

# Amendment could allow funds for rural wastewater management

An amendment authored by Senator Ted Stevens could put Alaska rural villages in position to tap a portion of a \$500 million fund set aside to address special wastewater needs.

Stevens' amendment, which was approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee, was attached to legislation providing FY 1994 funding for the Veterans Administration, the Department of Housing and Urban De-

velopment, and independent agencies.

Before Stevens' amendment, the legislation made the \$500 million in wastewater treatment grants available to cities with special needs, including those with extraordinarily high sewer rates, and Mexican border projects. Stevens amended this language to specifically include Native American and rural Arctic villages.

Although Stevens' legislation

puts Alaska villages in line for funds, the measure does not guarantee that villages will receive grants from this pool. Funding for grants must first be authorized in the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee prior to May 31, 1994. Stevens indicated he and Senator Frank Murkowski will seek an authorization for Alaska programs through that committee.