

BLM Land Issues

CLAIMS QUESTIONS

By JOETTE STORM

(This column is printed to provide a forum for all of our readers who are affected by the Native Land Claims Settlement Act. Questions should be addressed to: Claims Questions (912), Bureau of Land Management, 555 Cordova Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99501. This column may be reproduced without written permission.)

Q: I have just learned that my allotment application has been rejected. Does this mean I will not receive any land under the Claims Act?

—B.R., Bering Straits N.A.

A: Native allotments are not part of the claims settlement. Allotments were granted under a separate law that is no longer in effect.

If you are enrolled under the Land Claims Act, you should be able to share in the settlement. If you have a (residence) home, business, or subsistence campsite within the lands selected by your village corporation, the village must grant title to the surface rights of that land. If your home, business, or campsite is on lands selected by the regional corporation, the region can also grant title. But the region is not obliged to do so.

To find out what lands are being selected in your region, contact the Bering Straits Native Corporation, P.O. Box 1008, Nome, Alaska 99762.