

AVEC Makes Another Stride Toward Lighting Rural Villages

JUNEAU — Another step toward turning lights on in villages all over Alaska which presently have no electric service has been taken by the Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Gov. Walter J. Hickel disclosed last week.

The AVEC is now accepting

applications from villages that need power, and wish to participate in the coop's development program.

To qualify for electric service, a village council must present a written request to AVEC and must nominate four persons, two

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of whom will be selected to take six months training in electrical system operations.

At least 80 per cent of the homes and businesses in an applicant village must request the service, and the village residents will be required to assist in construction of the facilities.

In selecting villages to participate in the program, the AVEC board of directors will consider the economy of the village, since the program must be selfsupporting.

Selection of the first group of villages will be made by April 26.

Village officials interested in applying to participate in the program should write to Morris Thompson, secretary-treasurer of the Coop, Pouch B, Juneau, for application forms.

In a joint statement, the Governor and Rep. Willie Hensley of Kotzebue, president of the AVEC coop, said, "This program is a vital first step in bringing urgently needed services and economic development to rural Alaska."