

Gravel Asks OCS Development Impact Grant

WASHINGTON—Sen. Mike Gravel, D-Alaska, recently urged the Economic Development Administration to give early and positive consideration to the State of Alaska's request for a \$630,960 grant to help communities prepare for Outer Continental Shelf Development Impact.

Gravel, in a letter to Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, Wilmer D. Mizell, said that the funding would help the Gulf of Alaska communities of Yakutat, Seward, Cordova, Kodiak and other unincorporated communities on the Gulf Coast, prepare for the anticipated impact of the OCS lease sale, now scheduled by the Department of Interior for next January.

Gravel has called for a delay in the Interior Department's leasing of OCS lands, tied to enactment of legislation that would provide for state involvement in the planning for OCS development, advance impact monies and set a new procedure for leasing.

Gravel told Mizell that "In my view, this grant application reflects a meaningful, although in no way, total response to the absolute need for the federal government to financially assist Alaska in meeting the need to plan for the changes which may be expected from oil development off our coast."