

SCOMM

10:34



Official Business

**JOINT SENATE AND HOUSE
COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT STUDY**

**Co-Chairmen
Senator Arliss Sturgulewski
Representative Bill Parker**

**Address all
correspondence to:**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT STUDY

**Pouch V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811**

The Local Government Study Committee will hold a PUBLIC HEARING on the subject of creation of regional governmental units in the unorganized borough in

**VENETIE
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1979
7:00 P.M.**

The Committee will be discussing proposed legislation which would:

- (1) Divide the single unorganized borough into unorganized boroughs generally following Regional Educational Attendance Area boundaries, or combinations of two or more REAAs, but not extending beyond the boundaries of more than one Native regional corporation established under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act;
- (2) Authorize the election of not more than eleven (11) member unorganized borough assemblies, defining the powers and duties of these assemblies: review, comment and recommendations in a clearinghouse approach to proposed state projects and services under the states fiscal procedures and facilities procurement acts;
- (3) Authorize assemblies of unorganized boroughs to initiate a process by which a charter for a home rule borough may be prepared;
- (4) Name the Department of Community and Regional Affairs as the state agency responsible for lending assistance to unorganized borough assemblies;
- (5) Retain intact the powers and responsibilities of existing RAA school boards for management of school functions, of coastal service area boards in the preparation of plans for the resources of the state's coastal zone, and of existing cities of the unorganized borough.

Members of the Committee are:

Senator Arliss Sturgulewski, Co-Chairman
Representative Bill Parker, Co-Chairman
Senator Tim Kelly
Senator Bob Mulcahy
Senator Pat Rodey
Senator Terry Stinson

Representative Pat Carney
Representative Margaret Granson
Representative Ray Detcalfe
Representative Pat O'Connell
Representative Charlie Parr
Representative Fred Zharoff



Official Business

JOINT SENATE AND HOUSE
COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT STUDY

Co-Chairmen
Senator Arliss Sturgulewski
Representative Bill Parker

Address all
correspondence to:

LOCAL GOVERNMENT STUDY

Pouch V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

TO: Committee Members
FROM: Marjorie Gorsuch *mg*
DATE: 10/11/79
RE: Public Hearing

Due to the inability of a representative number of the Committee members to attend the Kotzebue/Noorvik hearing (Senator Sturgulewski was also plagued by a sore throat and Rep. Parker by work conflicts), the hearing was postponed. The communities are eager to meet with the Committee so we will be contacting you for assurance that the dates we choose will be workable for the majority of the members.

FORT YUKON / VENETIE ITINERARY

- Thursday, October 18 Depart from Anchorage at 7:00 A.M. on Wien Flight #23. Arrive in Fairbanks at 7:50 A.M. Transfer to Wien Flight #534 departing Fairbanks at 9:00 A.M. Arrive in Fort Yukon at 10:10 A.M.
- Senator Sackett plans to be in Fort Yukon and will accompany the group to Venetie along with Jonathan Solomon.
- Accommodations will be at the Fort Yukon School where meals will also be provided. Public Hearing 7:00 P.M. Community Center
- Friday, October 19 10:00 A.M. Leave on Arctic Circle Air Service charter to Venetie.
- Public Hearing 7:00 P.M.
- Accommodations will be at the BIA School (Mr. Dick Barber, Principal)
- Saturday, October 20 8:30 A.M. Charter back to Fort Yukon on Arctic Circle Air Service.
- 10:45 Depart Fort Yukon on Flight #535 arriving in Fbks. at 11:45 A.M.
- 3:25 P.M. Depart Fbks. on Alaska Airlines Flight #90 arriving in Anchorage at 4:15 P.M. (This is the best connecting flight to Anchorage available)

Please bring your sleeping bag and any personal food items you may want. Some food will be purchased for the group (and deducted from your per diem) for meals while in Venetie. Again, TRs will be available at the Anchorage Airport for those who need them. Please by at the Anchorage Airport on Oct. 18 no later than 6:20 A.M. if you need a TR.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Enclosed please find the following information for your review prior to the public hearing:

Municipal League Directory Information - Fort Yukon

Community Information - Venetie

Yukon Flats Regional Government Study Summary - Prepared by Darbyshire and Associates, August 1979 (This is a particularly relevant and timely piece of information which summarizes an extensive multi-volume report on the Yukon Flats area and its viability as a borough)

Area Guide -- Yukon-Porcupine Area prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service

TELEPHONE: 849-8001
ZIP CODE: 99781

Upper Yukon Sub-Region
November, 1978

VENETIE

LOCATION: Venetie is located on the pristine Chandalar River, 140 air miles north of Fairbanks at the confluence of the Chandalar and East Fork Rivers.

DESCRIPTION: The Yukon Flats is a marshy, lake-dotted flood plain, 300 feet in elevation in the west, sloping to 600 to 900 feet to the north and east. The Chandalar River heads in the Brooks Range and flows southeast across the Porcupine Plateau to the gentle slopes of the Yukon Flats.

The climate is arctic continental, with mean annual temperatures ranging from -20°F to 72°F. Precipitation and snow measure 8 and 45 inches respectively per year. Prevailing vegetation is spruce, willow, cottonwood, birch, brush, and berries.

Floods caused by ice jams, glaciation, and stream overflow occur on a 20 to 30 year frequency. Permafrost is present.

HISTORY: This is an original Natsitkutchin or "strong people" Indian village, settled in 1900. Some of the people have ancestors who were Teachinkutchin Indians, a sub-group of the Natsitkutchins. These people have historically engaged in trade with the coastal Eskimos, especially those of the Thule Culture living between Barter Island and the MacKenzie River Delta.

A Post Office was established there in 1938.

Venetie is a traditional village. People subsist on fish, moose, bear and annual migration of the Porcupine caribou herd, as their fundamental diet. Venetie and their cultural neighbors in Arctic Village chose to retain status as the Venetie Indian Reservation under ANCSA, therefore, they are not entitled to the benefits of the act, and thus are responsible for administering their own economic and social programs.

INCORPORATION CLASSIFICATION: Traditional (IRA Village)

COMMUNITY OFFICIALS

Lawrence Roberts, Chief
Venetie Village Council

POPULATION			
	1970	1976	1978
Total	112	160*	148
Native	108	160*	146
White	4	0*	2
Other	0		

HOUSING	
	1976
Total Units	30*
Owner Occupied	25*
Renter Occupied	4*
Vacant	1*
Seasonal	0

*Community supplied estimates

TCC Housing Improvement Program completed 1 new home here in 1976, and 1 is in progress.

