

Sealaska wins energy grant

Sealaska Corporation has been awarded a \$848,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Energy to investigate the feasibility of producing fuel grade ethanol using forest waste products.

The study will determine the economic and technical feasibility of constructing a 50 million gallon per year ethanol plant in Southeast Alaska, that would produce fuel grade ethanol, using forest waste fuel from Sealaska's timber operations.

The plant would produce methane using the Gulf Cellulose Alcohol Process. The Gulf ethanol process converts cellulose to glucose and in turn ferments the glucose produced into alcohol. The process, which will be a plant on the scale of an oil refinery for the potential 50 million gallons per year production, will produce ethanol and a by-product of animal feed high in protein content. The plant, if it proves feasible, will produce the equivalence of 3,400 barrels of oil per day.