

# Pipeline contractor is said in violation of EEO law

By **LONE E. JANSON**

Northland Maintenance, the contractor which was awarded the pipeline maintenance contract by Alyeska in October, is now in violation of Equal Employment Opportunity stipulations, according to a telegram sent by Ahtna Inc. to the Secretary of Interior.

In the telegram, Roy Tansy, president of Ahtna Inc., poin-

ted out that despite the 60 day grace period and repeated notifications, Northland has failed to make any effort to prepare such a plan and present it. When the company received the award in October, replacing Meridian Contracting Corporation as maintenance contractor for the southern third of the line, 34 of 37 Native employees from the area around Copper Center were

laid off. Meridian is a subsidiary of Ahtna and Chugach Native corporations. The new contractor has made no effort to comply with EEO stipulations contained in the pipeline permit and the Trans Alaska Pipeline Act.

All contractors on the Trans Alaska Pipeline are required to submit an affirmative action

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plan detailing how the contractor is going to fulfill its equal employment and anti-discrimination obligations under the pipeline authorization act. This plan is to be submitted to the Secretary of Interior within 60 days of the award of a contract.

"It has now been over 60 days since that time and no affirmative action plan meeting the requirements of your regulations has been filed. This is especially inexcusable because in Alyeska's original request for bid submissions an affirmative action plan was required. If Alyeska had been serious in discharging its EEO obligations an acceptable affirmative action plan would have already been completed by the time of the contract award. . ."

With only three of 37 Ahтна and Chugach shareholders formerly working on the line now unemployed, Tansy wired "You don't need a plan Mr. Secretary, to see that this is not equal employment opportunities. It is us to the Department of Interior to see to it that Alyeska and North-

land abide by the EEO requirements. You have been aware of this situation for a long time. We have made many complaints and called for action and I am amazed at how you can continue to treat this and other violations of Alyeska's responsibilities in operating the pipeline as if they didn't exist or will go away."

"I can assure you, Mr. Secretary, that Ahтна does exist and will not go away. Nor will Ahтна stand idly by while its people are put out of work. . . We have an old saying that you find out who your friends are when the moose and salmon are scarce. Are you still our friend now that the hunting and fishing is over and we are without jobs?"

"You are required to review Northland's affirmative action plan. When did affirmative action become no action? . ."

Ahtna filed a formal complaint against Alyeska for lack of EEO compliance several weeks ago. As of this time, no action has been taken by the Department of Interior. This new complaint cites the contractor, Northland specifically.