

60-Day Notice—

Native Allotments

Need for additional time for response to Bureau of Land Management requests for information was one of twenty-three points about Native Allotments raised by the Alaska Federation of Natives during June meetings with Secretary of the Interior, Rogers

C. B. Morton.

In July Interior acted on all twenty-three points, and increased the response period to BLM requests for additional information from 30 to 60 days.

The 60 day notice sent by BLM to some Native Allotment applicants is not a rejection. This notice is only a request for additional information.

After BLM adjudicators examine an allotment application and its field report, they may decide additional information is necessary to make a fair decision. At this point, they sent the applicant a notice requesting additional information within 60 days.

Approximately 90 per cent of the applications need additional information. This notification gives applicants a chance to provide additional supportive evidence for their application.

If no response is received from the applicant, the claim may be rejected. Therefore, it is critical that an applicant contact the Bureau of Land Management with additional evidence or a request for instructions or clarification before the 60 day period expires.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs and the regional corporation also receive a copy of the notice and field report. If the applicant needs help in preparing further information to support his claim, he should contact the BIA realty officer in his area.

In July Interior also directed BLM to provide training for adjudicators and field personnel about Native culture and traditional way of life. Additionally a joint BIA-BLM meeting was held in October to discuss solutions to mutual problems with Native allotments.

During the meeting BLM and BIA personnel met with Natives from around the state to learn more about Native culture and traditional use and occupancy of Native land.

Information in support of a Native Allotment should be sent to the Land Offices at the Bureau of Land Management in Anchorage, 555 Cordova or in Fairbanks, 1028 Aurora Drive.