The tribal government constructed 9 log homes in 1978.

VILLAGE CORPORATION

None (Retained Reservation Status)

Robert Frank, Sr., President, Venetie Indian Corporation

EDUCATION FACILITIES

SCHOOL: BIA Day School -

PRINCIPAL: Dick Banker

DIRECTOR, BIA DAY SCHOOL OPERATIONS: Dick Wiegand

PRINCIPAL: Josh Lewis

REAA: Yukon Flats School District

SUPERINTENDENT: Jim Whitt

NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 29

STUDENT CAPACITY: 30

EDUCATION LEVEL: 1-8 (plans for early childhood)

NUMBER OF TEACHERS: 3

POWER SOURCE: The school has its own generator. Two new 15 kw Lister will be operational in January.

WATER/SEWAGE SYSTEMS: Water is hauled from the Chandalar River by water truck to storage tanks. Septic tank. The new PHS system will be connected to the school.

PLANNED EXPANSION OF FACILITIES: New high school should be completed in 1979.

*Mr. Madison
Ed. 452-1951 Ex 222
Agency - total *
Dick Wiegand
Ms. Lane
Short Housing
F. H. to Venetie
Chonau Amolik
James Antioch
Emil Kawalchuk*

Dick & Linda Banker

*P.O. Box 156
Dick
Richard Gramson
99740
Jim Whitt
Will Files
Principal
Fort Yukon School*

HEALTH CARE

LOCAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDER: Jessie Williams, Health Aide
Maggie Roberts, Albert Frank, Alternates

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE: Claudia Davis, Fairbanks

LOCAL HEALTH CARE FACILITY: Clinic is held in the health aide's home.
Power is available but not running water.

MEDICAL COMMUNICATIONS: ATS-1; RCA medical phone in health aide's home

NEAREST HOSPITAL: ANIS Tanana or Fairbanks

COMMUNICATIONS

TELEPHONE: RCA Alascom small earth station (849-8001); public phone
is located in council office.

SATELLITE RADIO: ATS-1

VHF/HF RADIO: BIA; State Military Affairs

NEWSPAPER: Fairbanks Daily News-Miner; All Alaska Weekly; River Times

WATER/SEWER/WASTE DISPOSAL

Water is currently hauled from the Chandalar River. Privies. Construction is scheduled for the summer of 1979 for a watering point, laundry-type facility. Construction is on-going for a community pipe system to homes and individual septic tanks.

ELECTRIC POWER

Community 10 KVA generator

BULK FUEL STORAGE FACILITIES

None

TRANSPORTATION

AIR SERVICE:

Carrier: Air North.

Origin of Flight: Fairbanks (via Ft. Yukon)
Days of Service: Monday - Friday

AIRCRAFT LANDING FACILITIES:

Elevation: 550 feet
Length and Width: 4,400 x 50 feet (first 700 feet of runway 21 unusable, first 150 feet of runway 3 unusable)
Surface: Dirt
Services: None

BARGE SERVICE: None

LOCAL SERVICE ROADS: The Department of Highways plans on building a firewood area access road in 1977 if funding is available.

MILITARY INSTALLATIONS

Armory

OTHER FACILITIES OR SERVICES

Post Office
State Military Affairs (National Guard)
RCA

COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISES

Retail fuel store
One private store
One co-op store

CHURCHES/LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

Episcopal Church (Reverend Paul Tritt)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
Alaska Region

Volume

April 8, 1977



TO THE READER

The Alaska Native Land Claims Settlement Act, the Resources Planning Act of 1974 and National Forest Management Act of 1976, greatly strengthen the opportunities for improved management of the Nation's forest and rangelands.

This Area Guide considers the possibility of the Porcupine National Forest which was recommended by the Secretary of the Interior and inter-agency planners during 1973-1976. The Secretary's proposal also recommends a system of National Parks, National Wildlife Refuges and Wild and Scenic Rivers. These opportunities are particularly important in Alaska as lands pass to State and private ownership and areas are designated into these four systems.

The changes that can occur as lands move from passive stewardship to active management can be profound. It is essential that the impacts of these changes be assessed as early as possible and management tailored to meet the needs of the people and the land.

To do this will require close working relationships with the State of Alaska, Native organizations, community leaders and citizens, and Federal agencies. The Forest Service commits itself to an open process of public involvement so that we may be responsive to local as well as National needs. I sincerely urge you to carefully study this preliminary Area Guide and become involved in its revision.

John A. Sandor
JOHN A. SANDOR
Regional Forester

Recognizing the State's responsibilities in land-use planning, the Forest Service has attempted to relate its planning efforts to those of the State.

In order to identify planning units within the State we have coordinated with the Alaska Division of Policy Development and Planning. While our planning units may not be identical to the State's, we will move in that direction.

Since the planning area is the largest geographic zone that can address local issues, it must contain elements that lead to similar management opportunities and constraints.

The planning areas have been determined by dividing the State into areas similar in resources, physical characteristics, economic and social needs.

In Alaska as elsewhere, resources vary according to climate, latitude, marine influence, elevation and drainage. Major resource divisions exist between the Arctic slope; the western, south central and southeastern coasts; and the interior.

Physical characteristics vary from broad river deltas on the west coast to high mountain ranges, uplands and intervening river valley lowlands of the interior.

Economic conditions are related to the demand for resources, transportation systems and the relationship of market demand to source of supply. Some of the major economic divisions are roaded vs. unroaded areas and urban vs. bush (rural) areas.

Social needs are also varied. Native ethnic differences, both linguistic and tribal exist. Political associations and lifestyle are some major divisions related to Village and Regional corporations and to urban-rural differences.

From the onset it was recognized that delineating an area suitable for every purpose was impossible. Different boundaries are chosen to serve different purposes. In Alaska, organized boroughs have planning authority. However, most of the State is in the unorganized borough for which the Legislature is the governing body. Native corporations, formed under ANCSA, have distinct geographic boundaries for which they are accumulating planning data. Census divisions, in many instances, follow the organized borough lines and to some extent the Native regional corporation boundaries. In turn, these boundaries correspond in part to hydrographic regions for which resource data has been gathered by the LUPC.

