

LETTERS

TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE

Walker S. Johnston
Alaska Railroad
P.O. Box 7-2111
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Mr. Johnston:

It has come to the attention of the Tanana Chiefs that the Alaska Railroad has allegedly misused and trespassed upon certain lands which the Athabaskan Indians consider to be sacred. We would like to protest this present situation and ask that this problem be rectified as soon as possible.

When the Alaska Railroad was building the railroad from Anchorage to Fairbanks they moved the cemetery at Nenana from the river bank up on the side of the hill where it was almost inaccessible, especially to the weak and elderly people. Secondly, they placed a power line with power poles directly between several graves.

While we as an organization do not wish to impede the progress of government and industry, we do feel, in the light of human compassion, that the heritage and religions of all people should be observed and respected.

We would like to request that the Alaska Railroad assist the residents of Nenana in building an access road to the cemetery and also remove the power lines and poles.

Please let us know as soon as possible as to the actions that the Alaska Railroad plans to take and we hope that you will be able to comply with the wishes of the Nenana residents.

Sincerely,

John C. Sackett
President

cc: Mitch Demientieff
Mike Gravel
Ted Stevens
Nick Begich
Tundra Times
River Times