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Ahtna-Alyeska agreement flounders

**Lands are posted
to protest
contract policy**

By LONE E. JANSON

"No Trespassing" signs and informational pickets have been placed at points of access to the Trans Alaska Pipeline where it crosses a 55-mile stretch of Ahtna Native corporation land.

The signs went up Sunday evening after a federal judge failed to grant an injunction preventing the award of a contract by Alyeska Pipeline Service Company to Northland Construction, believed to be a subsidiary of Green Construction Company. The contract was for maintenance and other work on the lower third of the pipeline.

Ahtna, joint-venturing with two other Native corporations, Chugach and Doyon, through Meridian Contracting Corporation/Doyon J.V., had submitted a bid for maintenance on the entire length of the pipeline.

The bid was awarded to Northland, even though Ahtna has an agreement with Alyeska giving them special preference in bidding and contracting, an agreement made in 1974 in exchange for certain releases and easements across Ahtna land.

In a hearing on Friday, Ahtna charged Alyeska with failure to live up to its commitments made in the 1974 agreement, and asked for an injunction against the award of the contract pending outcome of arbitration.

The judge declined to act, and withheld his decision for a week to look into jurisdictional questions.

The arbitration is over terms of the 1974 "Omnibus Agreement" between Alyeska and Ahtna, which was reached under auspices of the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with the Trans Alaska Pipeline Act.

The agreement calls for exclusive rights to work off Ahtna Lands and preferential bidding on all work off Ahtna lands in the southern third of the pipeline.

Governor Egan, in a speech on July 3, 1974, called the document "the greatest minority contract in Alaska history."

(See AHTNA, Page Ten.)



MISS UNITED TEENAGER ALASKA — Charlene Marson, a 15 year-old Aleut from Ninilchik, was selected from 64 contestants in statewide competition for the title of Miss United Teenager Alaska. The daughter of Manuel and Jeane Kausnikoff, she is a sophomore at Ninilchik High School. Other Alaska Native students earning titles in the event at Fairbanks last month were Victoria Lynn Jackson, a Tlingit from Kake, who was selected winner of the citizenship award, and Emma Glazier, an Athabascan from Northway, who won the Pageant Essay Contest with an essay entitled, "My Country." Ms. Marson will enter finals competition in Washington, D.C.—JODY LYNN SMITH PHOTO