PLANNING AREA

SCALE

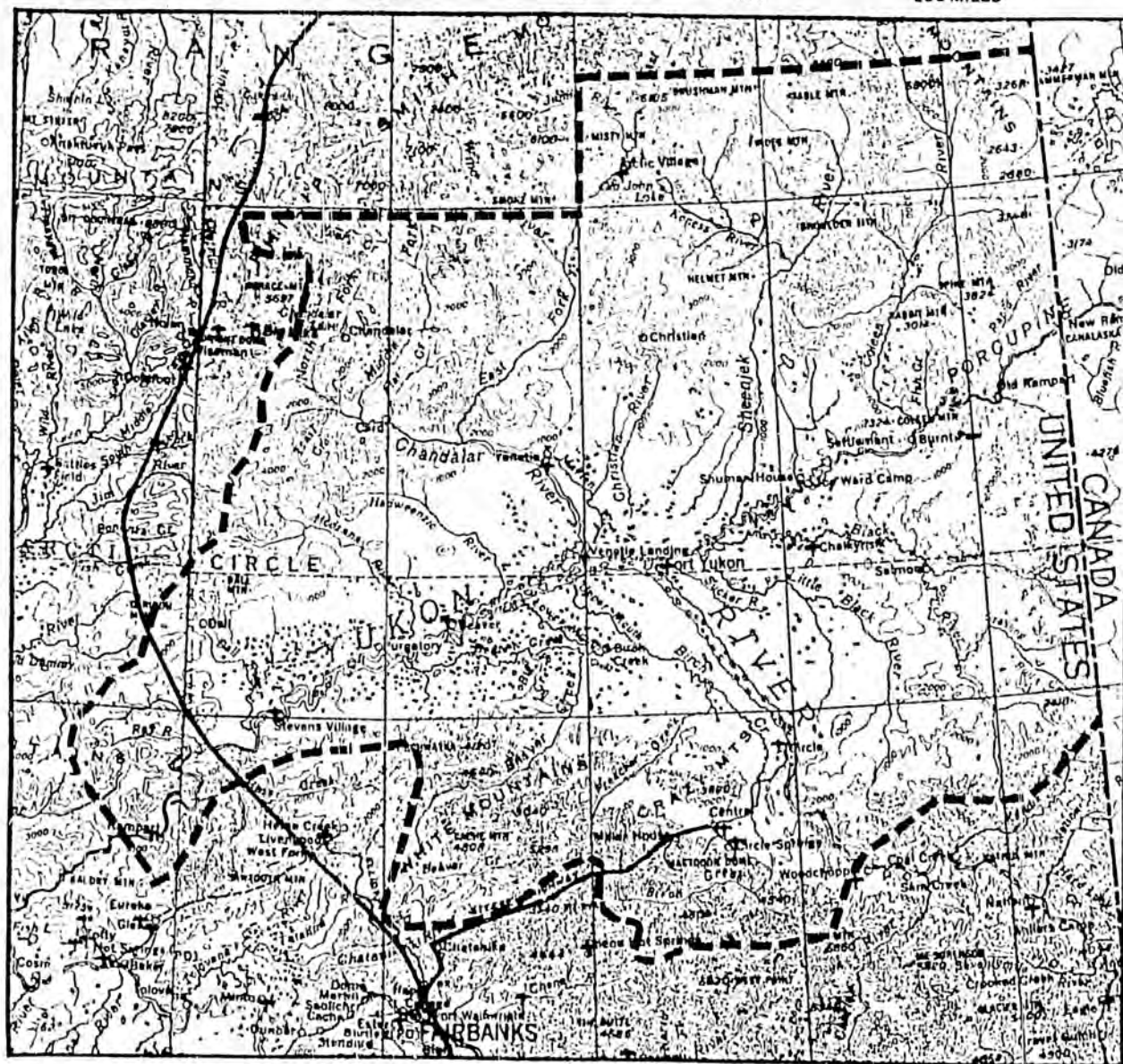
0 50 100 150 200 MILES

The 31 million acre Yukon-Porcupine Planning Area lies astride the Arctic Circle. It is rimmed on the north by the Brooks Range, on the east by the Canadian Boundary, on the south by the Yukon Uplands north of the Kandik River, the Tanana Hills at Circle and the White Mountains. The western edge of the Area ends at Rampart.

Year-around access to the Area and its communities is primarily by scheduled and chartered air service. In the summer, however, river travel is possible. The Trans-Alaskan pipeline and its associated haul road crossing below Stevens Village and the Steese Highway between Fairbanks and Circle, provide road access to the southern and western edge of the Area. Various old trails linking villages and serving traplines may be used for winter travel.

The gentle uplands and low mountains of the Porcupine plateau comprising the northern and eastern portion of the Area and the vast Yukon Flats lying to the southwest are major landscape features.

The Porcupine River entering from the east in Canada flows southwest through the spectacular Rampart Canyon before it winds onto the Yukon Flats joining the Yukon River at Fort Yukon. The Coleen and Sheenjek rivers are its major tributaries flowing south out of the Brooks Range across the highlands in broad valleys. Tributaries from the south, the Black and other lesser streams meander out of the low hills across broad flats. The great Yukon courses into the Area from the southeast literally dividing the Area in two



YUKON-PORCUPINE

To the west and south, the hill country merges almost imperceptibly into the Yukon Flats, a vast lake-dotted alluvial flood plain extending below Stevens Village. Meandering tributary streams such as Birch and Beaver Creeks drain the White Mountains and Tanana Hills which rim the southern boundary of the Area. From the north, the Christian, Chandalar, Hadweenzik and the Hodzana rivers work their way out of the Brooks Range onto the Flats before joining the Yukon. The thousands of lakes, ponds, sloughs and oxbows, often linked by winding creeks and minor waterways characterize the Flats. The extensive fire patterned taiga forests of the Flats and lowlands give way gradually to the tundra uplands and forested foothills of the mountains.

The largest center of economic importance is Fort Yukon. Other communities are Rampart, Stevens Village, Beaver, Circle, Central, Birch Creek, Chalkyitsik, Venetie and Arctic Village.

Native Village corporations at Rampart, Stevens Village, Beaver, Fort Yukon, Circle and Chalkyitsik will select about 668,160 acres of land. Doyon, Ltd. the Regional Native Corporation could select up to 4.7 million acres. Venetie and Arctic Village have chosen to accept fee title to their reservation in settlement of their claims.

