They maintained the FEIS failed to adequately address alternative means of access and did not sufficiently address potential socio-environmental impacts of road construction or impacts of—or alternatives to—the developed mine. They also felt the decision jeopardized the proposed wilderness status of the Misty Fjords area.

Watson's decision will be reviewed by the regional forester in Juneau. If opponents are not satisfied, they may then appeal to the chief forester of the United States in Washington, D.C. After all administrative appeals are exhausted the final decision could be challenged in the courts.

Because of the importance of this decision to the Ketchikan area and the possible implications for future mineral development in the State, OMAR will keep you informed of developments and any action required.

TRILLION TONS OF IT

The University of Alaska, Fairbanks, may be selected as one of ten coal research laboratories to be established in the United States under Title VIII of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977. The Act requires laboratories to be located at institutions of higher education in states having abundant coal reserves, with at lease one facility established within each of the major coal provinces recognized by the Bureau of Mines, including Alaska. Title VIII further stipulates that selected universities must have currently active programs in coal research and the capacity to establish and operate the facility assisted under the Title.

The University of Alaska is active in coal research, stimulated several years ago by a

WESTERN STATES TO UNITE ON RESOURCE ISSUES

A Western States Coalition is being formed to address regional and national resource management issues in the thirteen western states.

An organizational meeting of labor, industry and legislative representatives will be held in Spokane, Washington, February 12 and 13. Seven states will be involved in the first meeting—Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California, Montana, Idaho and Utah. At that time the organization will be established that can then identify projects and procedures.

OMAR and the Western Environmental Trade Association based in Seattle are working together on organizational details.

OMAR FORMS NEW DIVISIONS

Five divisions have been established in the statewide operation of the Organization for the Management of Alaska's Resources. In a January 19 release, Robert Fleming, OMAR President, announced formation of the divisions "to more effectively deal with the vast complexity of resource development issues facing Alaska."

The five divisions are: (1) Land, Minerals and Energy, (2) Forestry and Agriculture, (3) Fisheries, (4) Transportation and (5) Recreation and Tourism. Technical advisors are being selected for each division. Management of division activities will be the responsibility of five division directors.

Housewarming To Be Announced

OMAR's new home: 627 West Third, Anchorage, 99510. Same box number: Box 516, Anchorage, 99510. Open house will be held soon after moving day, January 30.

Right Words, Wrong Section

A letter enclosed with your December 1977 Resource Review stated "Business contributions are tax deductible as ordinary business expense under Sec. 501 (c) 3 of the Internal Revenue Code." The section referred to 501 (c) 6.

Land use is certain to be a key issue, according to Paula Easley, OMAR executive director. "Regulations affecting national timber land, of which some 80% lies in the western states, coal and mineral extraction, agricultural reclamation, water, energy and transportation—these are areas in which the coalition may focus," said Easley. "By working as a strong coalition, the western states will have substantially more impact than would each state fighting its own battle."

OMAR executive committee member Guy Stringham stated: "The suggestion that Alaska become active in this type effort has been made numerous times over the years. It's exciting to have it finally under way."

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NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

"The combination of Alaska's energy resources—oil, gas, coal, uranium, wood, hydro and geothermal power—and energy operations—such as TAPS, Cook Inlet, the Kenai and North Pole refineries, the U'ishballi Coal Mine—makes Alaska the energy center of the world," said Dr. Gene Rutledge at OMAR's January 5 meeting. Rutledge is Project Leader of the Alaska Regional Energy Resource Planning Project.

With this combination Dr. Rutledge hopes to see Alaska become the "energy education center" of the world. Rutledge is working with Alaska Methodist University to assess interest in developing a "Pacific-Polar Rims Energy Institute." Rutledge sees the Institute as a center for research and planning projects related to Pacific-Polar Rims energy resources.

"A new course on Alaska's energy resources is being offered by Dr. Rutledge at AMU this semester. OMAR staff members Judy Rolle and Donna Dent are enrolled."

Fleming stated the new management plan would enable statewide members to concentrate their activities in specific areas of interest and to develop information for the entire organization and public.

Fleming also announced that individuals, businesses and governments will now be able to earmark contributions to any of the five divisions.

OMAR was incorporated in April 1975 "to insure the wise management of Alaska's natural resources for the benefit to all Americans" and has a membership of over 6,000. Persons wishing to work with OMAR are urged to contact OMAR headquarters in Anchorage.
Three million dollars of Corps of Engineers' funds have been given to the Corps' Alaska District to gather additional data to supplement its feasibility study of the power potential of the Upper Susitna River. At Congressional direction, the Corps prepared a feasibility study of the possible construction of two dams on the river, some 110 miles north of Anchorage, to provide electric power for the "Rainbelt" area from Fairbanks to the Kenai Peninsula. The dams, which could supply more than 60% of Rainbelt power needs, would constitute the largest hydroelectric project in North America. The Corps' environmental impact statement on the $2.1 billion project came under sharp attack by critics for not sufficiently addressing possible seismic problems. However, Colonel George R. Robertson, Alaska District Engineer, told OMA that the Corps recognizes that additional data must be obtained to evaluate the seismic conditions and to develop ways to insure the economic viabilities of constructing dams in that environment, and has included more than $1 million for these investigations in the plan of study covering Phase 1. Recommendation for a go-no-go decision will not be made until completion of this four-year effort costing about $25 million. Phase 1 will include more complete environmental study, cost-benefit analyses, advance engineering and design work.

The Alaska District was allocated the $3 million to expand the 1975 feasibility study of foundation conditions at the proposed Watana dam site, and to perform other technical and economic studies before Phase 1 investigations are initiated. Senator Mike Gravel continues his efforts to amend the Water Resources Act of 1974 to make it possible for the state to proceed as rapidly as possible with this much-needed project to reduce power costs for Alaskan citizens.

Don Easley has headed the Susitna Dam Project for OMA since 1975. The ad was placed by the Bank of America's World Banking Division. Seems an odd way to promote a badly-needed project supporting. Hammond will request legislative funding of $5 million this year and another $8 to 10 million next year to place 50,000 acres of Delta land into production. The Corps is confident the venture could become profitable within a few years. Front end money would be used to clear land, divide it into farmable units and convey agricultural rights to farmers. Federal funds may be available to assist with land clearing and certain other costs.

In mid-January, Governor Hammond announced plans to create the "Alaska Agriculture Action Group" to coordinate future agriculture development and recommend agricultural projects "in which the state can and should play a legitimate role of encouragement and front end assistance." The governor said some 8 million acres of Alaskan land were suitable for cultivation and another 89 million suitable for livestock pasture. To help the industry become self-sufficient, Hammond will request legislative funding of $5 million this year and another $8 to 10 million next year to place 50,000 acres of Delta land into production. The Corps is confident the venture could become profitable within a few years. Front end money would be used to clear land, divide it into farmable units and convey agricultural rights to farmers. Federal funds may be available to assist with land clearing and certain other costs. OMA, an advocate of this project for over a year, will support legislative funding.

On the subject of an oil and natural gas-based petrochemicals industry in Alaska, Governor Hammond recently commented, "I'm not saying I will absolutely oppose any subsidy whatsoever," and "I am disinclined because I don't think it is necessary. But I am willing to take a look at a modest subsidy if it reflects a broad, collective public benefit that couldn't be met as well by using the money for something else." OMA, aware of political implications of the subsidy issue, is researching pros and cons of loan guarantees, capital loans, bond financing, tax holidays and other industrial incentives and exploring subsidy policies of other oil-producing states, with the assistance of A. Karmit Black, Vice President of the Pace Company consulting firm.即可.