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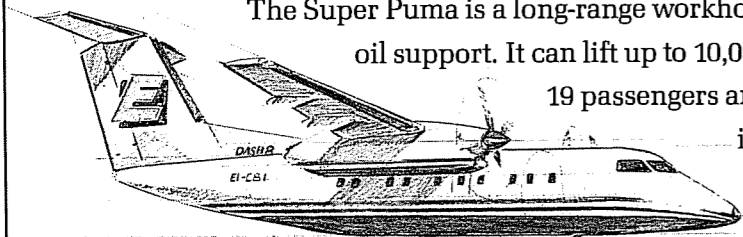
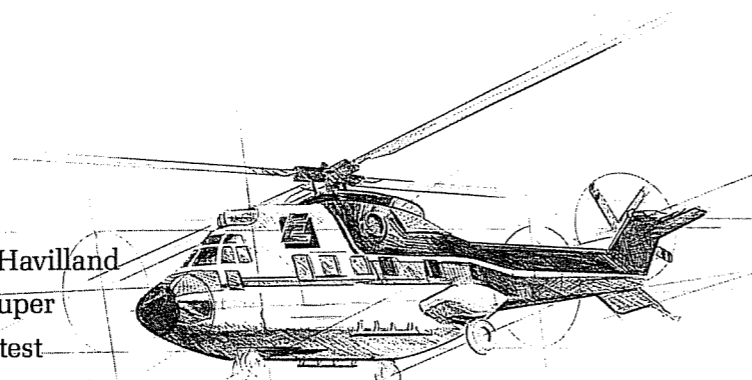
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Energy Gridlock:

The Politics of the Environment

The Resource Development Council's Eleventh Annual Conference, "Energy Gridlock: The Politics of the Environment," will open Wednesday, December 5 at the Sheraton Anchorage Hotel. The conference, which will continue through Thursday, December 6, is a multi-dimensional and straightforward look at the dilemma facing the nation regarding the supply and demand for energy and how the politics of the environment will shape the future.

The Thursday keynote luncheon will feature a debate on the Alaska natural gas pipeline issue. Jeff B. Lowenfels, Vice President of Yukon Pacific Corporation, and Cuba Wadlington, Vice President for Regulatory Affairs of Northwest Alaska Pipeline Company, will spar off on the subject, "Battle for the Gas Rights."

The conference is designed to educate its participants on critical issues facing Alaska, as well as intensify

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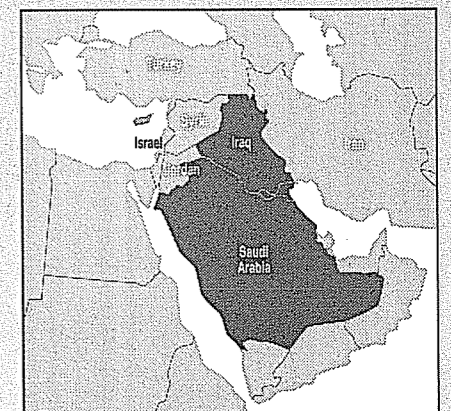
A terrible price for war

A new study compiled by the Center for Defense Information estimates it would take the United States three months and \$50 billion to win a war against Iraq, but in the process 65,000 lives would be lost on both sides while another 230,000 people would be wounded.

In order to defeat Iraq, massive air strikes as well as an invasion of Iraq with armored forces and infantry would be required. The war would probably not end without the capture of Baghdad.

European and U.S. military experts described the Center's war scenario as a realistic assessment of how a war might be waged and how much it might cost.

The U.S. could sustain approximately 45,000 casualties while the Iraqi military would suffer about 150,000

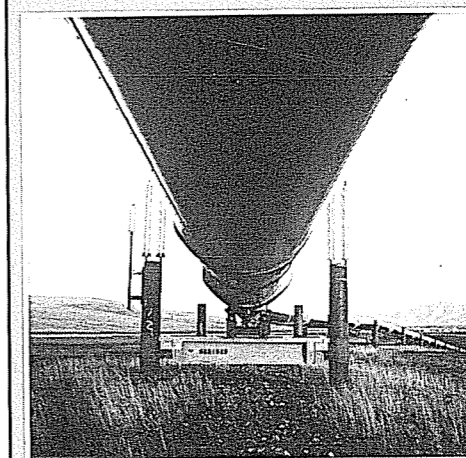


casualties. The study estimates that up to 100,000 civilian casualties could occur from air strikes and the battle for Baghdad. The French estimate that over 100,000 people would be killed on both sides if all-out fighting breaks out.

