calculate the adjusted standardized amounts and to calculate cost outlier payments, except for children's hospitals. For children's hospital cost outliers, the cost-to-charge ratio used is 0.6004.

III. Updated Rates and Weights

The updated rates and weights are accessible through the Internet at www.tricare.osd.mil under the heading TRICARE Provider Information. Table 1 provides the ASA rates and Table 2 provides the DRG weights to be used under the TRICARE/CHAMPUS DRG-based payment system during FY 2000 and which is a result of the changes described above. The implementing regulations for the TRICARE/CHAMPUS DRG-based payment system are in 32 CFR Part 199.

Dated: November 3, 1999.

L.M. Bynum,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 99–29237 Filed 11–8–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001–10–P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Department of Defense Wage Committee; Notice of Closed Meetings

Pursuant to the provisions of section 10 of Public Law 92–463, the Federal Advisory Committee Act, notice is hereby given that closed meetings of the Department of Defense Wage Committee will be held on December 7, 1999, December 14, 1999, December 21, 1999, and December 28, 1999, at 10:00 a.m. in Room A105, The Nash Building, 1400 Key Boulevard, Rosslyn, Virginia.

Under the provisions of section 10(d) of Public Law 92–463, the Department of Defense has determined that the meetings meet the criteria to close meetings to the public because the matters to be considered are related to internal rules and practices of the Department of Defense and the detailed wage data to be considered were obtained from officials of private establishments with a guarantee that the data will be held in confidence.

However, members of the public who may wish to do so are invited to submit material in writing to the chairman concerning matters believed to be deserving of the Committee's attention.

Additional information concerning the meetings may be obtained by writing to the Chairman, Department of Defense Wage Committee, 4000 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301–4000.

Dated: November 3, 1999.

L.M. Bynum,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 99–29231 Filed 11–8–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001–10–M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Air Force

Local Redevelopment Authority and Available Surplus Building and Land at the Former Lowry Air Force Base (AFB), Located in Denver, CO

AGENCY: Department of the Air Force; DoD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice provides information regarding surplus Federal real property, Building 1432, at the former Lowry AFB and the redevelopment authority responsible for planning the reuse of the base and addressing the balance between economic redevelopment and homeless assistance. Lowry is located in the cities of Denver and Aurora, Colorado.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Mr. John P. Carr, Program Manager, Air Force Base Conversion Agency (AFBCA), 703–696–5547. For more detailed information regarding the property, contact Mr. Mark Ashton, AFBCA, Lowry AFB, 303–361–0406.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This surplus property is available under the provisions of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 and the Base Closure Community Redevelopment and Homeless Assistance Act of 1994.

Notice of Surplus Property

Pursuant to paragraph (7)(B) of § 2905(b) of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990, as amended by the Base Closure Community Redevelopment Homeless Assistance Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–421), the following information regarding the redevelopment authority and surplus property at the former Lowry AFB, Denver, CO is published in the **Federal Register**.

Redevelopment Authority

The redevelopment authority for the former Lowry AFB, Denver, CO, for the purposes of implementing the provisions of the Defense Base Closure and Redevelopment Act of 1990, as amended, is the Lowry Redevelopment Authority. The Executive Director is Mr. Thomas Markham in Denver, CO, 303–343–0276.

Surplus Property Description

Building 1432 (60,420 sq. ft.) with approximately 4.9 acres of land. This two-story building was originally constructed as a missile assembly facility and was remodeled as an administrative facility in the late 1960's.

Expressions of Interest

Pursuant to paragraph 7(C) of § 2905(b) of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990, as amended by the Base Closure Community Redevelopment and Homeless Assistance Act of 1994, state and local governments, representatives of the homeless and other interested parties located in the vicinity of the former Lowry AFB shall submit notices of interest in acquiring the property to the Lowry Redevelopment Authority. Pursuant to the Act, the Lowry Redevelopment Authority will publish in a paper of general circulation the availability of the property, the period during which it will receive notices of interest in acquiring the property, and the required content for notices of interest.

Janet A. Long,

Air Force Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 99–29323 Filed 11–8–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001–05–P

DENALI COMMISSION

Denali Commission Work Plan for Federal Fiscal Year 2001

ACTION: Notice and opportunity for public comment.

SUMMARY: The Denali Commission was established by The Denali Commission Act of 1998 to deliver the services of Federal Government in the most cost-effective manner practicable to communities throughout rural Alaska, many of which suffer from unemployment rates in excess of 50%. Its purposes include, but are not limited to, providing necessary rural utilities and other infrastructure that promote health, safety and economic self-sufficiency.

