

Safe Water Act Grant for Nulato

JUNEAU — Calling it a "big step forward in rural environmental programs," Governor William A. Egan announced that the state has awarded its first Village Safe Water Act grant, \$700,000, to the Yukon River village of Nulato for construction of a community utility building.

The building will house facilities for water supply, sewage treatment and solid waste disposal, and a community laundry. It will serve Nulato's new elementary and high school building as well as the village.

"This project is an impressive new approach to solving village sanitation problems and is a model example of what can be accomplished when a cooperative effort between state agencies and local communities is launched," Egan said.

An agreement and continuing liaison between the state and village, he said, is the key ingredient which will assure that the community utility is maintained and operated after it is constructed.

"The problem in the past has been that governmental agencies would go into a village and

construct such a facility but not provide for operating and maintaining it once it was turned over to the community.

"This agreement for the Nulato facility — which is between the Nulato council and the Alaska departments of Public Works, Education, and Environmental Conservation — will solve that traditional problem and guarantee that the means for operating the facility will be available after it is completed.

"This type of approach is certainly a big step forward in rural environmental programs."

The community building's sewage treatment plant will handle wastes from the school and village, and an incinerator will dispose of sewage sludge and solid wastes. The building will also have toilets and showers as well as the laundry facilities.

Grant funds will also be used to purchase chemical circulating toilets for each village household and a sewage collection service will be operated.

Funds for the Village Safe Water Act program were authorized by Alaskan voters in the 1970 and 1972 general elections

and total \$4 million, Egan said.

Together, total costs of the utility building and the new elementary-high school are \$1,983,000, with the low bid being submitted by Northwest Contractors of Anchorage.

Work on the project is to begin soon, the governor said, and the target date for completion is August, 1974.