

ASNA Files Petition Against Oil Spillage

Alaska natives from the Arctic Slope have filed a petition with the Department of Interior asking that amendments be made to the requirements for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System before a permit to build the pipeline is granted.

Petitioners are the Arctic Slope Native Association; the Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope; the Alaska villages of Anaktuvuk Pass, Atkasook, Barrow, Kaktovik, Nooiksut, Point Hope, Point Lay, and Wainwright; and the Inupiat Eskimo people of the North Slope, collectively and individually.

Charles Edwardson, Jr., and Joseph Upicksoun are also named as petitioners, for themselves as individuals and for the Arctic Slope Native Association, which they represent as executive director and as president of the organization, respectively.

In the request the Alaskans ask that amendments provide for payment to residents of the area for oil spillage occurring in the pipeline or in any feeder line to the pipeline in the area north of the Brooks Range from the Canadian border on the east to the Chuckchi Sea on the west.

They call for payments to be

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made to the residents of the area by those responsible for the spillage, "regardless of actual negligence or fault."

This payment should be made at the rate of \$15 per gallon, they say, and the amount should fluctuate with the Department of Labor's cost of living index.

These amendments must be made, the petitioners say, because spillage from the proposed

pipeline may cause "irreparable harm to the lands and wildlife" on which they base their survival.

In addition, the people involved in the petition ask that a hearing be held on the petition, that they be given notice of and allowed to appear at the hearing, and that issuance of the permit be stayed until such a hearing is held.