The Denali Commission Act requires that the Commission develop proposed work plans for future spending. In accordance with the Act, the Commission solicited project proposals from local governments and other entities. The Act further requires that the Commission publish annual work plans in the **Federal Register** for a 30-day period, providing an opportunity for public review and comment.

This **Federal Register** Notice serves to announce the 30-day opportunity for

public comment on the Denali Commission Work Plan for Federal Fiscal Year 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeffrey Staser, Federal Co-Chairman, Denali Commission, 510 'L' Street, Suite 410, Anchorage, Alaska 99501, Phone: (907) 271–1414, Fax: (907) 271–1415, Email: *JStaser@denali.gov, http://www.denali.gov.*

SUPPLEMETARY INFORMATION: Copies of the Denali Commission Work Plan can be obtained by contacting the Denali Commission as provided in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section above.

Jeffrey Staser,

Federal Co-Chairman.

Denali Commission 2000–2001 Work Plan

November 15, 1999.

Work Plan—Contents

Part One—Denali Commission Purposes and Approach
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- Challenges to Development and Economic Self-Sufficiency
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- Funding Criteria
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- FY 2001 Work Plan
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Part One: Denali Commission Purposes and Approach

Purposes of Commission

The Denali Commission Act of 1998 (Division C, Title III, PL 105–277) states that the purposes of the Denali Commission are:

To deliver the services of the Federal Government in the most cost-effective manner practicable by reducing administrative and overhead costs.

To provide job training and other economic development services in rural communities, particularly distressed communities (many of which have a rate of unemployment that exceeds 50 percent).

To promote rural development, provide power generation and transmission facilities, modern communications systems, bulk fuel storage tanks, water and sewer systems and other infrastructure needs.

Challenges to Development and Economic Self-Sufficiency

Geography—The State of Alaska encompass twenty percent of the landmass of the United States, encompassing five (5) climatic zones from the arctic to moderate rain forests in the south.

Isolation—Approximately 220 Alaskan communities are accessible only by air or small boat. Some regional hub communities are separated by over a thousand miles from their State Capital.

Unemployment—The economy of rural Alaska is a mix of natural resource extraction and traditional native subsistence activities. Many Alaskans are absolutely dependent on subsistence hunting and gathering. Cash paying employment opportunities in rural Alaska are scarce; unemployment rates exceed 50% in 147 communities.

High cost and low standard of living—Over 180 communities suffer from inadequate sanitation and a lack of safe drinking water. Residents pay up to 61 cents per kilowatt-hour for electricity even with State subsidies for rural power.

Commission Relationship With Other Organizations

The Commission intends to act as a catalyst to encourage local, regional, and statewide comprehensive assessment, planning and ranking of needed infrastructure improvements and economic development opportunities and training needs.

The Commission working with existing agencies or other organizations whenever feasible, intends to improve coordination and to streamline and expedite the development of needed infrastructure, economic development, and training.

The Commission may build on the work of both Federal and State of Alaska agencies to identify statewide needs, to establish priorities, and to develop comprehensive work plans.

The Commission will seek the support and involvement of affected local communities, governing bodies, businesses and other organizations.

The Commission will encourage partnerships between government, non-profit organizations, and businesses to expedite sustainable economic and infrastructure development.

Commission Schedule

The Commission will hold quarterly public Commission meetings and make every reasonable effort to maximize public participation in plan development and update.

In order to integrate the Commission work plan with the federal FY 2001 budget cycle, the Commission intends to have the FY 2001 work plan completed by December 1999. This will complete a multi-year work plan, which will be updated at least annually.

Staffing

The Federal Co-Chairman is solely responsible for Commission staffing and administrative matters. Staffing will be kept to a minimum, and the Commission will utilize staff detailed from federal, state, or other organizations to the maximum extent possible. Contract support will also be utilized where appropriate.

Funding Criteria

The following criteria are intended to foster careful and systematic planning and coordination on a local, regional and statewide basis for infrastructure and economic development, and to strongly support local involvement in project planning and implementation.

- Projects should be compatible with local cultures and values.
- Projects that provide substantial health and safety benefit, and/or enhance traditional community values, will generally receive priority over those that provide more narrow benefits.
- Projects should be sustainable.
- Projects should have broad public involvement and support. Evidence of support might include endorsement by affected local government councils (municipal, Tribal, IRA, etc.), participation by local governments in planning and overseeing work, and local cost sharing on an 'ability to pay' basis.
- Priority will generally be given to projects with substantial cost sharing.
- Priority will generally be given to projects with a demonstrated commitment to local hire.
- Commission funds may supplement existing funding, but will not replace existing federal, state, local government, or private funding.
- The Commission will give priority to funding needs that are most clearly a federal responsibility.

