

TCC Backs Akluk Corp. & Northern Power Co., Inc.

The Tanana Chiefs Conference has passed a resolution to support Akluk Corporation and Northern Power Co., Inc., in a joint venture to contract operation and maintenance of the Fort

Wainwright power plant.

Akluk is the profit-making arm of the Association of Interior Eskimos, headed by John Heffle. Heffle said that a proposal has been sent the Army Department.

The Akluk Northern Power joint venture is currently entering into negotiations with the Army for the operation and maintenance of the plant, and

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sale of surplus electricity in accordance with their affirmative action plan.

Heffle said that this would supply a training center in power plant maintenance and operation for Alaskans, "Native and non-Native, male and female."

This is a result, he said, of a need, now in Alaska for personnel trained in these areas.

There were several other reasons given in the resolution. Among them were:

— "An acute shortage of safe, reliable, and modern electrical facilities in the towns, villages, cities and rural areas served by Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc."

— "A need within the state of Alaska to establish, expand, upgrade and operate modern power facilities."

Heffle emphasized the re-sale of power to Golden Valley Electric Association would reduce costs.