

Waivers Void

Both the attorney for five interior native villages and attorneys for the Trans Alaska Pipeline System agreed in Superior Court in Anchorage April 3, that earlier land waivers granted by the villages were null and void.

But, the villages still asked for \$30,000 in actual damages plus \$20 million in punitive damages—a point on which the two parties did not agree.

The natives had originally given TAPS permission to build the proposed pipeline across land claimed by them in exchange for preferential hiring and contract opportunities. They later contended that TAPS did not carry out its agreement and thus they withdrew their waivers.

Attorney for the natives, John Hedland, said that the villages are entitled to \$30,000 actual damages because they spent that amount in forming the DNH Development Corporation in anticipation of getting construction work under the agreement.

After hearing the oral arguments, Judge Eben Lewis said that he would receive additional written argument until April 17 and then render a decision in the matter.