Additional Criteria for Infrastructure Projects

- A project should be consistent with a comprehensive plan.
- Any organization seeking funding assistance must have a demonstrated commitment to operation and maintenance of the facility for its design life. This would normally include an institutional structure to levy and

collect user fees if necessary, to account for and manage financial resources, and having trained and certified personnel necessary to operate and maintain the facility.

• Proposals should include a cost breakdown by phase including breakout for design, construction and annual O & M.

Additional Criteria for Economic Development Projects

• Priority will be given to projects that enhance employment in high unemployment areas of the State, with emphasis on sustainable, long-term local jobs or career opportunities.

• Projects should be consistent with statewide or regional plans.

• The Commission may fund demonstration projects that are not a part of a regional or statewide economic development plan if such projects have significant potential to contribute to economic development.

Part Two: Fiscal Year 2000 Work Plan

In order to provide focus for the Commission's second season of work, the theme of ''Rural Energy'' was selected by the Commission to provide consistency and build on work completed in FY 1999. Bulk Fuel Storage and Utility Upgrades continue to be an important part of the Commission work.

The following paragraphs describe in detail, the project selection process used by the Alaska Energy Authority. Throughout FY 2000, Commission and staff will be working on development of additional focus areas or ''themes''. The goal of the Commission is to build on the success of the energy program and increase the number of focus areas or ''themes'' along with associated funding. The themes will consist of specific programs or project areas that show a great need and limited funding to address that need.

Bulk Fuel Storage

Background—The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) documented major deficiencies associated with rural bulk fuel tank farms in 1991 and began the process of notifying communities that failure to correct deficiencies would result in substantial fines and suspension of fuel deliveries. Deteriorated tanks dating back to WW–II vintage were leaking petrochemical contamination into local water supplies causing sickness in children and elderly people. Lack of building code compliance further exposed residents to a high risk of catastrophic fire. Large numbers of tanks lacked adequate spill control features.

Arctic and sub-arctic communities are totally dependent on these leaking fuel storage tanks for heat, power and light. In most instances, fuel is delivered annually by barge. Suspension of even one delivery would have catastrophic impact on local residents, many of whom live in a subsistence economy without cash to bring fuel tanks into compliance with federal standards or to pay fines. Overwhelmed by the cost and urgency of this crisis, residents appealed their plight to State and Federal Government representatives.

In 1994 the Governor and Congressional Delegation responded by requesting a moratorium on enforcement actions until an effective solution could be found. With funds provided by Congress specifically for this purpose, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), working through the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the Alaska Energy Authority (AEA, formerly the Alaska Division of Energy), identified a work backlog, not including cleanup, estimated at approximately $450,000,000. Principle responsible parties were often traced to pre-statehood federal agencies or to a hodgepodge of now defunct entities. No one accepted responsibility.

Electric power

Background—Rural communities of Alaska, much like the rest of the nation, are dependent on electric power for basic life support. Unlike most other areas of the country, Alaska's rural communities are remote (not connected to a power grid) and subject to extreme weather conditions. When a system fails, there are no backups and the life and safety of people are in jeopardy. Funding for upgrade and maintenance of systems has been grossly inadequate, resulting in many systems being unsafe, undependable, and very expensive to operate. A comprehensive assessment of needs has not yet been completed, but the AEA has identified a number of systems needing immediate assistance. The AEA has also identified some opportunities to replace or supplement high cost diesel power with alternative energy sources.

Project Selection Process for FY 2000 Bulk Fuel Program and Electric Power Utility Upgrades

The Commission focused on the most severe problems first by drawing on an extensive database compiled by the Sate of Alaska in coordination with EPA and the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG). This data was used to develop a preliminary ranking of communities based on the current condition of their facilities as reported by both State and Federal field inspectors. To these preliminary rankings the Commission then applied additional selection criteria, including:

• Citations or warning letter from EPA, USCG, or other regulatory agencies.

• Imminent threat to health and safety, or threat of winter system failure.

• Alternative or supplemental community/region specific funding opportunities, *i.e.*, Federal through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) or Sate through the Department of Education.

• Financial need based on existing costs, rates, and income levels.

• Community commitment and support of tribal elders.

Factors reviewed by the Commission staff, working with Alaska Energy Authority, in formulating recommendations to the Commissioners included:

• Opportunity for consideration of small tanks and economies of scale.

• Community size.

• Cost sharing.

• Demonstrated administrative, operation and maintenance capability.

• Any federal tax delinquency of tank farm owner(s).

