

## In 1 of 3 Regions— Capitol Location

"The new Alaskan capital will be in one of three regions," Chairman Willie Hensley announced at the Capital Site Selection Committee meeting last Tuesday. These regions were specified in a resolution as the Tanana Region, the Copper River Drainage to the Alaska Range, and the Cook Inlet Region.

Dames and Moore were chosen in further Committee action as the engineering consulting firm

after eight proposals were studied. The Rowan Group was accepted to assist the Committee in the citizen participation survey.

David Dittman and Associates and the Rowan Group had submitted proposed studies before the decision was reached.

Choice of the three subregions occurred after review and discussion of existing data and application of that data to site location needs.

"We have necessarily eliminated all other areas by a range of impact criteria," the Chairman continued. The basis for this first screening process were factors of physical and biological environment.

Considerations which led the Committee to their first screening of possible sites were presented in detail by CCC/HOK, the prime consultant group, and by the Scientific Resource Team, represented by Dr. Lidia Selkregg. Presentations included an analysis of a range of natural factors including climate, geology, water, soils, vegetation and wildlife.

The consultants were then directed to proceed with more detailed study of the three regions. Environmental concerns, accessibility and utility considerations are among the factors in their more detailed analysis.

The Committee left the City Hall Council Chambers at noon on Monday to attend the House State Affairs Committee session on the Hill. Frank Harris, representing the Capital Relocation Committee, listed the concerns of his group.

Among those concerns were their feeling that two existent studies supplied nearly all the data needed by the Capital Site Selection team. Harris cited the Boeing's Alaska State Capital Relocation Study and the Alaska Regional Profiles were these "near complete" data banks.

State Affairs Chairman Bill Parker then asked Hensley and Executive Director Leonard Lane to respond to the Harris statement.

Hensley reported that the introduction to the Boeing effort stated that its purpose was to present cost factors in the actual relocation of the site. Hensley recalled that the report did not deal with detailed study of site selection itself.

R.W. Pavitt pointed out that there was no intention in the second mentioned study, the Alaska Regional Profiles to provide detailed studies of any particular region. Pavitt was Director of Planning and Research out of the governor's office while the Profiles was published.

## BLM Discusses— Easements Info

(From — BLM — THE LAND)

During the next few months, BLM representatives will be traveling to Alaska Native villages to discuss needs for easements on lands which will be transferred to Alaska Natives under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

Easements, which are basically the right to cross land owned by someone else, are a "foreign" concept in many villages. Land ownership by the villages brings with it new responsibilities and problems, and a solution to one of the problems is easements.

For example, without easements, each village would own its land and totally control the right of access to that land. It's conceivable that a village might exercise control of access to prevent the public from crossing village lands to reach state or federal lands beyond. An easement through village lands could solve this problem.

Many villages in Alaska have neighboring villages located several miles away. In many cases, the lands selected by neighboring villages may have a common boundary.

If residents of one village want to cross lands owned by another village to the lands they have always used — without easements, it is possible one village could stop neighboring villages from crossing its lands. An easement through village lands could solve this problem.

### Public Response Needed

The district offices of the BLM have been sending out a list of all eligible villages to federal and state agencies, and other organizations such as Alaska Center for the Environment, US Forest Service, Alaska Railroad, and USCS that might have an input on the easement recommendations for a particular village.

These organizations are asked to return the list after they have marked which villages they wish to comment on.

The District offices have been contacting these agencies and groups with maps and information on easement justifications and asking for their recommendations.

The District offices maintain a tentative schedule for easement work on villages. Anyone with an easement recommendation may contact the District office for the current schedule.

**Easements are for Public Access**  
Easements are being considered for current needs of current land users and for specific future public access. Easements cannot be reserved strictly for private use, as they are designed to guarantee public access.

Anyone knowing of public easements that may be necessary should contact the BLM District Office in his area.

Easement requests must be accompanied by a justification containing the kind of easement needed, trail, river, etc., size, width, length, acreage, past and present uses, and why needed. Maps of the village withdrawal are available for review at the District offices.

### Comments from Villages

On February 24, the Anchorage District Office met with representatives of the villages of English Bay, Port Graham, and Seldovia to present easement recommendations, and to receive easement recommendations from the villages themselves.

A meeting was held in Kodiak on March 12 with the representatives of the villages of Afognak, Ouzinkie, and Port Lions. BLM District personnel will be holding village easement meetings the remainder of the spring and into late summer.

### What BLM will do

After all easement recommendations have been assembled, the Joint Federal State Land Use Planning Commission, appropriate Native corporations and the State Division of Lands will review them and provide additional comment, if necessary. The Commission will return the package to the Easement Task Force at the BLM State Office.


At this point, the State Director makes the final determination. An appeals procedure can be used to appeal the State Director's final determination prior to his final approval of easements to be reserved.

Easements he approves will be reserved in the interim land conveyance document and later in the patent (or title) a village receives for its lands.

More information on easements is available from:

District Manager  
Bureau of Land Management  
Anchorage District Office  
4700 East 72nd Street  
Anchorage, Alaska 99502

District Manager  
Bureau of Land Management  
Fairbanks District Office  
1028 Aurora Street  
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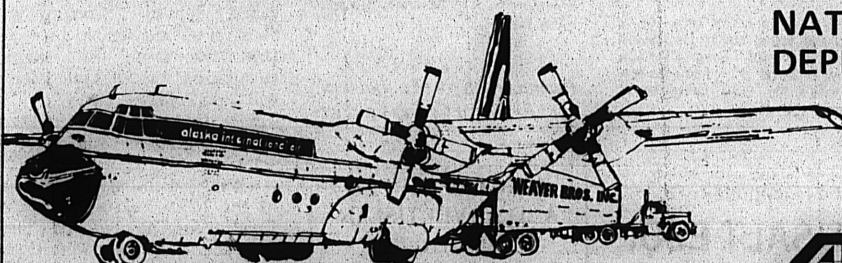
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