

# TYONEK MAY BECOME STATE'S BIGGEST POWER PRODUCER

The oil-rich Indian village of Tyonek may become the largest producer of electricity in Alaska, supplying electrical power not only to the major oil companies in Cook In-

let but also power to the cities of Anchorage and Fairbanks.

Stanley J. McCutcheon, attorney for the village, has made a proposal to major oil companies to establish a mammoth power plant using gas turbines which would produce low-cost power in a relatively short time.

"Under the plan, the village could easily become the biggest producer of electricity in the state," McCutcheon said.

About 30 megawatts of power at 75 per cent load factor will be required for about nine platforms by the end of 1967. This is about the same amount of power that is used by the city of Anchorage at present, he said.

Under the proposal, Tyonek would utilize gas from the reservation or adjoining areas. The plant would comprise three 10 megawatt units with two of them to be on the line by November next year and the third one by June, 1967. Each of the units would be capable of being increased to

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20 megawatt capacity.

The power would be distributed through an underwater network which would assure each oil drilling platform of a dual source of power.

In the letter presented to the companies, McCutcheon proposed rate schedules subject to negotiation. The average rate given was \$1.35 per kilowatt hour at 70 per cent load factor.

The village proposes to own the entire shore power installation with the oil companies owning the power distribution network. The village maintains, however, it should maintain the entire system.

Tyonek has employed the well known engineering firm, Ralph M. Parsons Co., to assist them in setting up the operation.

In addition to the oil companies, McCutcheon said the Matanuska Electric Association, city officials of Anchorage and Fairbanks had expressed interest in buying power should such a plan become a reality.

The village proposal concluded that Tyonek could provide "the most reliable power at the lowest rate in the shortest possible time."

Attending the meeting in Anchorage on December 16 at which the proposal was made were representatives of Atlantic Refining Co., Mobile Oil Co., Pan American Petroleum Corp., Richfield Oil Corp., Shell Oil Co., Standard Oil Co. of California and Union Oil Co.