

Kotzebue studies deep water port

The City of Kotzebue is undertaking a comprehensive feasibility study on deepwater port include replacement of inefficient lightering operations at the existing shallow-draft port and support of expanding industrial activity in the Northwest Region of Alaska. Projected shipping demands are increasing dramatically as a result of impending offshore petroleum development and inland mineral mining.

Plans by Cominco and NANA for a major mining development at the Red Dog deposit, located 90 miles north of Kotzebue, may result in a single-user, bulk cargo port near Kivalina. An investigation

of potential relationships between this port and Kotzebue's multi-purpose port will occur as part of the feasibility study.

In conjunction with the deepwater port analysis, the city is determining the feasibility of relocating its airport to an area near the deepwater port site. Likely port sites appear to be at Cape Blossom and at other locations southerly of the city.

These locations create potential opportunities for concurrently developing a redistribution port on the Kobuk Lake side of the Baldwin Peninsula to serve villages along

the Noatak, Kobuk, and Selawik Rivers.

A public involvement program, including two public meetings, will be conducted as part of the overall feasibility evaluation. The place and time of each public meeting will be announced approximately one month prior to the meeting date.

A joint venture team, comprised of Tetra Tech, Inc. and Wright Forssen Robertson, has been awarded a contract to perform the feasibility analysis for the City of Kotzebue. Completion of the Final Feasibility Report has been scheduled for December 1982.