

Tentative Date May 16—

Alaska Bills Hearings

WASHINGTON — The Senate Interior Committee has tentatively set May 16 as a hearing date on a number of Alaska bills, including legislation to extend the life of the Joint Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission.

Sen. Mike Gravel, D-Alaska, said the hearing will provide Alaskan an opportunity to testify on a number of issues involved in the continuing implementation of the Alaska Native Land Claims Settlement Act.

The planning commission,

established under terms of the settlement act, is due to expire December of 1976 unless Congress acts to extend it.

Gravel has called for an extension of the commission until Dec. 31, 1978 to insure its involvement in consideration of the withdrawal of approximately 80 million acres of land by the Interior Department for the national conservation systems.

Congress is supposed to act on these so-called D-2 lands by December of 1978.

The Interior Committee staff and representatives from both Gravel's office and the office of Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, joined in discussing legislative items the committee should consider at the hearing.