

Oversight hearings by committee

WASHINGTON — The Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee will hold an oversight hearing on April 29 on implementation of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

Sen. Mike Gravel, D-Alaska, said, "The hearing should be useful in airing any problems or delays encountered in carrying out terms of the legislation enacted in December of 1971."

This will provide an opportunity for all the various interests involved, the State of Alaska, the Native community, conservation and environmental groups, mining interests, and the federal agencies involved in implementing the Act to discuss and assess progress in fulfilling terms of the Act.

Gravel, in a letter to Sen. Henry Jackson, chairman of the committee, supported the oversight hearing as a vehicle for formally identifying problems regarding implementation of various sections of the Act. He said the hearing would "go a long way toward realization of the promise of successful implementation of the Settlement Act."

He noted that timely implementation of the Settlement Act is important to future development in Alaska.