

# Selection Regs Draw Suits From Two Regions

ANCHORAGE — Two regional corporations, Arctic Slope and Doyon Ltd., are suing Interior Secretary Rogers Morton in separate suits rising from final rules and regulations on land selection, published May 30 by the Interior Department in the Federal Register.

Both suits were filed in the U.S. District Court in Washington D. C. and attorneys for those regions have requested

that they be heard by the same judge, notes the August 17 edition of the Alaska Native Management Report.

The bi-monthly publication of the Alaska Native Foundation says Arctic Slope is seeking a declaratory judgement and injunctive relief from the regulation which requires regional corporations to select land in whole township blocks. The suit argues that the requirement

is illegal and that its enforcement by Morton is not authorized by the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. The suit also alleges that the regulation is a degregation of property and that it is a breach of the Secretary's trust obligation to Native corporations.

The Doyon suit challenges the regulation requiring that village selections be both com-

pact and contiguous. The Doyon region villages of Tanacross and Dot Lake are parties to the civil suit because a village selection problem is involved. That suit asks that the regulation be set aside as contrary to the ANCSA.

The management report notes that Morton has 60 days to answer the suits. Arctic Slope attorneys filed on August 2; Doyon on August 8.