Lt. Governor to open energy conference

ANCHORAGE--Lieutenant Governor Terry Miller will open an energy conference sponsored by the Alaska Native Foundation (ANF), May 16-17.

Miller is just one of many participants—consumers and experts—expected to gather at the Anchorage Westward Hilton Hotel to air Alaska's energy needs and problems during the two-day conference.

Roger Lang, president of ANF says, "we want this conference to be an exchange of views and a discussion of the state's energy needs as perceived by citizens." The conference is funded by the Legislative Affairs Agency.

In addition to the general public as active participants, some of the other guests of the conference will be: Clarrisa Quinlan, Director of Division of Power and Energy; Eric Yould, Executive Director of Alaska Power Authority: Frank DeLong, Energy Company of Alaska; Commissioners Caroline Guess and Susan Knowles of the Alaska Public Utilities Commission; Lloyd Hodson, Executive Director of Alaska Village Electric Association; Dick Downey, Tesoro-Alaska Petroleum Corp.; and Bob Huffman, General Manager of Golden Valley Electric Association.

A number of research and consultant representatives will also be on hand to offer the public some of the "most current thinking on energy needs," Lang said.

The structure of the forum/roundtable meetings is designed so that "the public will feel comfortable in expressing their thoughts and feelings on energy," Lang said.

Some of the topics that will be addressed will be energy demand projections, government regulations and subsidies, operating utilities, in-state capacity to manufacture oil and gas, and the technological aspects of energy in Alaska.

All regions of Alaska are expected to be represented and the conference is free.

The two-day session will start at 9 a.m. on May 16 and 8:30 a.m. on May 17. Sign-ups will be taken at the door.