

State subsidies electrifying

By STAN JONES

Residential electric consumers in villages around the state will find a nice present from the Alaska legislature on their bills, beginning this month

The lawmakers passed during the last session a bill which partly subsidizes the cost of electricity in the bush, based on how much the fuel costs of a particular utility have risen since 1976.

Since the price rises vary from area to area, so will the level of subsidy. But in one typical village, Kotzebue, the sub-

sidy will knock just over four cents per kilowatt-hour off of the residential user's bill.

According to Don Fiscus, the plant manager at Kotzebue Electric Association, residential service in Kotzebue averages about twenty cents per kilowatt-hour, so that a customer who consumed 300 kilowatt-hours in a month would normally be charged about \$60. With the subsidy, however, the customer's bill would be reduced by \$12.57 or roughly twenty percent of the total.

The subsidy is available to in-

dividual consumers and to public buildings, such as those owned by municipalities. It is not available to the owners of buildings operated by state or federal funds.

Interestingly enough, the subsidy will benefit some, but not all, bush apartment dwellers. Tenants whose rent includes electricity will not qualify for the assistance, because the landlord pays the electric bill. However, tenants whose apartments are metered individually and who pay their own bills will receive the subsidy.