Revolutionary-

New Building

(From THE TUNDRA DRUMS)
The Bethel Utilities Company has begun construction on a revolutionary new building to house generating equipment currently use. The fundamental design of the building is relatively new and should withstand the Bethel environment for many years.

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Interviews with both the owner, Hal Borrego, and the foreman, Jerry Korthius, detailed the uniqueness of the million dollar project. The strength of the building is maintained by a series of pipes located under the concrete floor pad that will freeze the underlying soil to a depth of four feet.

This frozen state will be maintained year-round enabling a firm foundation for the heavy generators. Culverts will be placed between the floor and the freeze pipes to channel away the heat created by the generator engines. In the future, the expended heat will be used to generate power and to supply the new hospital with heated water.

The new building will contain the generators currently in use with additional space for future new machines. With an almost doubled power consumption within the last two years, from 1800kw to a present 3400 kw, the power building will enable the utilities company to meet more future demands.

The power consumers have increased from an original 800 to a current 1,000 with both RCA and White Alice adding to the load.

Auxiliary generators will supply power during the transition period required to relocate the utilities equipment, eliminating the possibility of severe power loss.

A more efficient sound muffling system will terminate the utility company's noise level competition with KYUK and the library.

If they are able to get the concrete pad laid this fall, the new building should be completed by spring.

The site for the power facility is next to the proposed new PHS hospital. The new location will allow Bethel residents to have both quiet evenings and uninterrupted conversations.

However, Hal Borrego, mentioned, "I will miss the sound of the generators in the evening—when I wake up and hear them humming, I know the city has power."

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Re NMA Newsletter-

'Ludicrous and Totally False'

Governor Jay Hammond recently labeled as ludicrous and totally false, comments attributed to the president of the Northwest Mining Association in their monthly newsletter.

their monthly newsletter.

Association President Wallace McGregor is quoted as saying Hammond told an interviewer it makes no sense to build roads to tap mineral deposits in the Brooks Range because the access would cost \$100 million while the deposits are worth but \$30 million.

McGregor then said, "To imply that the Brooks Range mineral deposits are worth \$30 million is comparable to representing the \$600 million Alaska State budget as \$6 million."

In response, Hammond said, "To imply that the deposits from which Mr. McGregor dredged that nugget are worth anything at all is comparable to representing Alice in Wonderland as sacred writ."

Hammond said, "I have used these figures as examples, and as examples only, to illustrate the questions I raise about potential development. It is an absolutely false statement to infer my examples are in any way a demonstration of the value of mineral deposits in the Brooks Range or anywhere else. Apparently, Mr. McGregor has greatly misinterpreted my illustrative figures.

"I have said frequently this Administration will question any plans for development that doesn't pay its own way. I gave as an example of such questionable development a mineral deposit on the Alaska Peninsula estimated to

be worth \$30 million which requires \$100 million to provide access to the deposit.

"Mr. McGregor not only missed my point by a country mile, but by several mountain ranges. I was talking about a single deposit in the Alaska Range, not the entire wealth potential of the Brooks.

"If Mr. McGregor had checked his facts before writing his article," Hammond said, "He would better serve his Mining Association, the public, and save us all a lot of time trying to sweep up such litter."





P.O. Box 1070, Fairbanks

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