

HX 5 Phases

One of the greatest challenges to the site selection process is the extraordinarily tight time frame established by the Initiative. By December 11, 1975, the CSSC must select not more than three sites from which the voters will select a new location for the capital in the November, 1976 election.

To meet these demands, the CSSC and the CCC/HOK study team work in 5 phases. Each successive phase focuses in greater

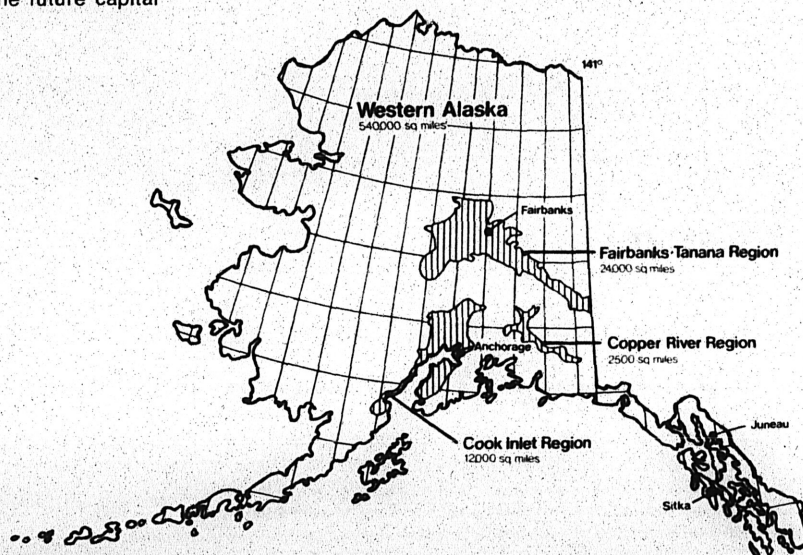
detail on fewer possible sites. At the end of each phase the work plan is reviewed and adjusted to reflect additional information compiled during the course of the work.

In early phases, work concentrates on screening land, eliminating land on the basis of unsuitability. Increasingly, in Phases 3 and 4, the emphasis shifts to selecting potential sites on the basis of suitability or qualification of land for a capital site.

Phase 1 Evaluate Western Alaska Select 3 Development Regions

In Phase 1, more than 540,000 square miles of Western Alaska were screened to select three development regions for future consideration. This selection was based entirely on an evaluation of natural factors. In effect, more than 90 percent of Western Alaska was eliminated as possible land for the future capital

when the CSSC approved Phase 1 Screening March 25 by selecting the Fairbanks-Tanana region, the Cook Inlet region, and the Copper River Valley for more detailed study in Phase 2. These regions total approximately 40,000 square miles.



Phase 2 Evaluate 3 Regions Select 7 Zones

In Phase 2, each of the three potential development regions selected in Phase 1—the Fairbanks-Tanana, Cook Inlet region, and Copper River Valley—was studied in terms of available land, the natural environment, and transportation access, and utilities services. From these regions, seven smaller zones were selected May 6 for further evaluation in Phase 3: Dunbar, Nenana, Big Delta in the Fairbanks-Tanana region and Susitna Valley, Mat Valley, Homer/Kenai, and Tyonek in the Cook Inlet region. This screening reduced the amount of land to be evaluated to approximately 13,000 square miles. The Copper River region was entirely eliminated at this stage because of over-riding natural and technical limitations to capital development.

