

# Sealaska, Bristol Bay join NANA in drilling venture

Two Native regional corporations have joined the VECO-NANA Drilling Corp. to become the first Alaskan-owned drilling firm in Alaska.

The two new partners in the renamed Alaska United Drilling, Inc., are the Bristol Bay Native Corp. and Sealaska Corp. Officers from both corporations and from VECO-NANA will constitute the new Alaska United Drilling board of directors. The name of the new corporation was changed when Bristol Bay and Sealaska joined the company.

The company operates three drilling rigs, two of which are in operation at Prudhoe Bay. A third is operating in Oklahoma and a fourth will be constructed in Anchorage next summer.

The Oklahoma rig and the rig to be built in Anchorage are owned by NANA Development, VECO Alaska, BBNC, Sealaska, and Pingo Corp. Pingo Corp. is the corpora-

tion owned by the North Slope village corporations of Nuiqsut, Kaktovik, Anaktuvuk Pass, Atkasook, Wainwright, and Point Hope.

Nuiqsut and Kaktovik also owned percentages of two Alaska United rigs at Prudhoe Bay.

New officers for the corporation are William L. Hensley, chairman, and Robert W. McCleskey, president and chief executive officer; and directors Sen. Frank Ferguson, H. Noble Dick, (president, BBNC); William C. Bishop, (president, Bristol Resources, Inc.) John Schaeffer, (president of the NANA Regional Corp.) Byron I. Mallott, (chairman of the board, Sealaska Corp.) Richard Kito, (director, Sealaska Corp.) Bill J. Allen, (president VECO International), Rodney V. Christ, (president VECO Alaska, Inc.) and John K. Overbey, (independent oil producer).