

# Happy Valley Settled

JUNEAU The state has received \$3,000 in compensation for environmental damage from Alyeska Pipeline Service Company for an oil spill which occurred last summer at the company's Happy Valley camp on the North Slope.

Attorney General John Havelock said Alyeska was charged with violations of Alaska's environmental protection act after diesel fuel seeped from a broken underground line into a small stream adjacent to the camp.

Dr. Max Brewer, environmental conservation commissioner, said the break in the line apparently was caused by contraction of the ground during freeze-up.

The frozen soil encasing the pipe prevented other than minor leakage until spring thaw when an estimated 1,000 gallons of fuel leaked from the broken line before being detected, he said.

Brewer said Alyeska personnel had done "a conscientious job of clean-up on the spill" and had taken "positive steps" to prevent future spills from occurring.

"The underground line which caused the spill has been replaced by a protected, above ground line and a metering system has been placed on the line so it will be easier to monitor fuel consumption and spot any problems immediately," he said.

Brewer said Alyeska officials, who had not designed or built the Happy Valley camp, had agreed to inspect all their temporary camps for environmental problems which "periodically crop up when a camp goes into housekeeping status."

Brewer said he had discovered that "once a camp basically deactivates and goes into a housekeeping or holding status, the potential for environmental problems increases. By asking Alyeska officials to thoroughly check their temporary camps, we hope to prevent incidents such as the Happy Valley spill from occurring."

He said the Department of Environmental Conservation had received "excellent cooperation" from Alyeska officials during all phases of the Happy Valley incident and noted that the company's overall environmental record in Alaska is "very encouraging."