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APR 29 2002

April 26, 2002

Mr. Krag-Johnsen
Denali Commission
510 'L' Street, Suite 410
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Mr. Johnsen:

Attached is the FY02 second quarter report for Tanana Chiefs Rural Utility Business Advisor Pilot Project. The report includes accomplishments of OEH funded for the period January 1, 2002 through March 31, 2001.

If you have any questions concerning the report or the administration of the grant please contact my office at 907-451-6682 ext. 3433.

Sincerely,



Peter Wallis,
Dir. Office of Environmental Health

Quarterly Progress Report

Quarter ending March 2002

Grant Number: 801246

Services provided to local governments, owners, managers and operators of rural utility systems and projects.

As reported the RUBA transitioned to state employment.

Progress on training and education of the Contractor's Rural Utility Business Advisor.

The position was advertised with little success until March. There were a couple of applicants that stood out with one very outstanding. Interviews were conducted and the position was offered and accepted. The new RUBA will start work on March 26. His name is Darryl Thompson.

Although it took a while to get someone hired, we are all excited about the new hire. He formerly worked in Togiak where he was the utility director and project coordinator for the City of Togiak. He was responsible for changing the Togiak Utilities into an organization with no cash reserves to one with reserves and an effective collection program. He has a level one certificate and comes highly recommended. His background and experience provides him with more than adequate tools to be up and running in this position with little lag time.

Status on the "partnering" approach effectiveness and suggestions for improvement.

The working relationship itself is excellent. DCED and TCC coordinate on formal classes. In this quarter a class was held on Advance Utility Management in February.

Staff from both TCC and the state coordinate very closely. We comment and advise on the community plans before they are finalized. We aim for quarterly coordination meetings and share a travel calendar. TCC and DCED meet regularly to coordinate activities and meet formally twice a year with other state and government entities to coordinate construction projects in the TCC region.