The major unrest in the fragile, oil-rich Persian Gulf region has refocused national attention on the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Congress is expected to assess the risks of drilling for oil in the domestic refuge with the costs and risks associated with sending hundreds of thousands of troops to the Middle East to assure fair access to the abundant energy resources of the region.

Geologists believe the Coastal Plain may hold the richest oil and gas deposits in North America,

(Continued page 3)



Development of Alaska energy resources could substantially reduce America's reliance on Middle East oil.



Message from the Executive Director

by
Becky L. Gay

1990 RDC accomplishments

RDC is ending 1990 on a very good note, thanks to its members, its hardworking executive committee and its state-wide board of directors. Success in this business is hard to measure. RDC does believe it takes many small successes to help build a solid foundation for the continued economic health of Alaska.

RDC uses many avenues to educate and advocate for sound resource development. Taking a long-term view about education, RDC sows many seeds and reaps a harvest every time one more citizen recognizes the importance of domestic production of natural resources from Alaska.

To give our members a glance at the breadth of RDC's programs, as well as some specific results, I've summed up the 1990 accomplishments as follows:

Materials for distribution:

***ANWR Facts brochure** — The most current pro-development brochure available on ANWR, with post-spill perspective. *Results: Already in its fourth printing, approximately 80,000 in circulation. Used extensively outside of Alaska, in classrooms and available for other organizations to distribute.*

***Wilderness brochure** — Best synopsis of land ownership and use in Alaska. Very current statistics presented in easy-to-grasp "buzz facts" style. Makes case for ANWR from different perspective, i.e., no more federal Wilderness. *Results: Most wide-spread use, from Governors office to Congressional offices, trade-shows, conferences and sent to every Governor, all Congress, every Alaskan legislator and key opinion leaders. Presently in third reprint, approximately 74,000 in circulation.*

***Money-map postcard** — Key component in effort to educate America, and therefore Congress, on national "enlight-

ened self-interest" aspects of oil production in Alaska. *Results: Many reprints. Best economic lesson for those outside Alaska. Widespread distribution by RDC and others.*

***Wetlands brochure** — Written from the Alaska community perspective, this brochure played an instrumental role in bringing the Alaska situation to national attention. *Results: The brochure has been distributed widely throughout the state and the lower-48 to better explain the impact "no net loss" will have on the communities of Alaska. Reprinted twice, over 20,000 in circulation.*

***Resource Review newsletter** — RDC's monthly membership publication. Besides statewide, it is additionally mailed to all Congress and legislature, all 50 Governors, a variety of newspapers and over 150 Alaska communities. *Results: Quoted and reproduced extensively, used in libraries and regarded as the definitive publication on Alaska resource issues, politics and economics.*

Continuing programs:

***Thursday breakfast issue forums** — RDC's weekly public education forum which brings a variety of resource issues to forefront, offers pro-active agenda and provides excellent networking opportunities between all sectors. *Results: Receives consistent newspaper coverage, definitely increases public intelligence, well-attended by legislators and public officials, as well as private sector. Multi-industry approach builds consensus, respect and support.*

***Visiting Dignitary program** — RDC is instrumental in encouraging and coordinating trips of influential dignitaries, opinion-makers, and politicians to the state, and in providing them forums, field trips and other outreach opportunities. *Results: Key staff members of Congressional committees of jurisdiction on Alaskan issues such as wetlands, ANWR, energy and natural resources toured the state as RDC guests. RDC also invited the Domestic Policy Council to hold hearings in Alaska to gather public opinion for formulating the national wetlands policy and the Dept. of Energy to hold national energy security hearings in Alaska.*

