

Sealaska wins ethanol grant

Sealaska Corporation has been chosen by the U.S. Department of Energy to conduct feasibility studies on the proposed production of producing fuel-grade ethanol using as feedstock the waste products from its forest products timber operations.

To conduct the study, Sealaska was awarded a \$848,000 grant from the federal government. Sealaska Board Chairman Byron Mallot said the project would result in creation of about 400 new jobs to support the operations.

The grant is one of the 79 approved by the Department of Energy, and was selected from among 1,085 proposals. The economic viability of a proposed 50 million gallon-per-year ethanol plant using the Gulf Cellulose Alcohol Process will be determined. This process was developed by

the University of Arkansas Foundation, and is available under a license.

No location for the proposed plant has been selected, but that will be one of the subjects of the feasibility study, according to Sealaska sources.

Sealaska's timber operations are chiefly located in the Prince of Wales Island area near Ketchikan, although they also have operations farther north, near Hoonah.

If found feasible, the plant could be under construction by mid-1982 and into production by 1984, said Sealaska President Michael Chittick.