

Revolutionary—

New Building

(From THE TUNDRA DRUMS)

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

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."