***Alaska Wetlands Coalition** — Spearheaded in late 1989 by RDC, concerned Alaskans who feared the sweeping implications of a national "no net loss of wetlands" policy joined the coalition to fight for an Alaska solution. Due to the concern, efforts were advanced in several directions - from public education through a multi-colored brochure on Alaska wetlands; community briefing papers on the issue; a variety of media articles and interviews (state and national), debates, speeches, notifying communities on hearing schedules,

(Continued page 6)



Capitol Concerns

by
Debbie Reinwand
Deputy Director

ANWR, wetlands, stable taxation, top RDC's priority list

The Resource Development Council has watched with great interest the recent elections around the state, and has been preparing legislation - some new ideas along with some timeworn favorites - to present to the 17th Alaska Legislature and Governor Hickel in the coming weeks.

Topping RDC's priority list both for legislation and policy will be the ANWR issue. Other concerns include an equitable wetlands solution for Alaska; a stable tax policy for business; a multiple-use policy, along with an array of industry-specific bills designed to create a more positive atmosphere for responsible resource developers.

RDC is looking forward to working with its new and old friends in the legislature and the administration. In particular, congratulations are due to long-time board member Gail Phillips, a new member of the House of Representatives, and past president Shelby Stastny, the new director of the Office of Management and Budget. It is gratifying to see the talents of hard-working RDC board members tapped for public service.

On the ANWR front, there is considerable discussion regarding a state appropriation to supplement the ongoing effort. Industry has committed to a multi-million dollar campaign beginning in January, and numerous grassroots groups hope the state will consider proposals previously discussed to fund an educational program on the importance of opening ANWR. In addition, a consistent policy on ANWR must be written for state officials, to ensure that Alaska does not contradict itself in the national arena when presenting the oil development case.

RDC is urging the new administration to appeal the recent federal court decision on the "no net loss of wetlands" policy, as well as file an amicus curie brief in the Leslie Salt case presently being elevated to the U.S. Supreme Court. The administration should press for an exemption from the "no net loss" policy and should support the efforts of the Alaska Wetlands Coalition.

The governor and legislature should enact a state multiple use policy that allows Alaskans access to state lands for the purpose of recreation and resource development. Cur-

rently, a large share of state and federal lands are locked in restrictive land designations, however, state lands could be utilized to a fuller extent if a more extensive multiple-use policy was enacted. RDC urges the administration to actively pursue this definitional change during the coming legislative session, and would support and assist in any way possible.

Hand-in-hand with a broader multiple use policy is the need for a policy precluding further land withdrawals. Alaska is the repository of more than 56 million acres of federally designated Wilderness, numerous state and federal parks and refuges. Nearly every year, the Alaska Legislature sets aside further land into a restrictive land use designation. Given the significant acreage already set aside for preservation, RDC believes development and recreation would be hindered by further land withdrawals.

The concept of Forest Management Agreements (FMAs) has long been an RDC priority - one that has yet to receive approval of both houses of the legislature. FMAs would allow the state to issue long-term timber harvest contracts with reputable operators, who would be required to reforest the lands they use. In addition, the legislation supported by RDC, would allow smaller loggers the opportunity to access timber. The loggers would be required to properly reforest and reclaim the harvest lands in order to continue the long-term contract.

One major problem that will require immediate attention when the new governor and legislature arrive in Juneau is resolution of the Mental Health Trust Lands stalemate. The administration is in a good position given the involvement of Lt. Gov.-elect Jack Coghill, who worked on the issue in the Senate. RDC believes the two branches of government should aggressively pursue a solution to the mental health trust lands stalemate that reasonably values the land and equitably compensates the mental health trust beneficiaries.

There are a myriad of other topics that RDC and its members are working on and will be forwarding through the legislative arena, as well as at the administrative level. The board and executive committee of RDC will be meeting in Juneau on January 28 and 29, to talk with lawmakers and administrators, and meet with the local assembly. We hope this will be a successful session for RDC!

Tongass... (Continued from page 6)

aside for wildlife habitat protection. Because some of the region's best and most accessible timber was put into Wilderness, ANILCA provided the industry with a \$40 million annual fund to build roads and prepare more remote and lower quality timber for harvesting.