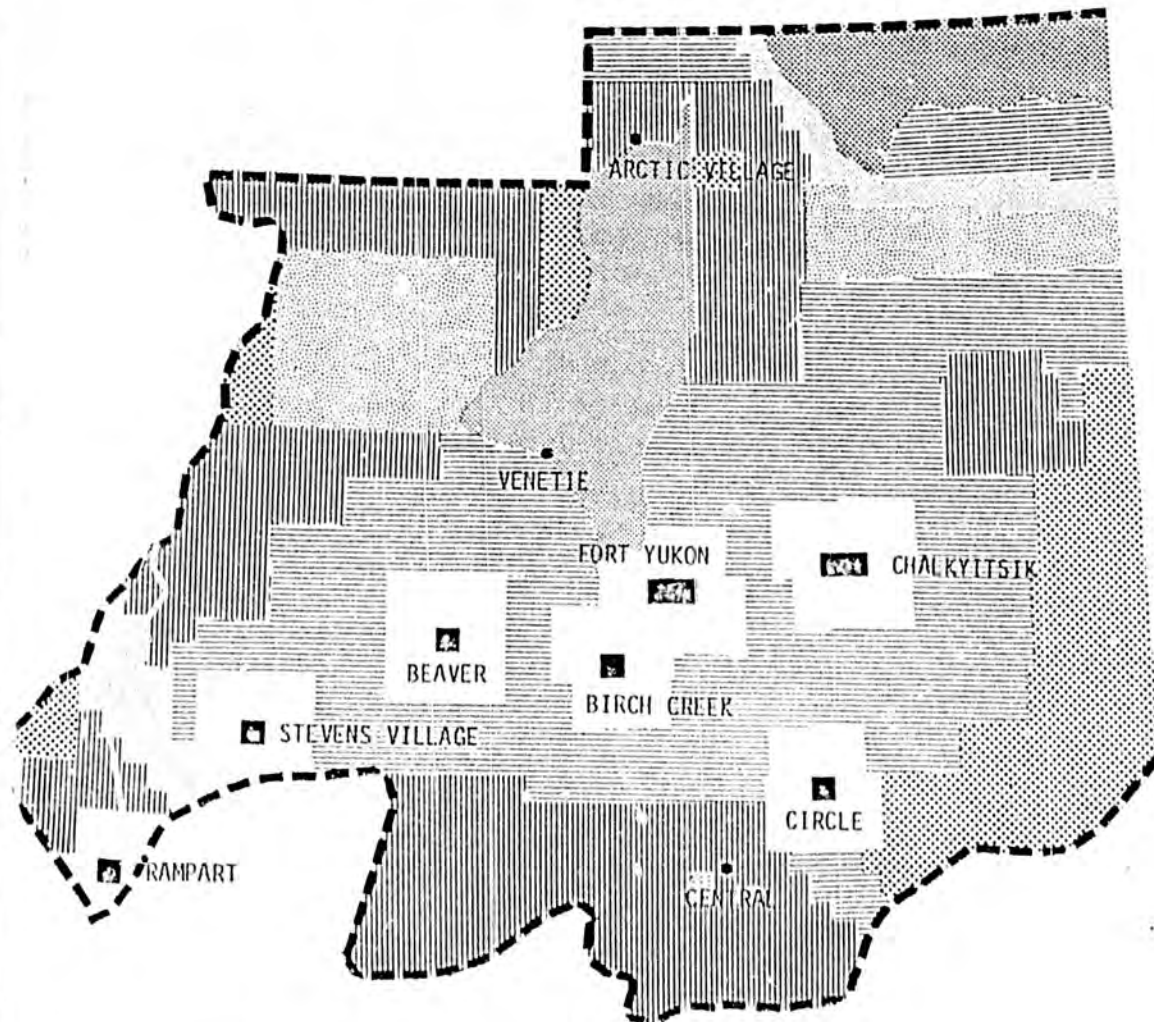
Within this planning area, 5.5 million acres have been proposed for the Porcupine National Forest including the additions of the lower portions of the Porcupine and Sheenjek to the National Wild and Scenic River System. Two other proposed National Wild Rivers, Birch and Beaver Creeks are within the Area.

The 3.6 million acre Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge, 200,000 acres of the Yukon-Charley National Rivers and 1.7 million acres of additions to the existing Arctic Wildlife Range are also proposed. There are also 1.3 million acres of the existing Arctic Wildlife Range included.

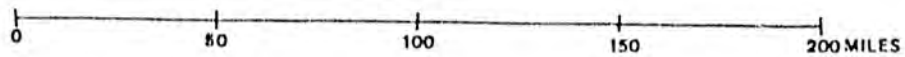
LAND STATUS PROPOSED UNDER ANCSA Yukon-Porcupine Planning Area

31 MILLION ACRES	STATE OF ALASKA AND PRIVATE HOLDINGS	9.7 million acres
	NATIONAL FOREST	5.5 million acres
	NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE AND RANGE	6.7 million acres
	OTHER FEDERAL LANDS	9.1 million acres


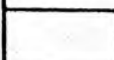

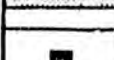
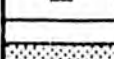
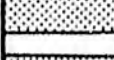


LAND STATUS—31 MILLION ACRES



SCALE



LEGEND

	STATE SELECTIONS
	UTILITY CORRIDOR
	VENETIE RESERVE
	WITHDRAWALS FOR NATIVE VILLAGES
	REGIONAL DEFICIENCY WITHDRAWALS
	ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE RANGE
	NATIONAL INTEREST WITHDRAWALS
	PUBLIC INTEREST WITHDRAWALS

OTHER PLANNING EFFORTS

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game is developing (1) wildlife management plans for the Area including a species-by-species wildlife problems identification (2) Federal Aid in Fish and Wildlife Restoration studies which include information gathering projects such as inventories, hunter harvest and game movements; inventory and cataloging of sport fish habitat (3) Shee fish life history study (4) annual subsistence fishery survey (5) salmon spawning surveys and salmon tagging and recovery program on the Sheenjek and Chandalar Rivers and (6) annual assessment of commercial salmon catch.

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources is conducting State lands selection studies and broad resource inventories, on a township-by-township basis.

