising" and offers in the publication the results of numerous tests on these filters.

The publication, "Effectiveness of a Contact Filter for the Removal of Iron from Ground Water," is available at no charge through the Institute of Water Resources, College, Alaska 99701.