The 1980 compromise lasted only a few years until environmentalists went back to Congress demanding more Wilderness. The final outcome not only resulted in yet another reduction in the loggers' timber base, it struck down the \$40 million provision and deleted the 4.5 billion board feet/decade harvest target.

The final package mandates buffer strips of approximately 100 feet on each side of Class I streams and those Class II streams which flow directly into Class I streams. The long-term contracts to the region's two large pulp mills in Ketchikan and Sitka were unilaterally modified by the bill.

The Resource Development Council (RDC) is Alaska's largest privately funded nonprofit economic development organization working to develop Alaska's natural resources in an orderly manner and to create a broad-based, diversified economy while protecting and enhancing the environment.

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Writer & Editor
Carl Portman



Southeast Alaska loggers not celebrating over Tongass package

The million-acre settlement that resolved the multi-year battle raging over the Tongass National Forest has brought both relief and disappointment to Alaska's timber industry, according to RDC board member and Alaska Loggers Association Executive Director Don Finney.

"Although we're relieved that we don't have to begin this battle all over again in January, we're very disappointed in the outcome," Finney said. "We felt the timber industry's opportunity for growth had already been nixed and we really couldn't give up any more of the limited timber base and still survive as an industry," Finney added. "But realizing the political inevitability of yet another Tongass bill, the version passed by the Senate this summer was a true compromise which should have been accepted as the final bill."

However, the final Tongass settlement fell between the punitive House bill and the compromise bill passed by the Senate earlier this year. The House bill had called for 1.8

million acres of additional Wilderness.

The final package represents a midway point between the House bill and the position of the Alaska congressional delegation that no more land should be withdrawn. Under the compromise, approximately 1,018,000 acres were closed to logging. Of that block, 700,000 acres were designated LUD II (roadless/no timber) management areas. Some 300,000 acres were designated Wilderness, the most restrictive land classification that forbids all development activities.

Although it appears that the final settlement represents balanced legislation, a look at history proves otherwise. Ten years ago when the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) became law, one third of the commercial timber in the Tongass (5.4 million acres) was designated Wilderness. An additional third was closed to logging and set

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RDC accomplishments in 1990

(Continued from page 2)

drafting and delivering testimony. *Results: Coalition testified before the Domestic Policy Council in Anchorage and the Department of Energy national energy strategy hearings in Fairbanks. A technical advisor and staff assistant were hired to assist the group with technical and legal positions. Testimony has been given to Congress and the President. The effort continues on all fronts.*

***Annual resource conference** — RDC's main public event for the last decade. The 1990 conference is entitled "**Energy Gridlock: The Politics of the Environment**" and includes a section on wetlands, as well as the mental health lands, transportation, and a media panel. Critical debates on allocation issues, global trends and energy outlooks by international experts are scheduled. Attended by 250 - 400. *Results: Achieves reaching public, bringing experts and opinion-makers to Alaska in the winter, opens discussion on vital issues between private and public sectors, co-opts Alaska communities into support for development, and problem-solving on Alaska dilemmas, leads the way for resource development projects and programs. Conference proceedings published and distributed widely.*

***Adopt-a-Congressman campaign** — Public effort to encourage direct Alaskan contact with Congress is aimed at generating grassroots letter-writing. Certificate awarded upon action such as letter or information transmitted to select Congressmen/Senators. *Results: Excellent participation by individuals, certificates awarded publicly to generate peer-to-peer interest, mentioned by Congressmen and displayed in offices in Alaska and Washington, D.C.*

***Community resolutions** — RDC's community liaison includes soliciting pro-active testimony and/or resolutions, as well as community outreach and presentations at City Councils or Borough Assemblies. *Results: Big increase in RDC's statewide community support, financially, programmatically and legislatively. Read into the Congressional record due to RDC effort. Gathered resolutions against no net loss policy and read into record for DPC testimony.*

***Testimony and comments** — RDC keeps abreast of resource plans, land plans, legislation on state and national levels and other critical decisions affecting Alaska's resources. Some examples of proposals RDC commented on include **BLM withdrawals for 13 water bodies into National Wild and Scenic Rivers Systems, EPA region X decisions, Tongass withdrawals, state working group on the spruce bark beetle epidemic, Forest Practices Act revisions, Susitna Valley resource allocations, funding for fire breaks and reforestation, Chukchi Sea OCS lease sales, Beaufort Sea causeways, federal Mining Law of 1872, wetlands legislation and memorandum, high-seas interception, shore-based processing, tourism issues such as the South Denali visitor complex and reforming Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.**

Of course, RDC cannot do any of the above without the support and expertise of its members, patrons and friends. With your help, RDC will continue to make difference as the resource conflicts of the 90s continue. Remember, RDC is membership-funded and member-driven. Do what you can to enhance your own membership support and introduce a friend to RDC because new members bring new members!

