

"I may not agree with a word you say but I will defend unto death your right to say it." — Voltaire

Tundra Times



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Editorial Comment—

The Problem of Pipeline Hire

The problem of hiring a representative number of Alaska Natives in construction of the trans-Alaska pipeline has become a serious threat to the future credibility of those who promised to put Alaskans to work while extracting Alaskan resources. The problem seems to be one of whether rural Alaskans have the same right to work on the project as urban-based Alaskans.

Before any system designed to dispatch Alaskans into pipeline jobs will work, some kind of agreement must be reached between the organizations actually doing the work and the organizations hiring workers. In addition, someone must make sure that such an agreement is implemented in good faith.

Alaska hire on the pipeline is necessary if the developing oil industry is to provide positive social-economic development to present and future Alaskans. But the contractors have said they don't hire more Alaska Natives because unions aren't dispatching enough to them. The unions say they don't dispatch more because contractors don't call for more. The situation becomes more critical because there isn't time for talking about who is at fault.

The problem is apparently one of a system developed in good faith between Alyeska and Alaska Natives which is not capable of being implemented without commitment by both parties. The Alaska Federation of Natives Manpower Program has demonstrated it's commitment to assisting Alaskans in applying for pipeline work, but that isn't enough.

Twelve to 15 thousand persons may eventually be employed in the pipeline project. Because of the nature of the work, and the need to build a workforce during certain periods when construction conditions are best, Alaska Natives who live outside of the urban hiring centers of Anchorage and Fairbanks are forced into an unfortunate situation.

Alaska Federation of Natives President, Roger Lang, has suggested there may be only one way to break through the present stalemate. He believes that a person should be authorized to be responsible for compliance with the Alaska Plan and Stipulation 29 of the Alyeska Pipeline Construction Agreement quickly and adequately. Such a person should have the authority to stop the project completely if necessary until Native hire is representative. Otherwise, getting behind on promised Alaska hire quotas may mean the contractors will never catch up until it doesn't matter anymore.

"We don't have any problems with any of the people who make policy or any of the companies working on the pipeline," Lang told the Tundra Times. "It's just grunting that thing down to the people that's a problem. The fact is, minority hire requires day-to-day work. It's not something that just happens."

The National Labor Relations Board will be in Alaska within the next week to take a look at the problems presently being manifested in Native hire on the pipeline. That board will be interested in finding ways to involve more Alaska Natives while still maintaining the integrity of the unions.

It's time for Alyeska and the unions to recognize their responsibility to Native people of Alaska, while they help themselves to the resources, and it's past time for the State of Alaska to make sure they do.

—D.L.

Letters from Here and There

Unalakleet IRA Council: New North Star

Native Village of Unalakleet
Unalakleet Village Council
Post Office Box 70
Unalakleet, Alaska 99684
February 11, 1975

Mr. Henry Deacon
Chairman of Anica Directors
Grayling, Alaska

Dear Mr. Deacon:

On behalf of the people of Unalakleet, the Unalakleet I.R.A. Council fully approves of and supports the construction of a new North Star vessel to serve all Alaskan areas previously served.

The North Star provides us with reasonable freight rates and because of this, we are protected against high costs resulting from air-freighted goods.

You may count on us to support you with this effort.

Sincerely,
I.R.A. Council Members
Frederick A. Katchatag, Sr.
President

cc: Secretary Morton, Senator Mike Gravel, Senator Ted Stevens, Clarence Antioquia, Governor Hammond, Seattle Times, Tundra Drums, Kotzebue News, Tundra Times, Mr. Roger Lang (AFN President), Representative Don Young, Bering Straits Native Corp., Bristol Bay Native Corp., Nana Regional Corp., Calista Corp., Aleut Corp., Morris Thompson (Commissioner, BIA).

LUPC Member Not at Hearing

Nunam Kitlutsisti
Protector of the Land
Box 267
Bethel, Alaska 99559
February 4, 1975

Gordon Jackman
State Co-Chairman
Land Use Planning Commission
733 West 4th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Mr. Jackman,

We recently had a visit from the Bureau of Land Management to discuss their Primary Corridor System. Our people understood that the Land Use Planning Commission had refused to sponsor these hearings, and would sit in judgement of the BLM's plan at a later date.

It is impossible for our people to understand why a member of the Commission itself was not in attendance at the Bethel hearing to witness our people's reactions and discussion of BLM's proposals. This failure of Commission to fully support public input into land use planning is inexcusable, and a blot of the Commission's record in our region.

