

North Slope gets NPR-A impact funds

More than \$7.2 million has been awarded to five North Slope governments from the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Impact Grant Program.

Jeff Smith, acting commissioner for the Alaska Department of Community and Regional Affairs, said the North Slope Borough, Atkasuk, Barrow, Nuiqsut and Wainwright qualified for funds because they demonstrated adverse impacts from petroleum development in the NPR-A.

Those political entities will use the funds to finance a dozen projects.

The North Slope Borough received \$3,772,137 for three projects; Atkasuk, \$689,000 for three; Barrow, \$825,000 for one project; Nuiqsut, \$1,342,720 for three; and Wainwright, \$611,380 for two projects.

Funding for those grants was made available by settlement of a lawsuit concerning federal funds given the state as a percentage of NPR-A oil and gas lease sales.

Federal law stipulates half the receipts from NPR-A sales must be given to the state for mitigation of impacts caused by petroleum exploration and development activities on the reserve.

A March 1986 Superior Court ruling directed the state to give priority

use of the funds to political subdivisions most directly or severely impacted by NPR-A development.

The State Legislature subsequently established the NPR-A Impact Program, placing it in the Community and Regional Affairs Department.

According to Smith, total requests from eligible applicants was \$21.7 million. Consequently, awards for specific projects were, in many cases, less than requested by applicants.

He said the money will be used as follows:

— The North Slope Borough will spend \$539,637 for residential care programs in Barrow; \$3 million for a Barrow juvenile detention program; and \$232,500 for a comprehensive subsistence management plan.

— Atkasuk will use \$500,000 to expand the community center and \$99,000 to operate and maintain it. Another \$90,000 will help fund government operations.

— Barrow's \$825,000 will be spent on boat ramps.

— Nuiqsut will spend \$551,395 for a dry boat storage facility; \$682,075 to expand its community center; and \$109,250 for government operations.

— Wainwright will spend \$61,380 to plan a boat ramp, and \$55,000 to

build it.

Smith said a separate legislative grant of \$2.1 million will fund a residential alcohol and drug treatment center in Barrow.

Twelve other government entities which submitted applications for NPR-A funds were declared ineligible because they didn't demonstrate severe impacts, Smith said.

Those were Anchorage, Delta Junction, Fairbanks, North Star Borough, City and Borough of Juneau, Ketchikan, King Cove, Klawock, Kotzebue, Nome, Northwest Arctic Borough, Sand Point and Valdez.

The department also determined that nine other projects submitted by eligible municipalities were ineligible for funding because they were not related directly to expected NPR-A impacts, Smith said.