

Editorial —

Northwest's Loss

We have observed with some apprehension a distinct pattern emerging as the oil and gas industry continues to lay its tracks on the business and political scene in Alaska. The scenario goes something like this:

--Alyeska Pipeline made good on its commitments to do a modicum of Native hire and contracting during the construction phase of the Trans Alaska Oil Pipeline, but:

--Several weeks ago Alyeska Pipeline Company bypassed Ahtna and Chugach Natives, Inc. in contract bidding. This occurred in spite of an agreement by Ahtna and Alyeska which requires consideration of Ahtna in service contracting. The "outside" firm receiving the maintenance contract promptly discharged 34 of 37 Alaska Natives employed in pipeline related activities:

--Finally, just this week we have learned of the phasing out of Morris Thompson, Doyon shareholder, by Northwest Pipeline Company. This, despite the fact that Doyon was the first Native regional corporation to publically support Northwest's bid for the gas pipeline route.

Is this a preview of how Northwest Pipeline intends to do business with its friends?