

NSB unveils new employment/training program

by Steve Kakaruk

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North Slope Borough Mayor George Ahmaogak, announced the training and direct employment service program at a reception Thursday at the Northern Lights Inn. Businesses from Alaska's oil industries were asked to support efforts to ease unemployment in the North Slope Borough.

NSB Mayor Ahmaogak said, "The program is designed to elevate employment within the NSB." Ahmaogak added, "residents of the NSB hold one in 50 jobs in Prudhoe Bay oil fields."

The program will utilize a computer databank. Residents of the NSB are asked to apply at the nearest council representative within the village for participation in the program. Applications will be processed, then entered into the databank. The databank will list by name, area of residency, shareholder identification (village or regional corp.), primary and secondary skills and employment interests.

"The program provides a means of bringing together borough residents seeking jobs and employers needing personnel by using a computerized databank," said Ahmaogak.

Then job training to qualified applicants will be provided. The databank aids businesses in the oil industries and the NSB with information on individuals seeking employment.

Mayor Ahmaogak asked Alaska's leading oil industry representatives for support; "assist NSB residents to secure job opportunities in Prudhoe



Mayor George Ahmaogak.

photo by Steve Kakaruk

Bay." Earlier, before the presentation, Ahmaogak said "the growing unemployment is a concern that must be addressed," adding, "the unemployment problem is a result of Pingo jobs taken from NSB residents."

This action is the result of the need for innovative ways that the borough can effectively ease unemployment pressure within NSB jurisdiction.

At the reception before the announcement of the program, David A. Heatwole, oil industry personnel, said, "We are committed to rise to the occasion and help in any way we can to this cause."

Also at the reception, Ethel "Pete" Nelson of Texaco, USA said, "the industry has been waiting for someone (like you) to carry the elders to the lifestyle that's beneficial for everybody." Nelson added, "coordination to the program by Alaska Natives and Native Entities is the outlet." Texaco has hired Alaska Natives before and plans to again hire qualified Alaska Natives for positions as a result of the program.

The program is in effect and Al Hopson, Jr., Piquini Management Corporation, will be closely monitoring its effectiveness. Hopson is committed to working with village

coordinators employed by the NSB. Village coordinators will then distribute information and screen applicants for the program.

Piquini Management Corporation is a firm equally owned by: Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, Pingo Corporation and Ukpeagvik Inupiat Corporation.

Employers wishing to seek qualified NSB residents to fill positions, may contact PMC's Anchorage office and will not be charged for using this referral service. Michael G. O'Conner will serve as the employers contact at PMC(561-1018).

The training aspect will take place at the Kuparuk Industrial Center, owned by the NSB, under management and operated by contract with the PMC.

PMC will conduct training, primarily on-the-job, in the following areas: administration/office skills, catering/food preparation, electrical maintenance, facilities maintenance, power plant operation, vehicle and equipment maintenance, warehousing/expediting and water/waste water treatment plant operation. The program will train borough residents for seven-and-one-half months or 24 months, depending on the training position.