Second, we learned from BLM that its district managers will plan to visit each village beginning in March to discuss and describe both local easements and regional transportation easements as they affect our village selections. Our villages are not aware of the current posture of these corridors, and may accept BLM's description of these easements as fact rather than proposal. The urgency with which BLM is operating on these easements is a danger to our communities. We believe that a supervisory agency like the LUPC should intervene on behalf of our villages, and force the BLM to back off from its current intent to introduce these easements into our villages interim conveyances prior to June 1, 1975. Our discussion with BLM officials leads us to conclude that the corridors are fact in their administrative eyes, and that our villages are poorly informed at this time to deal adequately with BLM impoundment of 5 million acres of Native land.

Sincerely,
David Friday
Chairman, Chevak

Stickman Comes Home, Find Things Frozen

Nulato, Alaska
Feb. 21, 1975

Dear Friend, the Editor:

Well, I just came home last night, I don't know if you call it home, everything was froze. Outside toilet full of snow, but snow is good toilet paper.

You know I'm wrong always since I was a young man. If someone tries, or done something to me that I didn't like, I always tried to get even with them some way. That's wrong, but I cannot get over it. That's what I was doing this winter, trying to get even with Union Oil Co. in Nenana. They charged me \$255 for 17 empty drums. Well I did n't pay them, they charged me interest every month. So I paid for the empty drums. So the only way to get even with them, I moved to Anchorage for 33 days, went through \$2,500 gambling, had a good time with girls. But it's a good life for an old man 67.

I also went to the Slope twice on account of those empty drums, and that's going to be the last time I burn oil. Let that be a lesson for everybody. I'm starting to cut wood now. I'm moving my oil stove in the Yukon River, and that's no lie, besides it's too old anyway.

The only way I had to beat the tax was to quit work Dec. 21st, '74. But as soon as the Iditarod Racers go by, I'm headed for the Slope. I'm in love with the Slope. I guess it's the money and grub, good living. Four months out of a

year work, just enough to live on. That's the way to beat the tax.
Fred Stickman, Sr.

BLM Director Answers Queries

NUNAM KITLUTSISTI
Protector of the Land
Box 267
Bethel, Alaska 99559

Feb. 18, 1975

Curtis McVeigh
Bureau of Land Management
555 Cordova Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Mr. McVeigh:

We wish to thank you for BLM return to Bethel to discuss the "PCS" program, and your personal interest in conducting the question and answer period. The many village individuals who returned for a second time confirmed the keen interest in this region for future transportation planning, and the impact of PCS on Native selections.

Our board wishes to propose to you a series of questions based on Instructional Memo No. 50-74-183, dated Dec. 6, 1974, and expiring June 30, 1975. The board believes that the questions resulting from a careful study of this memo were not answered at the second conference.

1. If BLM stated that public comments would be received through Feb. 14, 1975, why was an implementation memo describing the placement of Section 17(b) easements on Native land prepared well in

(continued on page 12)

ANNOUNCEMENT

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
GAME DIVISION

Fairbanks, Alaska

Regulation No. III - 1 - 75

February 10, 1975

FIELD ANNOUNCEMENT

The following is an emergency order issued by the Department of Fish and Game under authority of AS 16-05-060 opening the Holitna River drainage in Game Management Unit 19 to the taking of beaver effective midnight February 14, 1975 and extending the beaver season in Game Management Unit 19B to March 31, 1975.

Justification:

- Whereas, aerial surveys made in September 1974 over the Holitna River indicated substantial increase in the beaver population of this drainage; and
- Whereas, this beaver population is not sufficient to support limited trapping by residents dependent on a subsistence economy, and
- Whereas, light trapping pressure and poor weather has prevailed over the remainder of Unit 19B for the past two seasons and beaver populations can support an increased harvest.

NOW THEREFORE, section 84.270(1) of the 1974-75 Alaska Trapping regulations is amended as follows:

Unit 19B that portion of Unit 19 which includes that part of the Kuskokwim drainage downstream from McGrath, except that portion of Unit 19 (B) described below.	Feb.1—March 31	10 beaver per season
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Unit 19(B) that portion comprising Unit 19 which includes the Holitna River drainage from the confluence of the Holitna River and Holitna River upstream.	Feb.14—March 31	10 beaver per season
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James W. Brooks, Commissioner
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

By: Robert A. Hinman
Regional Supervisor
Division of Game
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701