

On hazardous materials--

Liberalized regulations

WASHINGTON — New regulations released by the Department of Transportation have liberalized the regulations on transportation of hazardous materials in Alaska.

Sen. Mike Gravel, D-Alaska, who sought to have the rules revised to ease problems for Alaskans, was recently informed of the changes.

Among other things, the new rules will:

Permit pilots to carry more than 1000 electric blasting caps on the same aircraft with non-hazardous cargo if they are packaged in a DOT specified container;

Permit pilots to carry less than 1000 electric blasting caps on the same aircraft with certain other hazardous materials if encased in the DOT certified container;

And permit high explosives to be carried on aircraft transporting certain other commercial blasting agents.

The new regulations apply to cargo-only flights operating in remote areas. Hazardous materials are explosives and flammable liquids.

In addition to enacting the new regulations, the DOT is planning a broad review and possible revision of the regulations pertaining to the

classification and packaging of blasting caps for all modes of transportation. Gravel was informed.

Gravel said he was pleased to learn that the DOT has considered the unique needs of Alaskans and that he hopes they continue to do so.