A realistic look at Alaska energy development



Thoughts from the President

by William E. Schneider

The 1990 salmon catch in Alaska was the second highest on record. Caribou are thriving in the oil fields of the North Slope and in Prince William Sound an abundance of wildlife continues to delight visitors and residents alike.

Yet millions of people across the United States believe the Sound and the North Slope are ecological disaster areas, devoid of life. It's no wonder they have this wrong impression, given the gloomy misinformation campaign waged by the national environmental lobby. For heaven sakes, dirges were held in Anchorage by those claiming the Sound was dead.

The press hasn't helped with its endless reports on the spill. Yet the rapid recovery in beaches and the thriving waterfowl, otter, and fishery populations have largely been ignored. This summer fishermen harvested more fish from Prince William Sound than in any other year. Many of these fish were hatched last year in waters affected by the spill, but escaped harm as they exited the Sound deep beneath the oil. Obviously, and thank goodness, the effects of the spill are less deadly than the dire predictions made by the preservationists.

This is not to suggest that environmental concerns should be ignored, but reality — not emotion — has shown that environmental impacts arising from energy development and production in Alaska are frequently exaggerated. Given the major advances in arctic energy technology, petroleum operations today pose a far less serious threat to the environment than the critics claim.

Their target remains the Coastal Plain of the 19 million acre Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The oil industry is seeking permission from Congress to drill in an area spanning 1.5 million acres of the Coastal Plain. Geologists believe the arctic plain may contain the richest undeveloped oil field in North America. If such a field is discovered, energy operations would consume less than one percent of the refuge.

Although the Coastal Plain itself is not a protected Wilderness area, preservationists are adamantly opposed to drilling, claiming such activity would threaten caribou and other wildlife.

Those objections fly in the face of modern energy development on the North Slope where the industry has learned a great deal from the early days of Prudhoe Bay development. Since oil production began at Prudhoe Bay in 1977, there have been no discernible adverse effects from energy operations on caribou, waterfowl and other wildlife. And while the oil spill was a very regrettable incident, Prince William Sound's

steady recovery has shown nature's incredible ability to restore itself from manmade disasters.

One lesson learned is, despite the best intentions, accidents do occur, but the effects are not necessarily lasting. The industry is doing its best to operate in a way that will not harm nature. Its environmental awareness is genuine, not a public relations move. It's good business, and bad business to do otherwise. Accidents are costly as Exxon can testify after spending billions of dollars to accelerate the recovery process in the Sound.

Today the Coastal Plain of ANWR stands as an alternative to petroleum imports from the troubled Middle East region. ANWR is this nation's best chance to curb its heavy dependence on Middle East production.

A big strike in ANWR could reduce imports by nearly one-fourth. This would roughly equal the amount of oil the U.S. imported from Iraq the first five months of this year. Combined with other promising oil and gas prospects in Alaska's Chukchi and Beaufort Seas, ANWR has the potential to offset the amount of oil imported from Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Kuwait.

As Dr. Henry Schuler, Director of Energy Security Studies at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, recently said, America must curb its growth in oil imports and reassess the costs and risks of domestic energy alternatives in light of the costs and risks associated with sending nearly a half million men and women to a region that has seen great strife and little peace for hundreds of years. Those alternatives, Schuler said, must include efficiency improvements, natural gas substitution, clean coal technology, research and development in alternative energy sources and continued domestic oil and gas production, especially on the Coastal Plain where the potential is greatest.

Schuler warned America not to overlook the enormous resource potential of ANWR as it searches for ways to avoid repeated deployment of troops in the Middle East.

