A Systems Analysis-Publication Report on Solid Wastes

Ken MacKenzie, Director of the Borough's Environmental Services Department, and Jerry Smetzer, director of the Fairbanks Town and Village Association, recently jointly announced the publication of a report itiled SOLID WASTES: "A systems analysis of generation, collection and disposal for the Fairbanks North Star Borough."

Parts I, II and III of the report, which have been printed in booklet form for review by the public, outline an efficient management approach to the problems of operating a solidi waste disposal system.

Part IV contains technical materials and data cards related the system's computer program.

John Carlson, Mayor of the Borough, said of the report: "Residents in the Borough generate over 26,000 tons of household garbage each year. This solid waste disposal system and the computer program it presents should help us establish the best way of disposing of this garbage at the lowest cost to the taxpayers.

The report was financed by the Fairbanks Town and Village Association with funds provided by the Economic Development Administration of the United States Department of Commerce. Members of the Borough and the Association's professional staffs worked closely on all phases of the project – particularly in developing guidelines for two professional engineering consultants on the report, F. Lawrence Bennett and Timothy J. Bergin, both of Fairbanks.

"The people working on this report had two common goals in mind," according to Ken Mac-Kenzie, Environmental Services Director. "We wanted a computer program that would not only help the local government save tax dollars in dealing with problems of solid waste disposal, but which would be useful for any program or project requiring the movement of people and materials," he explained.

The concept that is applied in this report should be applicable to a variety of other problems within the urban Fairbanks area, throughout the North Star Borough, and in many smaller communities throughout Interior Alaska.

Jerry Smetzer, Executive Director of the Fairbanks Town and Village Association pointed out that because of flexibility of the program and the principle of multiple use, the program can be applied to transportation and logistics problems which are now emerging as a result of Trans-Alaska Pipeline construction.

Furthermore, the program can

be used in the evaluation and identification of future transportation routes, terminal and stop locations, and estimation of load demands needed for the Borough's future public transportation system.

The printed report and the computer program are both public information and are available for public review at the offices of the Fairbanks Town and Village Association, the Fairbanks North Star Borough Department of Environmental Services, or the Fairbanks North Star Borough Library.

Officers of the Environmental Services Department of the Town and Village Association will be available to explain its potential and to discuss possible applications for other problems.

The program has considerable flexibility in its primary use for solid waste management purposes and can be updated easily to reflect the population growth and new residential and industrial locations by simply inserting new data information.

The existence of this analysis will enable all public agencies, municipalities and private citizens to develop more efficient and less costly methods of moving people, materials and services. Such utilization will likely repay the cost of this project many hundred times over the next few years.