The University of Alaska is conducting a community survey to determine how such factors as employment, use of natural resources, migration of people, and education may be affected by various types of management activities. This is to be completed by April 1977. They are also working on a socioeconomic overview and issues analysis in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service, and have recently completed a study of the Yukon River crossing for the BLM.

The Bureau of Land Management is currently updating corridor planning from the Yukon River north.

The National Park Service has completed a preliminary Master Plan for the Yukon-Charley National Rivers. This conceptual plan outlines general management philosophy and identifies management problems. The agency is currently collecting resource data and conducting antiquities and historic sites inventories.

The Fish and Wildlife Service is conducting a subsistence use study in cooperation with the University of Alaska. They also conduct an annual waterfowl breeding ground study to

determine waterfowl production and trends and other periodic special waterfowl studies in the Area.

The Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission is directing a study of use alternatives of the pipeline haul road north of the Yukon River and their effects.

The community of Fort Yukon has hired the consulting firm of CH2M Hill to do a Master Plan. It is to be completed March 1977.





LAND AND WATER

DESCRIPTION

The Yukon-Porcupine Planning Area encompasses most of the drainage area of the Yukon River and its tributaries from Rampart to the Canadian border, except for the upper portion of the Yukon itself, east of Webber Creek near Woodchopper. Its major tributaries are the Porcupine and Chandalar Rivers. The Porcupine, which originates in Canada, enters the Yukon from the northeast about 2 miles north of the Arctic Circle at Fort Yukon. Twenty miles downstream at Venetie Landing, the Chandalar flows into the Yukon from the north out of the Brooks Range.

The Area's central core is referred to as the Yukon Flats, a broad level alluvial flood plain featuring numerous small lakes, ponds and sloughs which dot the forested and marshy lowlands that surround the braided Yukon and its tributaries. Elevation change is slight, ranging from approximately 600 feet above sea level at Circle to 310 feet at Stevens Village, 226 miles down river.

South of the Yukon Flats lie the Yukon-Tanana uplands which are composed of even topped, rounded ridges with gentle slopes. These merge into the White Mountains which have some peaks that exceed 5000 feet.

The Porcupine plateau rises north of the Flats and is characterized by low ridges with gentle slopes and rounded flattened summits, some reaching 3500 feet. The irregular valleys of the upper reaches of the Porcupine and Chandalar and their tributaries dissect the plateau. The Ogilvie Mountains which straddle the US-Canadian border connect the Yukon-Tanana uplands with the Porcupine plateau east of the flats. ^{11/} The northwest portion of the Area reaches the Brooks Range and features steep, rugged mountains that rise abruptly from narrow valleys to elevations exceeding 6500 feet.

The present landscape is the result of erosion of sedimentary, volcanic, metamorphic and intrusive, igneous rocks in the highlands and deposition in the basin of the Yukon Flats. Glaciation has occurred in the foothills of the Brooks Range and glacial outwash

has added considerably to the total sediment accumulation in the basin although no glaciation occurred within the Flats themselves. Sedimentary deposits in the form of alluvial fans, terraces, flood plains, and dunes form the surface of the Yukon Flats and extend to a depth of 148 feet at Fort Yukon. These deposits are underlain by more than 290 feet of silt and silty sand probably representing ancient lake deposits. ^{10/}

Wind-laid silts mantle low plains and terraces surrounding the Flats. The moderate to steep slopes of the highland and the long slopes south of the Brooks Range are mantled with coarse and fine grained materials. Coarse rubble deposits and bedrock occupy the steep mountain slopes. ^{12/}

The Area lies within a discontinuous zone of permafrost. Permafrost occurring in the unconsolidated deposits and bedrock is broken by unfrozen zones which occur beneath water bodies and under well drained sites. Perennially frozen fine grain sediments in poorly drained localities contain abundant veins or masses of ground ice. Ground ice is common in silt deposits especially where they are covered by muskeg. ^{10/}

The climate is characterized by low precipitation and great annual temperature variations. In the winters extended periods of -50 to -60 degrees Fahrenheit are common and -75 degrees has been recorded. The summers are short but warm with temperatures reaching the 80's and occasionally the 90's. However, freezing temperatures can be experienced

in all months. Precipitation ranges from 6 to 10 inches annually. ^{4/} Generally, precipitation is greater in July and August and at a minimum between February and May. Snowfall comprises about 40% of the total precipitation. ^{10/} The degree of flooding, which occurs with the spring thaw, is determined by the water in the snow pack, rate of melting and jams of river ice. There is little ground water storage to reduce stream flow fluctuations because of permafrost. High water follows the breakup and rains maintain the flow throughout the summer. Winter flows diminish steadily until the next spring thaw. ^{12/}

Records show this Area to be especially susceptible to wildfire and very large areas have been burned. Over the past 35 years, 3.5 million acres have been burned, an average of 100,000 acres yearly. ^{4/}



