

BIA Permitted A.F. Site Use At Unalakleet

WASHINGTON, D.C., Nov. 19—The Bureau of Indian Affairs has been granted a use permit for the aircraft warning site at Unalakleet, Congressman Howard W. Pollock said this week.

The site was closed down earlier this year by the Air Force.

Pollock has been working with federal officials in an attempt to obtain the site for a school or similar facility.

The Alaska Congressman was informed of the use permit by Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel.

Hickel told Pollock the Alaskan Air Command had granted the BIA a use permit for the Unalakleet station for at least one year. This, Hickel said, would allow for an in-depth bureau study of possible uses to which the Unalakleet site could be put.

Frank Degnan, president of the Unalakleet Village Council, has asked assistance from the Alaska Congressional Delegation in obtaining the Air Force facility to use as classrooms and dormitories for Native students.

A broader possible use appears to be under consideration, however. Hickel told Pollock there appears to be a need to relocate some villages because of the danger of flooding during high tides and that such a possible use merits thorough review.