Schuler spoke at RDC's annual conference last year and this year's meeting will feature a host of nationally-recognized speakers who will focus on energy gridlock and how the politics of the environment will shape the future.

High price for war

(Continued from page 1)

perhaps as much oil to replace what this nation imported from Iraq and Kuwait before the August 2 invasion. The oil industry is seeking permission to drill for oil only on the Coastal Plain, an area representing eight percent of the refuge. If oil is found, it is estimated that less than one percent of the refuge would be disturbed by development and production activities.

The industry is also interested in exploring for oil in rich energy provinces of the Alaska Chukchi and Beaufort Seas, but opposition has been heavy from national environmental groups which have also opposed drilling in ANWR.

Rough road ahead for new national wetlands legislation

By Paula P. Easley

Before the U.S. House adjourned, eighteen members, including Alaska's Don Young, introduced H.R. 5968, the "Wetlands Conservation and Management Act of 1990." Two of the original sponsors were not re-elected and a third, Republican Congressman Larry Craig of Idaho, moved to the Senate to replace retiring James McClure. Congressman James Slattery, (D-Kansas) also signed onto the bill.

Between now and the time Congress reconvenes January 21, the bill's sponsors are seeking comments and additional sponsors for this first major proposal to reform the beleaguered Section 404 program. It will be reintroduced in the 102nd Congress and most likely referred to its original committees, Public Works and Transportation and Merchant Marine and Fisheries.

Much improved over earlier drafts, the bill still doesn't address all of Alaska's concerns, but it's a good start. The national environmental groups won't like it at all; for one, it takes away the Environmental Protection Agency's veto authority over permits granted by the Army Corps of Engineers.

H.R. 5968's Major Features

(1) It classifies wetlands into three categories: Type A, B and C, each having differing levels of management and regulatory control. Type A wetlands are the most tightly regulated, are not developable under most circumstances, and compensatory mitigation is required if development is unavoidable. If your wetland is designated "Type A," it is automatically considered a government "taking," which requires federal compensation to you of the property's fair market value.

Activities in Type B wetlands undergo significant agency review and also involve avoidance, minimization and/or mitigation. More flexibility is allowed than in Type A wetlands, and permit decisions must be made within six months.

"The most pleasant aspect of this 41-page bill is that it truly attempts to clear up much of the regulatory morass that has caused so much confusion and frustration for entities seeking permits, and endless interagency power plays."

Type C are the low-value wetlands that generally can be developed, after having been identified as such, without a permit.

(2) It increases the kinds of activities covered under



Section 404 to include burning, draining and excavating activities in higher-value wetlands. (Major concession to environmentalists.)

"Because of the magnitude of Alaska's wetlands, we may tend to think our problems are unique. Not so... Many other cities and states are experiencing similar frustrations and greatly increased costs of providing public services in today's regulatory environment."

(3) It requires that public and private interests (not just the wetlands values) such as need for the project, cost of alternatives, etc., be evaluated in determining if and how wetlands activity may occur.

(4) It excludes from classification any wetlands temporarily or unintentionally created by adjacent development activity, i.e., manmade wetlands.

(5) It mandates clearcut standards requiring that all three criteria—hydrology, hydrophytic vegetation and hydric soils—must be present in wetlands delineations, not just one or two. It also clarifies that vegetation can't be called "hydrophytic" if it is more typically adapted to dry rather than wet soil conditions.

(6) It directs the federal agencies to assure that their delineation standards do not conclude that wetlands hydrology exists unless water is present at the surface for at least 21 days during the growing season, rather than seven as is now the case.

(7) It encourages creation of public or private mitigation banks within states and authorizes credits for Type A and B wetlands that are permanently protected in national conservation units in states that have lost less than 25% of their wetlands. (There will be bloody battles over this provision.) The only states in this category are Alaska, Maine, West Virginia and Georgia, and the credit would be on an acre-for-acre or value-for-value basis.

The most pleasant aspect of this 41-page bill is that it truly



Alaska has an exemplary wetlands preservation record. About 99.95% of its wetlands have been preserved, only 80,000 of 170 million acres have been utilized since 1867.

attempts to clear up much of the regulatory morass that has caused so much confusion and frustration for entities seeking permits, and endless interagency power plays. One gets the distant impression that the bill's sponsors are fed up with complaints by irate constituents about arbitrary actions, threats, permit elevations and differing agency requirements.