11. Warren, T. C. & V. Fisher. *Draft Interim Report - Yukon Crossing Study Regional Analysis.* 1976.

12. LUPC. *Resources of Alaska - A Regional Summary.* 1974.

RESOURCE SUPPLY

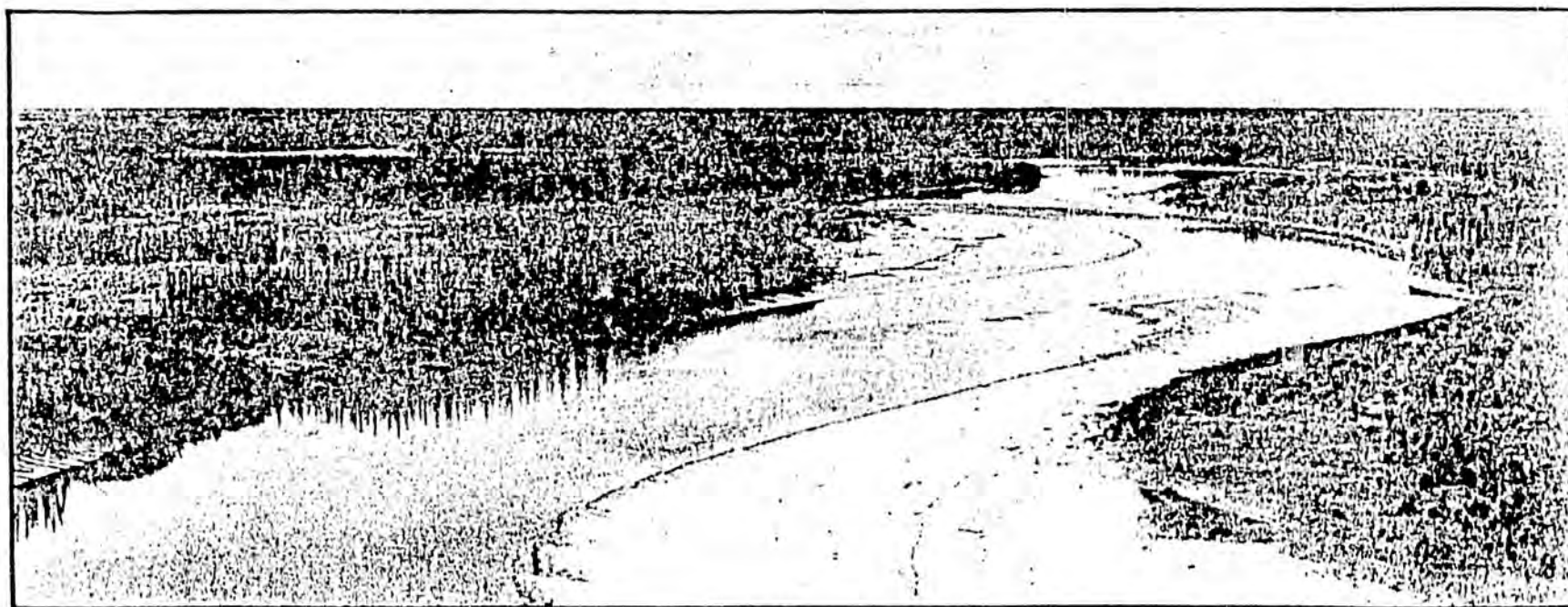
Nearly all of the land has been encumbered by withdrawal, selection, patent or application. These include Native village and regional deficiency withdrawals, patented State lands, military reserves, wildlife refuges, utility corridors, power project classifications, road and trail rights-of-way, patented homesteads and mining claims, and pending State selections and Federal public and National interest selections.

Not until the final land allocations are made under the provisions of ANCSA and the Alaska Statehood Act will the disposition and management of large segments of this Area be determined.

Although precipitation is low, seasonal snow pack and numerous pothole lakes provide significant annual water storage. Surface waters may be hard, but are acceptable quality for domestic uses. Ground water is largely unavailable due to permafrost conditions. However, some ground water occurs near and beneath streams. Aquifers apparently

do not exist although some springs do. The best known is at Circle Hot Springs. Ground water when obtained may also be hard, and is generally high in dissolved solids content. It is acceptable for most uses but may require softening.

Hydroelectric power potential exists at sites on both the Yukon and Percupine Rivers. Rampart, a site at the lower end of Rampart Canyon, is recognized as having the greatest hydroelectric potential in Alaska. Annual flow of the Yukon through Rampart Canyon has been estimated at 81,000,000 acre-feet. ^{12/}



RESOURCE DEMAND

PAST

Very few demands were placed on the land and water resources due to isolation, relative inaccessibility, small resident population and the limited season of activity. Some mining activity occurred in scattered small scale operations. Early oil explorations left a number of seismic trails on the Yukon Flats. These were about the only activities that had any visible man-made impact on the landscape other than some very limited attempts at local truck gardening. No attempts were made to develop water resources since the surface water supply was adequate to meet the needs of the people living there. Utilization of fish, game, and wood products for subsistence was the major activity of the residents and the supply of resources was entirely adequate to meet their demands.

PRESENT

Interest in the development or utilization of the land and water resources has increased in recent years but so far the actual demand has not been strong. The resident population is about the same as it was in the past and the need for development of local water supplies has not been strong. The Rampart hydroelectric project which had been studied in depth, recently has been found to be unfeasible at present due to the lack of demand for such large blocks of power, availability of more favorable alternatives and the recognition of adverse effects on other resource values. ^{4/}

The major impact on the Area has been the establishment of the oil pipeline. Its construction has necessitated remedial measures to protect the area affected from soil erosion and water quality deterioration.

FUTURE

The data base for ground water development is poor but the possibility exists that more communities or industries could use this source. There is sufficient land suitable for a variety of resource development if the demand for these resources is strong enough and the resulting expansion in community development and transportation improvement is realized. Adverse conditions of cold climate, short growing season, permafrost, and soil characteristics will largely dictate where various resource uses will take place and what the cost will be.



HUMAN AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

DESCRIPTION

The resident population is small and widely separated in 10 small communities located along the Yukon River, its tributaries, and the Steese Highway. Statistics from the Census Bureau and other sources showed a 1970 population of 1106 people, of whom 939 were Alaska Natives primarily of Athapascan origin. Eight of these communities are linked only by air or water and are Native villages with relatively few non-Native residents. Four are located along the Yukon River: Rampart (population 36), Stevens Villane (74), Beaver (101), and Fort Yukon (448). Two others, Arctic Village (85), and Venetie (112), lie along the Chandalar River. Birch Creek (40) is situated along

a small tributary to the Yukon of the same name and Chalkyitsik (130) is on the Black River, a tributary of the Porcupine River. Circle (54) and Central (26) are linked to the outside by the summer-maintained Steese Highway. Circle has a mixed ethnic population and Central is largely non-Native. ^{11/}

Economically, the people are primarily dependent upon government jobs and programs, income from the sale of furs, arts and crafts, and from subsistence use of resources. Median family income is about \$6,500 with about one-fourth earning less than the national poverty level of \$3,745 for a non-farm family of 4. In 1969, approximately 10% of the families earned less than \$1,000. ^{4/}

ANCSA provided for the establishment of 12 regional Native corporations to conduct the business of Natives on those lands selected by them under Section 7. 4/ Doyon Limited, the Regional Native corporation in the Yukon-Porcupine Planning Area, plus individual Native Village Corporations will play important roles in determining economic planning and policy.

RESOURCE SUPPLY

Air carrier service from Fairbanks is the principal mode of transportation for both passengers and cargo. Regularly scheduled air service is provided to all communities by an air taxi operator under contract to Wien Air Alaska. 11/ Air charter service, operating out of Fort Yukon provides the principal air transportation among the region's villages.