• Community contribution and commitment.

• Past experience working in the community.

• Unusual conditions or costs.

Beginning in FY 01, two additional criteria will be key to selection for Denali Commission funding:

1. Consistent with statewide energy strategy now under development; and

2. Consistent with an adopted community based comprehensive plan

Ultimately, project selection reflected the active involvement, cooperation and support of federal and state regulators, tank farm and electric utility owners, and community leaders.

Project Management Procedures

The Commission determined that the most cost-effective manner to reduce overhead and adminsitrtive costs involved with managing its Bulk Fuel Storage Tank Program in FY 2000 was to take full advantage of the Alaska Energy Authority contracts and structure, while maintaining appropriate oversight.

Key elements of project development used by the AEA are:

1. *Consult with Facility Owners and Community Representatives.* Staff traveled to the community to meet with tank farm owners, utility owners, and community representatives to obtain information, to develop an initial project concept, and to determine

project participants. Community representatives include municipal government, tribal government, and the Village Corporation. The Commission made approval by village elders a prerequisite for funding. In this way, traditional cultural values are sustained and potentially harmful community impacts are minimized.

Any tank farms that would not be included in the program for FY 2000 are also identified and the reasons for such exclusion are determined. If deficient facilities will not be upgraded as part of the Commission's program, efforts are made to develop a plan with the facility owner on how those facilities will be brought up to code in the future.

2. *Consult with State and Federal agencies.* The Commission asked the AEA to coordinate with other agencies and to determine potential sources for supplemental funding of the project wherever possible. Federal agencies include the USCG, EPA, HUD, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Public Health Service. State agencies include the Departments of Education, Environmental Conservation, and Transportation and Public Facilities.

3. *Develop Grant Agreement.* When agreement is reached on a project concept, and funding has been identified, the AEA prepares a grant agreement and a ''consolidation agreement.'' Grant agreements not only formalize the funding commitment project but also commits grantees—the future owners of new or reconstructed facilities—to assist in project development and to properly maintain the projects in the future.

a. Most labor is hired locally on' 'force account'' by the local grantee or government entity. The only ''outside'' hires are typically foremen, who must have extensive experience, and specialized skilled labor (i.e., welders) not usually locally available. In the future, through focused training, we hope to be able to fill all positions locally or at least within a region.

b. A private sector firm is retained to perform the project accounting, local payroll, and invoice payment, a significant advantage in cost and time compared with government administration, particularly in the context of tight construction schedules.

c. Competitive bids are solicited for equipment and materials. The AEA has chosen to use State regulations for competitive awards among vendors.

4. *Develop Consolidation Agreement.* The consolidation agreement binds all of the tank farm participants and records agreement on specific ownership and management structure for the new facility upon its completion.

5. *Place Project Funds and Set up Accounts with Trustee Accounting Firm.* The AEA uses a standing contract with a private sector accounting firm to provide all accounting and payment services required. The Commission releases funding for projects involving Denali Commission funds to the trustee firm as oversight criteria are met.

Disbursements to vendors for project materials, to engineering and construction management firms for services rendered, and to force account labor are made by the trustee firm only as directed by the AEA and/or Commission. The trustee firm, in order to ensure clear, up-to-date budget and expenditure information for each project, provides monthly expenditure and activity reports.

6. *Projects Design and Site Selection.* In consultation with the project participants and community representatives, the AEA then proceeds into site selection and project design. The participants must agree to the site and design before funds are committed to project construction.

The AEA maintains standing contracts with local engineering firms for a broad scope of services. At the present time, the AEA has four such contracts in place that will remain in effect through December 2000, at which time a new set of contracts will be issued. At any time, the AEA can issue one or more work orders to any of these four firms to immediately begin work on a project related task. These firms are primarily for project design, both for bulk fuel storage and for electric utility upgrades.

7. *Site Control.* Similar contracts are in place with a right-of-way firm to immediately begin work on site control services, including all takes related to land ownership determination, ownership transfers, leases, and easements. The site control task begins in conjunction with preliminary designs specifically on the determination of land ownership. When the project design has been adopted, the contractor proceeds with all steps needed to acquire site control. The present contract runs through February 2000, at which time one or more new contracts will be issued.

8. *Permitting and Environmental Compliance.* Commission oversight ensures that all applicable permits and regulations pertaining to project construction and operation are obtained or satisfied. Among these permit sand approvals are the following:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers developed a ''general permit'' that will expedite approval under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act for the placement of fill material in wetlands for rural bulk fuel storage facilities. This approval process, which is necessary for virtually all tank farm projects in rural Alaska, normally requires 3–4 months to complete but is expected to require only 15–30 days under the general permit.

