

Stevens amendment to provide more funding for rural wastewater programs clears committee

Following up on concerns he has raised in recent Senate hearings, U.S. Senator Ted Stevens recently included an amendment in the FY '93 Supplemental Appropriates Bill which could provide increased funding for rural wastewater facilities in Alaska.

Stevens' amendment taps a \$3.5 million reserve grant fund in the Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Administration's (RDA) wastewater program. Stevens' amendment gives priority to rural communities which use honeybuckets, lack adequate running water systems, and have a high rate of hepatitis-A and other diseases — all of which are common in rural Alaska vil-

lages.

The amendment was approved unanimously by the Senate Appropriations Committee and included in the supplemental measure which passed the committee by a vote of 22-1.

In late May, Stevens secured a commitment from Bob Nash, under-secretary of Agriculture for Small Community and Rural Development that the RDA would work with the State of Alaska toward achieving the goals of the Alaska Sanitation Task Force. That panel has recommended 60 specific tasks for improving sanitation conditions in rural Alaska.

In April, Stevens showed members of an appropriations subcom-

mittee and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Carol Browner photographs of honeybuckets and sewage lagoons in an effort to forge a Federal/State matching funds program.
