

Partners for Progress
with Alaska's Communities**RurAL-CAP****ACTION REPORTS**

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 3908

Telephone 279-2441

Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Telecommunications

Committee

Task Force meeting

The Rural Energy Task Force met for the second time on December 11, 1975. There were several people that address the group - they were:

J.P. Godfrey, CEDC who outlined a generalized village situation for setting up a bulk storage facility. He outlined the cost analysis for a project and also made a strong statement to the affect that it was not a profitable business and did not necessarily bring the local cost to the consumer down. His report illustrated the economic factors involved in a village fuel company.

Jake Johnson, Commissioner of Transportation spoke of some regulations that involved transportation by water carriers. He had a proposal for a bill that would "tighten" the regulations on water transportation carriers.

Ray Morris, from the Environmental Protection Agency also spoke and briefed the group on rules and regulations regarding oil pollution prevention. He mentioned that a distributor would have a plan in case of an oil spill.

A brim, around the tank farm has often proved feasible in the projects. (Standard Oil came up with an engineered sample drawing on a typical, bolted and nested farm designed for the Bethel area).

There were printed information provided received through the RurAL CAP-Alaska Energy Office surveys, on existing fuel storage sites and areas that did not have storage and projected annual need of the village.

Approximate costs were one of the key subjects and Standard Oil and RurAL CAP had ready information on that subject. It was a general consensus that approximately \$1.25 - \$1.50 per gallon cost for tankage installed (not filled) was the average in the bush.

Agencies present explained the type of funds available - i.e. - RurAL CAP, BIA, RDA, etc. for energy conservation measures (such as fuel bulk storage).

The Task Force brings the attention of rural Alaska energy problems to the different departments and the public. This has to be dealt with and resolved.

The Alaska Energy Office matching energy bill was open to discussion and received pro's and con's from the Task Force. At the recent Legislative Conference the Rural Energy Committee had rejected the proposal for a 1/3 state matching bill. The other 2/3 were to come from other sources.

This bill is an act creating a bulk fuel storage matching loan fund. This bill is similar to the Energy bill SB-392 introduced last year.

A fuel management training program was encouraged.

Among other topics of review and open discussion were the State-wide fuel survey, use of RDA funds for bulk storage facilities and labor grants, a closer working relationship between the Department of public works and the Energy office. Regional fuel supply centers, State to purchase fuel from locally-owned suppliers.

Recommendations and comments in the final form has been asked of the Task Force members for final review by the group on December 29, 1975. At that time a final recommendations in some of the discussion areas will be submitted to the Governor.

Concerning Emergency fuel loans:

At the recent RurAL CAP Board meeting, the Finance Committee voted unanimously that in order to process an Emergency fuel loan:

1) The village must demonstrate how they intend to repay the loan before they are actually loaned the money.

2) That RurAL CAP come up with a repayment plan per village needs.

3) Loans can be made to individuals in the village with concurrence of the village council.

Any village having a fuel shortage problem should contact RurAL CAP.

Review of Housing Status Study

On Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 15 and 16, there was a meeting held in Anchorage concerning the progress of the Alaska Native Housing Study. The purpose of the meeting was an informal review of the present status of the project by two review panels appointed for that purpose.

On the review panels were representatives from various regional housing corporations, Native non-profits, AFN, RurAL CAP, and other Federal, State and private agencies.

This study was begun last summer by the Department of Housing and Urban Development under contract to NBBJ, an Anchorage-Seattle based consulting firm. The intent of the study as originally defined was to catalogue the needs and requirements of Native housing; to evaluate past and present design and delivery systems; and to recommend new approaches for rural housing construction which will overcome past failures.

It is very important to rural Alaska that this study be done well, as it is likely that its recommendations will be used as a blueprint for future HUD housing programs.

The study director, Dave Haworth of NBBJ, began the meeting with a current status report. To date, the main accomplishment has been the consolidation of all current housing data into one large volume.

In the near future, village surveys will be undertaken.

Two study teams will be visiting a large number of rural communities; one effort will survey individuals to get their reaction to the kinds of homes they want for their villages, and the other effort will examine houses built under various programs in order to test their effectiveness.

A tentative schedule of villages in which houses will be examined was presented to the review committees. The villages chosen were felt to be representative of housing needs, and could provide a good contrast housing programs, both successes and failures; but it was felt by many of those present that more time needed to be spent in each village.

The travel schedule called for 18 villages to be visited in a two week period.

This was felt by some to be an insult to the villagers, and others familiar with village travel strongly stated that the kind of information needed could not be collected in such a short amount of time. After a long discussion, the study director agreed to revamp the travel schedule so that more time could be spent in each village.

Getting accurate information without offending the village residents was the main concern of the review panel members.

Representatives of AFN--CAP Attend

On Wednesday, Dec. 17, the first meeting of the AFN Telecommunications Committee was held in Anchorage. Attending were representatives from six of the Native regions, the State Office of Telecommunications, AFN and RurAL CAP.

The committee was established through the efforts of AFN and the Governor's Office of Telecommunication in order to provide direct rural impact for the State of Alaska's long-range communication plan. Funding for the first meeting was provided by RurAL CAP.