The State of Alaska has adopted the Uniform Fire Code (UFC) as part of its Alaska Administrative Code requirements for building permits. The UFC was not written for rural Alaska conditions and, in some cases, is difficult or impossible to apply to rural Alaska tank farms. Therefore, the AEA and the State Fire Marshal signed a memorandum of agreement that provides practical solutions to problems posed by UFC requirements. The agreement reflects consideration for dispensing tank placement, tank setback, flood protection, fire-resistive supports or pilings, dike wall materials, equipment placement inside the secondary containment area, overfill prevention equipment, and bulk transfer to small tank vehicles.

9. *Construction Management and Local Hire.* Local hire is a basic principle of the Commission. The Commission seeks to stimulate the creation of not only jobs, but also careers. Local labor helps hold down project costs. Local hire means that people who are knowledgeable about the project will remain in the community after construction.

As mentioned above, four project management firms supplement the AEA's in-house ability to provide overall project management. These flexible contracts are set up on a work order basis—whenever the AEA needs to assign a project manager to a project, it will be able to issue a work order that specifies the particular individual or skill set to be assigned. This provides access to as many project managers as needed, whatever the workload demands.

This is essential to maintaining the force account construction approach that has been successful in the past and has been well received by local communities. A project manager is needed to communicate directly with the community grantee, the design engineer, the site control contractor, and the on-site construction foreman; to handle material procurement, scheduling and transportation; and to provide financial management and control.

10. *Operations and Maintenance.* The Commission oversees the preparation and proposal process, including details on operations and maintenance (O&M) responsibility. Local sponsors must participate in addressing their estimated

O&M budget and revenue requirements. The Commission also supports training for tank farm operators.

11. *Insurance.* The AEA purchases liability insurance to cover damages that may be claimed during the construction phase of our projects, and arranges pollution and liability insurance coverage for consolidated tank farms after the project is complete and placed in operation. To date, insurance applying to the operational phase has been purchased by the AEA on behalf of the new tank farm owner for the first year of operation—no commitments have yet been made for succeeding years.

12. *Regulatory Plans.* A part of the AEA scope of work for every tank farm project is the preparation of all required regulatory plans, including the Operations Manual and Facility Response Plan required by the USCG and the Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan required by EPA.

13. *As-Built Drawings and Project Completion Report.* Closeout tasks include as-built drawings and a project completion report, along with a final project accounting.

Long-Term Follow-up. The AEA developed and maintains a rural tank farm database. They plan to continue re-visiting rural tank farms on a three-year rotating schedule to update information on tank farm conditions, and to provide limited circuit rider services. In the future, the Commission may expand and integrate these programs into other initiatives. For example, every three years, staff or contractors could examine both the tank farms and electric utility systems in each community, update the data base on current conditions, and provide preventive maintenance services as needed for both fuel storage and electrical systems. This may expand to include all utilities in the future.

Other Power Related Projects

Statewide energy needs assessment and planning is being undertaken in a cooperative arrangement between the State and federal government in order to guide capital funding decisions. The Commission is a partner in this effort with the State and U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development. A comprehensive assessment of issues and their inter-relationships will be completed by December 1999. Development of a comprehensive energy strategy is expected to begin in January 2000.

Other Projects

The Commission received numerous local or community specific recommendations. To date, these include economic development, infrastructure, and capacity building projects. Consistent with its published criteria, the Commission will evaluate each of these projects and determine eligibility and priority for funding.

Due to the massive needs of rural areas, and the need to improve the coordination of federal and state programs, the Commission has initiated several cooperative efforts to enhance coordination among federal and state agencies, and encourage comprehensive community-based local and regional planning. As the results of these efforts materialize, the Commission will develop strategies, or ''funding themes'', to most effectively accomplish its statutorily mandated goals. In the meantime it is the intent of the Commission in funding ''Other Projects'' to advance the development of funding themes. When a new funding theme is developed by the Commission, the purpose, process, and deadlines for seeking assistance will be announced to all rural communities and/or regional organizations in Alaska.

FY 2000 PROJECT/FUNDING SUMMARY

Funding category and category class	
Infrastructure: Subtotal	$15,000,000
Economic Development: Subtotal	2,000,000
Job Training, Education, Capacity Building: Subtotal	2,000,000
Administration: Subtotal	1,000,000
Total	20,000,000

Part Three: Work Plan for FY 2001 and Beyond

The Commission determined that the scope and scale of infrastructure issues facing rural Alaska are staggering. The following table summarizes identified needs for infrastructure categories such as drinking water and wastewater utilities, power utilities, and fuel storage.

