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Proposed Coal Leasing— Impact Statement

A draft environmental impact statement on the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposed coal leasing, permitting licensing regulations is now available from the BLM, 555 Cordova Street, in Anchorage.

The new regulations, which may become part of Part 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Subpart 3041, cover such activities as strip mining of federal lands.

While coal mining is not a major land use in Alaska yet, future coal development on federal lands in Alaska would be affected by the new regulations.

The environmental impact statement also includes regulations that would apply to Indian lands administered by the Department of the Interior, but these would not apply in Alaska due to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

Written comments on the environmental impact statement are due by Nov. 21, to the Director, BLM, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240, or to the Director, U.S. Geological Survey National Center, Mail Stop 760, Reston, Virginia 22092.

All comments received by Nov. 21, will be considered in preparation of a final environmental impact statement.

Rural Housing Income Upped


Jerry W. Glor, district director for Alaska for the Farmers Home Administration, announces that the income limit for Rural Housing Loans has been increased.

Effective immediately families in Alaska, anywhere except Anchorage and Fairbanks, who have an adjusted family income of less than \$20,500 are now eligible for a 100% loan. The adjusted income is figured by taking the gross income minus 5%, minus \$300 per child.

Glor says these loans are available to build or buy a modest home in a rural area. Homes average 1000-1100^{sq} and the present terms are 40 years at 9% interest.

The Farmers Home Administration can only finance homes in approved subdivisions. Builders, developers and others who are interested in building homes under the Farmers Home Administration program should contact the local office serving their area.

The Farmers Home Administration office serving the northern area is located at Fairbanks. The Alaska supervisor, Al Brundage, can be contacted at 950 Cowles, Room 224 or by calling 452-1951. Mr. Brundage is in his office on Monday mornings.


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One Step Closer— Wainwright Center

WASHINGTON—A new Wainwright, Alaska community water and sewer treatment center moved one step closer to completion when the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) decided that funds for completion of the project will soon be made available.

The new community water and sewer treatment center will be similar to one that was destroyed by fire in November, 1973.

That center, part of the Alaska Village Demonstration Project that sought to provide safe, pure drinking water, bathing facilities, laundry facilities, and sewage treatment capabilities to remote Alaska villages, was only months old when flames claimed it.

Shortly after the fire, the EPA decided to erect a new center in the village, but problems arose. Sen. Mike Gravel, D-Alaska, was recently advised those problems have all been eliminated and construction should get under way sometime after Thanksgiving.

Gravel was engaged in an effort to get legislation for a new Wainwright center through Congress when he learned the EPA had cleared up roadblocks to the project and was proceeding.

Gravel, who has been involved in the project since he first learned of the problems Wainwright villagers were having getting a new center, said he was pleased to hear that the facility would be completed.

"I'm just happy to see that it will be finished," Gravel said. "It is a project I have supported all along."

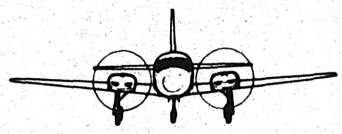
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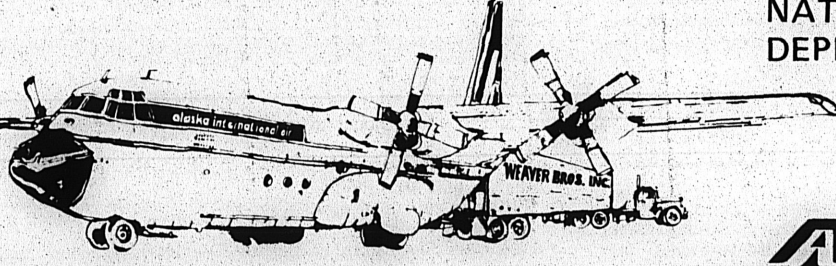
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