Cargo is also transported seasonally by water. The Yukon River is navigable by shallow draft barge up to 4 months of the year. However, water depth above Fort Yukon is a limiting factor.

The Porcupine River is navigable only during high water periods. 13/ Principal service is provided by Yutana Barge Lines operating out of Nenana. At least 3 barges are scheduled to Fort Yukon and intermediate river points each season but whether they stop at Rampart, Stevens Village or Beaver each trip depends upon the amount of freight for those communities. Arctic Village and Venetie have no regular barge service but smaller rivercraft are used to transport freight to Venetie. Hun Navigation operates a 100' by 18' barge out of Fort Yukon or Circle and usually schedules a trip to Chalkyitsik and Birch Creek once a season transporting fuel and other freight as space allows. In 1975, the barge was able to navigate the Black River to Chalkyitsik twice. 11/

Existing roads consist of 50 miles of the Steese Highway from Fairbanks



to Circle and 20 miles of the road along the pipeline route from Livengood to the Yukon River.

Outside telephone service is available to Fort Yukon and Birch Creek. Other local communication forms include radio and radio-telephone. The only regional newspaper is the Arctic Village Echo published in Arctic Village.

All villages except Central have schools with classes from the first through eighth grade. Fort Yukon and Chalkyitsik offer kindergarten classes also. There is also a high school at Fort Yukon with about 80 students and 9 teachers. Some high school students are drawn from the other area villages and board in Fort Yukon. Others attend high schools elsewhere in the State. 4/ All of the schools are operated under the Yukon Flats School District headquartered in Fort Yukon, except those at Beaver and Venetie which are run by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

None of the communities have a hospital but medical clinics are established at Fort Yukon, Venetie and Stevens Village. Fort Yukon is the only village that provides public water and electricity. All of the communities depend upon individual systems for sewage disposal. 14/ Many houses are built of local logs and finished with local and imported lumber. Most are one or two rooms; typical size being 20 by 20 feet. More recently community housing projects are providing pre-fab homes in communities such as Fort Yukon.

13. McMahon, G. C. Resources Inventory - Yukon Region - Transportation, Communications and Utilities. 1974.

14. Nathan, Robert R., Associates. 2(c) Report: Federal Programs and Alaska Natives, Tasks I - III with Introduction. 1975.

TELEPHONE: 849-8001
ZIP CODE: 99781

Upper Yukon Sub-Region
November, 1973

VENETIE

LOCATION: Venetie is located on the pristine Chandalar River, 140 air miles north of Fairbanks at the confluence of the Chandalar and East Fork Rivers.

DESCRIPTION: The Yukon Flats is a marshy, lake-dotted flood plain, 300 feet in elevation in the west, sloping to 600 to 900 feet to the north and east. The Chandalar River heads in the Brooks Range and flows southeast across the Porcupine Plateau to the gentle slopes of the Yukon Flats.

The climate is arctic continental, with mean annual temperatures ranging from -20°F to 72°F. Precipitation and snow measure 8 and 45 inches respectively per year. Prevailing vegetation is spruce, willow, cottonwood, birch, brush, and berries.

Floods caused by ice jams, glaciation, and stream overflow occur on a 20 to 30 year frequency. Permafrost is present.

HISTORY: This is an original Natsitkutchin or "strong people" Indian village, settled in 1900. Some of the people have ancestors who were Teachinkutchin Indians, a sub-group of the Natsitkutchins. These people have historically engaged in trade with the coastal Eskimos, especially those of the Thule Culture living between Barter Island and the MacKenzie River Delta.

A Post Office was established there in 1938.

Venetie is a traditional village. People subsist on fish, moose, bear and annual migration of the Porcupine caribou herd, as their fundamental diet. Venetie and their cultural neighbors in Arctic Village chose to retain status as the Venetie Indian Reservation under ANCSA, therefore, they are not entitled to the benefits of the act, and thus are responsible for administering their own economic and social programs.

INCORPORATION CLASSIFICATION: Traditional (IRA Village)

COMMUNITY OFFICIALS

Lawrence Roberts, Chief
Venetie Village Council

<u>POPULATION</u>				<u>HOUSING</u>	
	1970				1976
	Census	1976	1978		
Total	112	160*	148	Total Units	30*
Native	108	160*	146	Owner Occupied	25*
White	4	0*	2	Renter Occupied	4*
Other	0			Vacant	1*
				Seasonal	0

*Community supplied estimates

TCC Housing Improvement Program completed 1 new home here in 1976, and 1 is in progress.

The tribal government constructed 9 log homes in 1978.

VILLAGE CORPORATION

None (Retained Reservation Status)
Robert Frank, Sr., President, Venetie Indian Corporation

EDUCATION FACILITIES

SCHOOL: BIA Day School PRINCIPAL: Dick Banker
 DIRECTOR, BIA DAY SCHOOL OPERATIONS: Dick Wiegand
 PRINCIPAL: Josh Lewis
 REAA: Yukon Flats School District SUPERINTENDENT: Jim Whitt
 NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 29 STUDENT CAPACITY: 30
 EDUCATION LEVEL: 1-8 (plans for early childhood) NUMBER OF TEACHERS: 3

POWER SOURCE: The school has its own generator. Two new 15 kw Lister will be operational in January.

WATER/SEWAGE SYSTEMS: Water is hauled from the Chandalar River by water truck to storage tanks. Septic tank. The new PHS system will be connected to the school.

PLANNED EXPANSION OF FACILITIES: New high school should be completed in 1979.

HEALTH CARE

LOCAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDER: Jessie Williams, Health Aide
Maggie Roberts, Albert Frank, Alternates

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE: Claudia Davis, Fairbanks

LOCAL HEALTH CARE FACILITY: Clinic is held in the health aide's home.
Power is available but not running water.

MEDICAL COMMUNICATIONS: ATS-1; RCA medical phone in health aide's home

NEAREST HOSPITAL: ANIS Tanana or Fairbanks

COMMUNICATIONS

TELEPHONE: RCA Alascom small earth station (849-8001); public phone
is located in council office.

SATELLITE RADIO: ATS-1

VHF/HF RADIO: BIA; State Military Affairs

NEWSPAPER: Fairbanks Daily News-Miner; All Alaska Weekly; River Times

WATER/SEWER/WASTE DISPOSAL

Water is currently hauled from the Chandalar River. Privies. Construction is scheduled for the summer of 1979 for a watering point, laundry-type facility. Construction is on-going for a community pipe system to homes and individual septic tanks.

