

MBE Asks Meeting

The Minority Business Enterprise Task Force has called a meeting for January 3 and 4 in Anchorage to review and analyze

Alyeska's affirmative action plan.

The MBE Task Force is a consortium of minority business in Alaska and the lower 48 and is governed by a 24 member board of directors.

Junior Ramos, Executive Director of the Alaskan Plan whose office is coordinating the meeting, indicated that unless the deficiencies noted by the Task Force in their reviews of the affirmative action plan initially submitted by Alyeska is corrected, the minority groups within and without Alaska would still be categorically denied contracting opportunities.

There has not been an acceptance by the MBE Task Force of any new Affirmative Action Plan which may have been developed yesterday. The action to accept or reject will be on the agenda for the January meeting.

The U.S. Department of Interior has indicated by a letter dated December 6, 1974 that they are in agreement with the MBE Task Force objectives. They have indicated that they will expect Alyeska to adopt those objectives in their Affirmative Action Plan and to show the means which they will use to reach them.

If those objectives are not incorporated into Alyeska's Affirmative Action Plan, the Task Force is prepared to take direct action at the congressional level, at the State level and at the local level.

Invitations to attend the Task Force meeting are being prepared to be sent to Congressional leaders and State legislators.

The Task Force intends to explore possible legislation at either the Congressional or State levels to insure substantial compliance with the intents of Section 403 of Public Law 93-153.

Task Force leaders have also indicated the possibilities of closing down PIER 91 in Seattle in the event that Alyeska's Affirmative Action Plan is unacceptable. Minority contractors in the Seattle area have a successful history in clocking and stopping governmental projects until equitable agreements are reached.

It is anticipated that most Alaska minority contractors will attend the meeting and that the MBE Task Force will maintain that an equitable dollar volume to be awarded to minority contractors is \$250 million of the \$6 billion project.