The backlog of work in the Bulk Fuel Storage Program alone has been estimated by the Alaska Energy Authority to be approximately $450,000,000. No estimate is currently available for some fundamental needs, including health care facilities and telecommunications.

Assessment of needs and refinement of estimates will be an ongoing process. The total of known infrastructure needs is estimated to be over $10 billion. Allocation of funds to various funding categories and classes within those categories (see following table) will be based on a formula agreed to by the Commission at the beginning of each fiscal year. For FY 2000 the formula allocates 75% of available funds to infrastructure, 10% to economic development and 10% to job training and capacity building. The Commission has a statutory limit of 5% for administrative expenses.

On-going feasibility work will guide specific project selection and approval at quarterly Commission meetings.

Of necessity, the Commission's work must be phased over a number of years based on the urgency of competing needs and availability of funding. The theme of rural energy, as one important prerequisite to all other utilities and economic development, guided the decisions for FY 1999 and will continue to be a primary area of focus in FY 2000. For planning purposes, the Commission budgeted $45,000,000 using the Commission approved formula. This funding increment is based on the addition of one or possibly two themes for FY 2001. The theme(s)* will build on the success of the existing program and provide funding for programs and/or projects that demonstrate a great need, federal responsibility, and limited amount of funding to meet the need. A graphic representing the ''theme'' concept is shown below. For illustration, the graphic shows a basic program amount of $5 million (Economic Development, Training, Administration, etc.), $15 million to be applied annually to the first theme, and incremental amounts of $10 million for subsequent themes.

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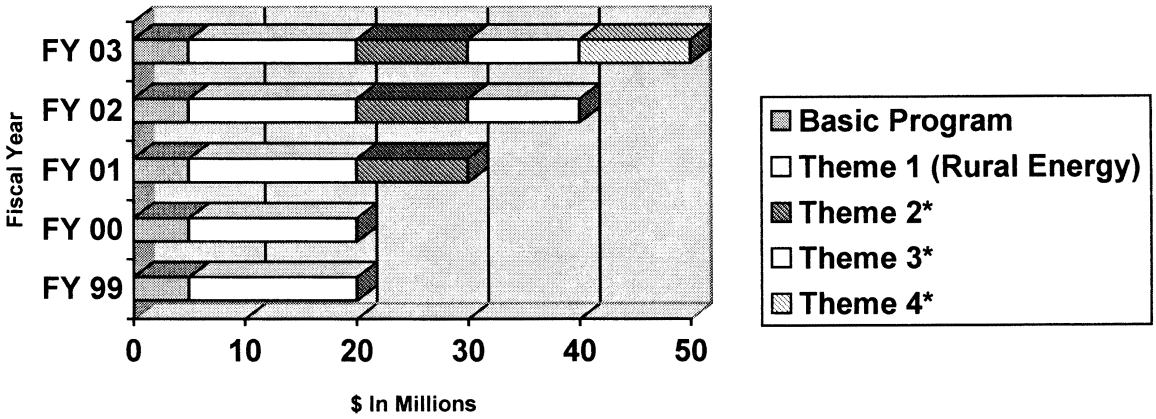
DENALI COMMISSION FUNDING AND THEMES



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The Commission seeks to be informed by the public year to year as to how best to allocate its efforts and thus reserves the option of chaning its allocation formula after hearing from the public. Likewise, there may be variations in specific areas of focus from year-to-year to reflect the public sense of priority and judgement of the Commission. Once the Commission approves specific projects, they are assigned to a category class.

The incremental budget plan for FY 2001 is as follows:

Funding category and category class	
Infrastructure: Subtotal	$33,750,000
Economic Development: Subtotal	4,500,000
Job Training, Education, Capacity Building: Subtotal	4,500,000
Administration: Subtotal	2,250,000
Total	45,000,000

Note: In FY 2001 in addition to other applicable criteria, any project selected for funding should be a part of a community based local or regional comprehensive plan. Additionally, any energy related projects should be consistent with the comprehensive statewide energy strategy.

The following table summarizes current estimates of needs:

Funding category and category class	
Infrastructure:	
Housing Construction/Development	$1,800,000,000
School Construction and Major Maintenance	530,000,000
Power Utilities	168,000,000
Fuel Storage	450,000,000
Drinking Water Facilities.	
Waste Water Utilities	1,058,000,000
Waste Management Facilities.	
Health Care Facilities	(1)
Airport Facilities	926,000,000
Road Construction	5,600,000,000
Port Facilities	214,000,000
Telecommunications	(1)
Community Facilities	(1)
Other	(1)
Subtotal	10,546,000,000
Economic Development:	
Comprehensive Planning	(1)
Other	(1)
Job Training, Education, Capacity Building:	
Comprehensive Planning	(1)
Other	(1)
Total	10,546,000,000

See Appendix A for background Information on this table.
[1]Unknown.

