

Kotzebue Water Supply Works to Start in Summer

Construction is scheduled to start this summer on a project to provide a central water supply for Kotzebue. The project is part of the Public Health Service's village sanitation program.

The PHS will provide material and technical and supervisory personnel; actual construction of the facilities, by law, depends on volunteer labor by the villagers. The idea behind this is that the Natives should be willing to supply the labor in return for the facilities.

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Hubert Bartol, the project engineer, estimates that if each man and boy over 16 years of age would donate 20 hours of work this summer, the central water supply will be ready this fall. This is only two and one-half work days during the summer months, and can be contributed during evenings or on week ends.

Such volunteer labor, the PHS advises, would be very useful evidence in persuading Congress to appropriate more funds to expand the project. Hopefully, this will include running water and a sewer system serving individual homes.

The Kotzebue program will involve constructing a dam at Vortac Lake and piping the water into a central location in town. A questionnaire asking for labor donations is being passed out in Kotzebue.

The PHS village sanitation program provides Federal assistance for Native villages that want to work to improve their sanitation conditions. The projects are requested by the villages themselves.