

Opposition to Bristol Bay Utility Corridors Unanimous

from Bristol Bay By-Lines
Dorothy A. Anderson, Editor

Testimony at the hearing last week in Naknek on transportation and utility corridors was unanimous in its opposition to such corridors coming into and through Bristol Bay.

The Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission held the hearing Tuesday at Naknek to give individuals an opportunity to be heard with regard to their feelings on:

1. A road and related utility corridor from Rex to McGrath to Aniak; then splitting into two corridors, one to Bethel and the south fork to Dillingham.

2. A road and related utility corridor from Anchorage through the Lake Clark Pass to Naknek and Dillingham.

3. A road and related utility corridor from King Salmon to Cook Inlet at Chenik.

Witnesses gave a number of reasons for opposition to such corridors and roads: such roads chop up areas used for subsistence and cause loss of game;

upset the environment; the countryside will be raped as the fish were; roads would create greater problems for game management control.

Gust Griechen of Pilot Point said the people had already witnessed the wanton waste brought on by aircraft; roads would destroy spawning grounds; bring pollution, corruption.

Helena Andree, Rural Alcoholism counselor, was concerned that roads will mean more liquor

licenses.

Charles Myers, Jr., Egegik Village Council, is against any roads coming in. The money could be used for better purposes such as getting the Japanese out of the high seas, he said.

Charles Hornberger, a resident of the Bristol Bay Borough, suggested using road money to build better airports in the villages and feeder roads to these airports. He suggested a state subsidized freight haul.

Another witness suggested "shake off the political power of the highway trust and use the imagination. Roads are not a practical solution to transportation here."

A number of witnesses stated they would like to see money used for local service roads. Harvey Samuelsen, president of BBNC, noted that interconnection of local villages by roads is met with favor by some villages in the area.

Villages in Bristol Bay were represented at the hearing by the Bristol Bay Area Development Corporation and Bristol Bay Native Corporation.

A number of villages, however, sent in their individual representatives making a total of 16 who gave testimony.

"We are not ready for roads, and we don't want them pushed on us," were the sentiments of these people.