

Seward Activated By Slope Pipeline

Oil exploration development and pipe line transportation activity on the North Slope has prompted the Federal Railroad Administration to gird for heavy freight traffic across the Seward rail dock according to U. S. Senator Mike Gravel.

R. N. Whitman, administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration told Gravel in a letter dated July 23 that "between 250,000 and 300,000 tons of steel" were expected to flow through Seward during the next year.

Whitman stated that the tariff structure is being modified to "make the Alaska Railroad dock facility at Seward extremely attractive for the southbound movement of freight or oil well supplies."

This will place Seward in a position to effectively serve the oil exploration program for the Middleton Island shoals and the Gulf of Alaska in general.

Whitman also told Gravel that Coastal Barge Lines will begin operations to Seward almost immediately on a through tariff rate with the Alaska Railroad.

In preparation for the forthcoming activity bids have been opened for refurbishing gantry cranes on the Seward dock. No freight requiring longshoring or left-on, lift off freight will be interlined at Whittier.

Whitman's response to Gravel was as a result of a series of requests by City officials in an attempt to improve the economics position of Seward.

Senator Gravel praised the efforts of Seward's city officials and citizens who assisted.