Appendix A

Housing Construction/Development

Need: $1.8 Billion.

Annual Funding: $58–87 million.

Source: Housing and Urban Development FY 1999 Report.

Background: According to the FY 1999 report published by HUD, Alaska has a need for 12,519 new units. At an average cost of $145,000 per unit, the total need for new housing is approximately $1.8 billion. This estimate does not include repairs and renovation projects. The number of units needed has increased from the 1990 census, which showed over 11,000 units needed.

At the current rate, 400 to 600 units are constructed in Alaska each year (approximately $58–87 million).

Projects are prioritized and funded in a variety of ways including grants to local housing authorities, regional housing authorities, low interest loans, and transfers to other agencies.

Entities providing funding for housing includes, but may not be limited to, HUD, AHFC, and USDA.

School Construction and Major Maintenance

Need: $530,183,470.

Annual Funding: No recurring funding source.

Source: Final Agency Decision: 4/5/99; Project Priority List Published by the State of Alaska Department of Education.

Background: Based on requests from individual school districts, the State of Alaska Department of Education (DOE) has compiled a listing of school construction and major maintenance projects. DOE has reviewed the project requests and distilled the eligible projects to list that totals $530,183,470.

The state school construction program is not currently funded. This program is the primary responsibility of the state and will remain such. However, there may be opportunities for the Denali Commission to assist the state in areas that are federal responsibility such as bulk fuel storage upgrades.

The Denali Commission will continue to work with the State Department of Education, and at the point when a school construction program is funded, will work to determine if there is an opportunity for the Denali Commission to assist with some federally mandated component of the program.

Power Utilities

Need: $168,000,000.

Annual Funding: No program of annual funding.

Source: Percy Frisby, Director, Alaska Energy Authority.

Background: According to the Alaska Energy Authority (formerly the State of Alaska Division of Energy), they have needs in the following categories for the following amounts.

$68,000,000 Power Plant Construction and Rehabilitation

$100,000,000 Power distribution system construction, expansion and rehabilitation

The Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) is a state agency commissioned with oversight of energy related infrastructure in rural Alaska. The agency functions predominantly in areas that are typically not covered by a utility cooperative. These power plants and distribution systems are typically in areas where the economic base is insufficient to bond or self-fund construction of the power facilities and other sources of funding are required. At the current time, the AEA is the only source of funding for these projects, and there is no defined funding stream to take care of the above stated needs.

Another interest of the Denali Commission is to work towards conserving energy usage in rural communities. Efficiencies such as generator efficiencies, structure insulation, waste heat recovery, transmission efficiencies, and alternative power generation are all possible topics of consideration for the Commission.

Fuel Storage

Need: $450,000,000.

Annual Funding: $15–18 million ($8–10 million Denali Commission).

Source: Division of Energy (Alaska Energy Authority) Briefing Report dated September 24, 1999.

Background: The Alaska Energy Authority initiated an assessment of all bulk fuel tank farms in rural Alaska communities in 1996. The three-year project assessed the condition of the tank farms, including the total fuel capacity of each in terms of gallons.

Approximately 180 communities were surveyed during the three-year assessment period. Total storage capacity of the surveyed communities is 75,221,754 gallons. Assuming an average cost to upgrade as $6/gal, the total cost to construct new code compliant tank farms in each community is approximately $450,000,000.

Water, Wastewater, Solid Waste

Need: $1,057,512,641.

Annual Funding: $78.1 Million; $18 Million ANTHC, $21.6 million FC&O (Incl. AHFC, EPA, USDA–RD and state).

Source: Sanitation Deficiencies System Update, May 1999, Published by the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, Department of Environmental Health and Engineering, Division of Sanitation Facilities Construction.

Background: The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) is the responsible organization for administering the Public Health Service (PHS) construction program here in Alaska. The currently defined needs, according to the ANTHC/PHS Sanitation Deficiency System that estimates the overall need in the areas of Water/Wastewater/Solid Waste, to be $873,670,525. Currently the ANTHC receives approximately $18,000,000 annually to perform this work. ANTHC has responsibility for the tribal communities and the mission is to provide facilities for Native Alaskans. There is some overlap with the VSW program.

Source: SFY 2000 Capital Budget Priority Lists, 12/16/98; Published by the State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Facility Construction and Operations.