ELECTRIC POWER

Community 10 KVA generator

BULK FUEL STORAGE FACILITIES

None

TRANSPORTATION

AIR SERVICE:

Carrier: Air North

Origin of Flight: Fairbanks (via Ft. Yukon)
Days of Service: Monday - Friday

AIRCRAFT LANDING FACILITIES:

Elevation: 550 feet
Length and Width: 4,400 x 50 feet (first 700 feet of runway 21 unusable, first 150 feet of runway 3 unusable)
Surface: Dirt
Services: None

BARGE SERVICE: None

LOCAL SERVICE ROADS: The Department of Highways plans on building a firewood area access road in 1977 if funding is available.

MILITARY INSTALLATIONS

Armory

OTHER FACILITIES OR SERVICES

Post Office
State Military Affairs (National Guard)
RCA

COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISES

Retail fuel store
One private store
One co-op store

CHURCHES/LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

Episcopal Church (Reverend Paul Tritt)



Official Business

Alaska State Legislature

JOINT SENATE AND HOUSE
COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT STUDY

Co-Chairmen
Senator Arliss Sturgulewski
Representative Bill Parker

Address all
correspondence to:
LOCAL GOVERNMENT STUDY

Pouch V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Nov. 8, 1979

Dick and Linda Barber
BIA Day School
Venetie, Alaska

Dear Dick and Linda,

We appreciated meeting with you and residents of Venetie on October 19, 1979. The public hearing gave members of the Local Government Committee an opportunity to see your community, most of them for the first time; to learn of some of the problems you are experiencing; and to receive valuable comment on the ideas being considered for legislative action by the Committee.

We want to thank you for the hospitality you extended the group. Especially, Linda, your thoughtfulness in feeding a large number of people unexpectedly and so beautifully. No one of us will remember Venetie without remembering the marvelous cinnamon and dinner rolls you served.

Again our thanks. If you have any additional thoughts on the "unorganized boroughs" concept, please do not hesitate to send them to us.

Yours truly,

Arliss
Senator Arliss Sturgulewski

Bill
Representative Bill Parker

PUBLIC HEARING PARTICIPANTS

LOCATION Venetia

DATE Oct. 19

NAME

MAILING ADDRESS

GROUP NAME OR ORGANIZATION
IF REPRESENTING SUCH

REV. Paul Tritt		
John Eick		
Abraham Smith		
Bill Halloran		
Kathy Peter		
Connie Frank		
Jessie Peter		
NENA ROBERTS		
Judith Witt		
Maggi Roberts		
Chris Frank		
Paul Tritt Jr		
Conrad Eick		
Haniel Frank		
Larry Williams		
Ingrid Omdal		
Annie Christians		
Ginny Roberts		
Donald & Marie		
* Kenneth Solomon	H. Yuker	3-G
John Sackett	Dalena	
Allen Tritt	Orchid Village	
Lincoln Tritt	Orchid Village	IRA Council
Edward John	Venetia	IRA Council

PUBLIC HEARING PARTICIPANTS

LOCATION Venette

DATE Oct. 19

NAME	MAILING ADDRESS	GROUP NAME OR ORGANIZATION IF REPRESENTING SUCH
Mary Jane	Arctic Village, AK	Tribal Council as member Consultants to the Native Village of Venette Tribal Government
John Peter	Arctic Village	
Don Wright	SR BOX 10402 Fair 99701	
Cedric C Wright	same	
Neil Sam	Kee	Port Yukon School District
Gerald A Swisher	Venette, Alaska	
Sarah Swisher	" "	
Paul Williams	Arctic Village	IRA Council
Miss Bill Parker		
Rep. Margaret Benson		
Mary Ann Strouck		
Jane Hatch		
Lorne Cotton		
Bruce Mansell		

VENETIE

October 19, 1979

40 Participants (Among this number were members of the Arctic Village Council who had flown to Venetie for the hearing.)

CONCEPT OF BOROUGH GOVERNMENT

There was discussion of the Yukon Flats Borough Study. It was stated that the group did not know much about local government, but must be prepared for it. They want to figure out something that would be for the good of the people in the future. They are ready to sit down, talk, and figure out something that will benefit the people. They are ready to work with Doyon, the Tanana Chiefs, the state and the rest of the villages in the Yukon Flats area. Unity was seen as important. They must work together, support one another; they are one people, one tribe. And they should accomplish one thing at a time.

There was a feeling that they were being asked to respond to the idea of borough government when, in fact, it was a new concept for them. They have no basis for comparison between the effectiveness of state and borough government as they know nothing of the latter. They would need a chance to review the borough idea, explain it to their tribal members, sit down and discuss it in their own language. They have just been introduced to the concept.

The representatives from Arctic Village area are not interested in the creation of a borough. They feel they do not want any part of the borough idea. They do not want to be bribed into being a borough and have passed a resolution in opposition to the borough concept.

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

It was pointed out that the villages of Venetie and Arctic Village have a unique relationship with the federal government in that they have opted to maintain a reservation status under ANCSA. With the passage of ANCSA, the village did not get a monetary settlement, instead choose to keep the simple title to a large amount of land which had traditionally been used by their people. A main concern was the fear that in 1991 their land might be taxed. It was their understanding at the time that ANCSA was passed that title would be clear and that there would be no taxation. Also, there has been no clarification of the status of the land which surrounds the reservation.

The orientation of these villages appears to be toward the federal rather than the state government. Through federal government grants, the villages are implementing a long-range plan which consists of airport projects, housing, sewer, water, timber development, status of land clarification organization of tribal government, offices, etc.

They are trying to move from a subsistence way of life into the mainstream of America by studying laws, and trying to make acts of Congress work for them. Bureaucratic red tape has been a stumbling block. They listen to the people, and get instructions from the people. They live their lives virtually the way their grandfathers did. They are finally realizing what is theirs. They want to keep their old ways, but work with modern things. They feel independent as a tribe.

RECOGNITION OF EXISTING GOVERNMENTS

The question of recognition of the Indian Reorganization Act and Tribal Councils was raised. The question was asked if the Constitution would need to be changed to accomplish this. The point was made that tribal councils are recognized by federal government, but not by state government for contracting.