Because of the magnitude of Alaska's wetlands, we may tend to think our problems are unique. Not so. Since being appointed to the board of the Nationwide Public Projects Coalition, I have learned that many other cities and states are experiencing similar frustrations and greatly increased costs of providing public services in today's regulatory environment.

Also, most of the areas outside Alaska are subject to far more severe development pressures than is the case here. Imagine: 49% of fast-growing Florida is "jurisdictional" wetlands! Other states with high wetlands percentages are Louisiana (53%), Arkansas (26%), Minnesota (23%), Michigan (22%), South Carolina (24%), North Carolina (22%), New York (20%) and Delaware (27%). Eight other states have between 10% and 20% wetlands. (For the first time I know of, we have an issue in common with eastern and southern states!)

To learn more about how other communities are dealing with the federal agencies' efforts to implement "no net loss" of wetlands, Mayor Fink has contacted 809 cities with populations of over 50,000. Responses will be compiled and forwarded to the White House. Speaking of the White House, the President's Domestic Policy Council Task Force on Wetlands is just now — after concluding work on the Clean Air Act — shifting through hundreds of hours of public comment gathered during hearings held around the country, including Anchorage, last summer.

Rest assured the wetlands battle will heat up considerably in 1991, both on the administrative and legislative fronts. Alaska government, industry and private property owners had better be prepared to protect their significant interests in the outcome. Fortunately the Alaska wetlands Coalition, which has retained former Undersecretary of the Interior Bill Horn as its Washington representative, is right up there in the driver's seat.

Paula Easley is Director of the Department of Economic Development and Planning for the Municipality of Anchorage.

Energy conference to address politics of the environment

(Continued from page 1)

the debate on distinctly Alaska dilemmas.

The opening segment of the conference will address current global energy events and will feature a panel of editors and publishers from Alaska's leading newspapers focusing on a press perspective on environmentalism and energy in the 1990s. Panelists include Lew Williams, Publisher of the Ketchikan Daily News, Carl Sampson, Editor-in-Chief of the Juneau Empire, Dan Joling, Managing Editor of the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, Bill Tobin, Editorial Page Editor of The Anchorage Times and Matt Zency, Editorial Board of the Anchorage Daily News.

The afternoon segment on Wednesday will address the emerging national wetlands policy and its impact on Alaska energy development, private property, community expansion and resource development on public lands. Practical solutions to Alaska's wetlands dilemma will also be discussed. Speakers include Dr. John W. Mitchell, Senior Vice President and Economist with U.S. Bancorp in Portland, Oregon, Dr. Jay Leitch, Associate Professor at North Dakota State University, Dr. Bernard N. Goode, a nationally-recognized environmental engineering authority from Burke, Virginia and Roger Herrera of BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc.

The Thursday morning program will open with an in-depth panel discussion on the "Mental Health Trust Lands Dispute: What's at Stake for Alaska?" Panelists include Jeff Jessee, Supervising Attorney for Advocacy Service, Mark Kroloff, Vice President and General Counsel for Cook Inlet Region, Inc., Tom Hawkins, Deputy Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Joe Usibelli, Jr., President of Usibelli Coal Mine, Inc., and Dan Keck, Mayor of the City and Borough of Sitka.

The ramifications of rising energy costs on transportation will also be addressed Thursday morning. Dennis Bird, the Managing Director of the Anchorage Global Plex for Federal Express, will join Larry Anderson, Vice President of MarkAir, in the transportation presentation. The session will conclude following an address from Al Parrish, President of Westmark Hotels, Inc., on projected impacts of the energy shock on tourism.

The final afternoon of the conference is dedicated to Alaska's role in the development and implementation of a national energy strategy. Featured speakers include former Governor Dixy Lee Ray of Washington state, Julian Darley, President, BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc., Dr. Eli Bergman, Executive Director of Americans for Energy Independence, Washington, D.C., and Peter Meisen, Director of the Global Energy Network, San Diego.

To register for the energy conference, call RDC at 276-0700.