

Guard Brings Electricity to Nulato Village

JUNEAU—Gov. Walter J. Hickel this week commended the Alaska Air National Guard for helping to bring electricity to Nulato again.

The small Yukon River community had been without a dependable source of power for several months until crews from the 144th Air Transport Squadron airlifted two 25 KW generators to the village early this month.

"The 302 residents of Nulato are able to have lights this winter because the Air Guard performed this service," the Governor said. "Otherwise, they would have had to wait until the river boats resume operating next summer."

The arrival of the generators in the power-hungry community marked the Air Guard's second attempt to transport them from Lake Minchumina to Nulato.

Rep. John Sackett of Huslia wrote Governor Hickel last October to request assistance in moving the generators, which the Nulato Village Council had purchased from Cy Heatherington of Manley Hot Springs.

The Governor asked Maj. Gen. C. F. Necrason, adjutant general of Alaska, if the Air Guard could fly the generators to the village because shipping on the Yukon had stopped for the winter.

A reconnaissance flight revealed the condition and length of the Nulato airfield would not permit a C-123 to land safely.

As soon as winter set in and the Yukon froze over, the residents of Nulato cleared a landing area on the river approximately 4,400 feet long. Clearing of the ice field made it possible for the Air Guard to complete its mission.

The Nulato Village Council and its president, Andy Demoski, tried for months to locate two used generators to replace the old ones, which supplied power for the village.

Rep. Sackett and the Bureau of Indian Affairs assisted them in their search.