

Nenana Council Enters State Suit As Third Party

The Nenana Native Council is entering the State's land claims test suit as an interested third party.

The suit, filed in Federal Court by the State last month against Interior Secretary Stewart Udall and three Bureau of Land Management officials, asks that title to land selected under the Statehood Act be given to the State even though there is a Native land claim on the land.

The land involved in the test case is in the Nenana area, and last Saturday the Nenana Native Council authorized Fairbanks attorneys Barry Jackson and Thomas Fenton to represent them in the suit.

Jackson said that he is now

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Nenana . . .

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filing for intervention in the case on behalf of the Indians, and plans to contact attorneys on both the State and Federal sides in the near future.

Although the Nenana Indians were not named in the State's suit, Jackson said, any decision of the court in the case could affect their rights.

Under the Federal rules of procedure, persons affected by a suit and meeting certain qualifications can file for intervention and become a party in the suit.

Jackson said that this would allow the Natives the flexibility to present their own side. The Natives' position on any point could disagree with either, or both, of the other parties in the suit.

The intervention will allow the Natives to fully present their interests in the case, so they can be considered in the judge's decision.