

Attorney Prepared to Act On Orders of Group President

The Arctic Slope Native Association has instructed its attorney to prepare alternative methods to preserve its rights in the North Slope if the Interior Department should lift the freeze.

Its attorney, Frederick Paul of Seattle, who is a member of the Tlingit nation of southeastern Alaska, told the Tundra Times he is prepared to start a private land freeze on orders from the association president, Walton Ahmagak.

Paul explained that a private

land freeze means that each and every application will be contested through the hearing and appellate procedures of the Bureau of Land Management and, if necessary into the federal court

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Barrow Freeze . . .

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system on up to the United States Supreme Court.

He estimates this will be about five years.

"There are," Paul stated, "basically four major categories of applications on file with the Bureau of Land Management: One, lease applications. Two, State of Alaska selections filed since November 18, 1966, the date of Mr. Udall's first freeze. Three, miscellaneous applications for homesteads and temporary leases for landing strips. And four, State of Alaska selections for which tentative approval was issued prior to the freeze."

The first step as to all four types is to reassert the general protest that was filed and then to record an individual protest in the file of each application.

"The tentative approval type is more complicated because technically, the time within which a protest can be filed as a matter of right has long since expired," continued Fred Paul. "Therefore applications must be filed requesting leave to file a late protest. If such permission is denied, then further, rather desperate efforts must be made."

Once the papers are filed as to all types, then a hearing examiner will be sent by the BLM to hold a trial. After the examiner's decision is made, Paul said, appeals are authorized up to the Secretary of the Interior and then into the courts.