

Group Organizes Village Electric Corporation

"We set up a public non-profit statewide corporation which will attempt to electrify some of the rural villages," stated Bill Hensley of the State Rural Development Agency this week.

The corporation known as the Alaska Village Electric Cooperative was formed last Friday at the group's first meeting at the Captain Cook Hotel in Anchorage.

Named president of the group was William Hensley, member of the State House of Representatives from Kotze-

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Corporation . . .

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bue; Diane Carpenter vice president, of Stoney River; Morris Thompson, secretary-treasurer; Jimmy Hoffman, formerly of Bethel now of Anchorage, member; and Dave Peterson of Juneau, member.

The aim of the cooperative is to electrify some of the 206 rural Alaska villages, which are without electricity. It is seeking monies from the Office of Economic Opportunity for operational expenses and monies from the Department of Labor for training expenses.

The AVEC is in the process of making a formal application to the Rural Electrification Administration for the purpose of giving power to villages.

When funds become available from the OEO, it will enable the group to hire a staff and a manager to run the cooperative.

A tentative plan calls for bringing two village representatives from the villages to be electrified. They would be given six months training in plant management and basic electricity.

Upon completion of the power facilities in their villages, the two trainees will be assigned to operate the plants.