

# **Fuel prices are still high in villages**

"Fuel oil prices have dropped in Anaktuvuk Pass from \$2.47 a gallon to \$1.24 a gallon, according to the Rural Energy Survey put out by the Division of Energy and Power Development. But fuel oil is still holding its own at over a dollar a gallon in most rural areas, and the continuing cost of product and transportation are bringing the \$2.47 per gallon into reality," said Bill McConkey, Director of the Division of Energy and Power Development.

"The Division of Energy and Power Development compile the Rural Energy information annually," according to McConkey, "and includes such information as the annual need of villages, bulk storage capacity, new and planned construction, the electric utility within the village, and transportation problems."

"A hard look at the survey brings into focus the very real energy problems that exist in rural Alaska," McConkey said. "The survey reveals some very disturbing things, the village of Nooiksut, on the Arctic Coast pays over \$2 a gallon now for fuel oil and it must be "cat trained" or flown into the village. Anaktuvuk Pass must have their fuel flown in year around. The village of Newtok on the west coast consists of 151 people. The village continually runs out of fuel because they don't have sufficient storage to enable them to purchase sufficient fuel when the barges

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# **Fuel ...**

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don't make its delivery. The village has had to have fuel flown in--sometimes three times a winter. When you examine many of these villages you find they don't have any alternate source of energy. Many villages cannot go out and gather wood when their fuel oil runs out.

They are growing with new community halls and new housing that demands more and more fuel. It is a very expensive necessity for the majority of our low income rural people."

The Rural Energy Survey is available, in limited quantity to interested agencies, from the Division of Energy and Power Development, 338, Denali Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99501.

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