

# *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."