An agreement between the State of Alaska and RCA last summer finally allowed the long debated communications plan for the rural areas to move into the construction phase. At that time, the state and RCA agreed to jointly construct 100 small satellite earth stations in remote communities.

Construction of the first 20 stations began immediately, and according to the briefing given the committee by George Shaginaw, the assistant director of the Office of Telecommunications, they will be completed as scheduled in early 1975. The remaining 80 stations will be completed by 1977.

All will begin functioning immediately upon completion through the use of the RCA satellite launched last week.

The main business of the AFN committee meeting was to advise the Governor's Telecommunications Office on the location of the remaining 80 satellite stations, and to establish procedures for future input on all communication matters affecting rural areas.

Initially it was decided, and a formal recommendation made to that effect, that the 49 remote communities with no communication service should have first priority for the 1976 construction season.

It was the opinion of both the state and RCA representatives, that all communities presently without services could be included in the upcoming construction season. So by the end of next year all rural communities in the state should have a workable communications system.

It was felt by all present that the site selection for the remaining 34 of the original 100 stations would be a much more difficult process. Much more information will have to be gathered on the present inadequacies of existing facilities. Priorities will have to be established and criteria decided upon which will fairly

As a result of the changes, the specific information concerning the village visits by study members is not available at this time. It will be forwarded to you as soon as it's available. In the mean time, if there is anything you wish to know about the status of the Alaska Native Housing Study, contact me at any time.

allocate the satellite receiving stations to areas of greatest need.

The committee members felt it necessary to make these decisions at a future date. More information from the regions is necessary and all regions need to be represented. A second meeting of the committee was called for and tentatively scheduled for Jan. 9-11. Funds for travel and per diem for the second meeting are being requested from various sources, but it may be left up to the regions if these sources prove to be unavailable.

Attached with this summary is a list of those present at the meeting, and a list of the 49 communities who will be receiving satellite stations in Alaska.

Jim Landis-RurAL CAP, P.O. Box 3908, Anchorage, Ak 99501. Phone 279-2441, ext. 32

Matthew D. Jamin-KANA, Box 304, Kodiak, Ak 99615. Phone 486-5765

Paul Sherry-Tanana Chiefs Conference, Doyon Bldg. First & Hall Streets, Fairbanks, Ak 99701. Phone 452-8251, Ext. 39

Jake Miller-Ahtna, P.O. Box 823, Copper Center, Ak 99573. Phone 822-3497

Lynn Chambers-Kawerak, Inc., P.O. Box 505, Nome, Ak 99762. Phone 443-5231

Veryl Purbagoo-The Aleut League, 833 Gambell, Anchorage, Ak 99501. Phone 278-3567

Stan Jones-Mauneluk Assn., P.O. Box 256, Kotzebue, Alaska 99752. Phone 442-3290 (home)

George Shaginaw-Office of Telecomm., Pouch A C, Juneau, Ak 99801. Phone 465-3550

Catalino Barril-Office of Telecomm., Pouch A C, Juneau, Ak 99801

Robert P. Merritt-Legislative Subcommittee on Telecommunication, Pouch A C, Juneau, Ak 99801

Jake Lestenkoff-AFN, 670 W. Fireweed Lane, Anchorage, Ak 99503. Phone 274-3611

Communities to receive stations in 1976:

Akhiok, Allakaket, Arctic Village, Beaver, Belkofski, Cape Pole, Central, Chalkyitsik, Chenega, Chignik (serves 2 communities), Chignik Lagoon, Chignik Lake, Chitina, Circle, Coffman Cove, Eagle (serves 2 villages), Eagle Village, False Pass, Hughes, Huslia, Ivanof Bay, Karluk, Kasaan, Kobuk, Kongiganek, Koyukuk, Kwigillingok, Larsen Bay, Manley Hot Springs, Meshik, Minto, Nelson Lagoon, Newtok, Nightmute, Nikolski, Nuqsuta, Nulato, Old Harbor, Perryville, Pilot Point, Point Baker, Point Lay, Port Alexander, Port Protection (serves 2 communities), Rampart, Ruby, Stevens Village, Tatitlek and Venetie.

JOM/AFN: FY '77 applications

The Johnson-O'Malley application for FY '77 funds is the current priority at the AFN/JOM office. On Nov. 19-21, representatives of the JOM staff, sub-contractors, JOM Review Committee and the Bureau of Indian Affairs met in Anchorage to prepare the application packet for FY '77.

The most important consideration for the JOM staff was to streamline last year's application and eliminate some of the confusing elements. To do this, we asked for help from some of the people who have to work with the form - the sub-contractors and the JOM Review Committee members.

The FY '77 application follows the new JOM regulations as required by PL

93-638. As it was necessary to work within these regulations there are sections of the application that are carried over from last year but simplified. However, most important for applicants should be the section on educational needs.

AFN/JOM strongly urges communities interested in FY '77 funds to take a hard look at the local educational needs. This of course, means working with the school administration and school board.

Their input can be most important in your program and assessment of community needs is something that your village Native Education Committee can begin doing today.