

DNR Upgraded to Full Status

JUNEAU — Gov. Walter J. Hickel's office announced this week that the petroleum branch in the Department of Natural Resources has been upgraded to the status of a full state division of Oil and Gas.

The move, carried out as an executive order issued by the Governor, came upon the rec-

ommendation of Natural Resources Commissioner Thomas E. Kelly.

In a report on the proposal Kelly told Hickel the change "poses no budgetary complications," and will not require a supplemental appropriation from the Alaska Legislature.

Kelly's report stated: "The

move to upgrade the Petroleum Branch in the Division of Mines and Minerals to full division status comes after careful analysis of the impact of the oil industry on present and future revenues to the state; and the obvious need of placing greater emphasis on control and effective regulation of oil and gas production to protect the state's interest."

The commissioner also said, "The need for a divisional-level organization for oil and gas matters is apparent in the interest of economy and efficiency."