Background: Village Safe Water (VSW); The State of Alaska Village Safe Water Program is a division of the State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation's Facility Construction and Operations (FC&O) Division. The division provides grants for planning, design, and construction of water, sewer, and solid waste projects in small, rural communities throughout Alaska. The currently defined needs as submitted by VSW only reflect the requests from communities interested in projects. This amount does not reflect the overall need. The current list of requested projects totals $105,690,744. The current funding level for VSW is $41,890,574.

Municipal Matching Grant and Loan Program provides grants and loans to medium sized communities for planning, design, and construction of water, sewer, and solid waste projects. The program is a division of the State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation's Facility Construction and Operations (FC&O) Division. The currently defined needs as submitted only reflect the requests from communities interested in projects. This amount does not reflect the overall need. The current list of requested projects totals $78,151,372. The current funding level of this 50% matching grant program is $18,164,200.

It should also be noted that the information provided by FC&O is not broken out by project type, nor does the division have the resources to provide such a breakout.

Health Care Facilities

Need: Unknown.

Annual Funding: Unknown.

Source: None.

Background: There is no comprehensive source of information relating to the needs for local healthcare facilities. Typically, a community or village will build a clinic and lease the facility back to the organization responsible for healthcare in their community. The Commission has allocated funding to complete an assessment of healthcare facility needs during the next year.

Airport Facilities

Need: $926 Million.

Annual Funding: $58–87 Million.

Source: 995 Transportation Needs and Priorities in Alaska; Published by State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities. And the current FAA Aviation Improvement Program (AIP).

Background: The Federal Aviation Administration currently provides most of the funding for airport projects throughout the state. The state or local sponsor will contribute roughly 10% in the form of match. There are 1,112 designated airports, seaplane bases, and aircraft landing areas in the state of Alaska. The *Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities* (ADOT&PF) owns and operates 261 *public airports,* the majority of Alaska's public airports. Additionally, 23 public airports are owned and operated by local governments.

Backlog of airport projects in the state amounts to approximately $926 million ($1.3 billion in an informal, 1997 tally completed by statewide aviation).

Historically, funding that the state receives for airports from the FAA AIP program has ranged from $58 million in 1990, to $81 million in 1998.

Road Construction and Major Maintenance

Need: $5.6 Billion.

Annual Funding: $320,000,000.

Source: 1995 Transportation Needs and Priorities in Alaska; Published by State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.

Background: The State of Alaska administers all of the Federal Highway funding allocated to Alaska with the exception of money specifically designated

for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, which amounts to approximately $14 million per year. Although overall funding levels are up for roads, the BIA share has slipped from $16 million under ISTEA. The BIA funding does not go far considering it must provide for approximately 200 tribes.

Overally needs for highway and road projects were estimated at $5.6 billion in 1995. Average funding levels are estimated at approximately $320 million, up from approximately $220 million under ISTEA.

Most of the FHWA funding stays in the rail-belt, with some funding going to rural communities for sanitation roads and trail markings. Funding for projects off of the road system goes primarily to the larger hub communities.

Port Facilities

Need: $214 Million plus.

Annual Funding: Varies by year, typically between $0–5 Million.

Source: 1995 Transportation Needs and Priorities in Alaska; Published by State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.

Background: The State owns 78 of 95 public harbor facilities, operates those harbors through agreements with local governments, and provides financial and technical assistance to communities expanding or developing new harbors to meet demand and economic development objectives. The state of Alaska DOT&PF estimates that there are approximately $214 million in deferred maintenance, port, and harbor projects. The department's goal is to eventually be out of the harbor and port business with the possible exceptions of Alaska Marine Highway System facilities, and several refuge floats in remote areas.

In recent history, there has been little to no funding for ports and harbors in the state of Alaska. Most of the funding that is received provides match to Corps of Engineers funding. Some funding appropriated in recent years has gone to repair and transfer of selected harbors in the state. In rural Alaska, there is an as yet undefined need for harbor facilities for small communities located in the coastal areas and along the river systems. Many communities currently pull small boats up on to the beach and in some locations, this can be hazardous and environmentally detrimental. The Denali Commission may consider undertaking an assessment to determine the needs in this area.

Telecommunications

Need: Unknown.

Annual funding: Unknown.

Background: Telecommunications and Internet technologies, which are revolutionizing daily life in the United States, are not reaching most Alaskan communities. The positive impact Internet connections will have on education, training, healthcare and economic development in rural communities can not be overemphasized. The negative impact of leaving the rural communities behind in technological advances will only further compound the challenges of self-sustainability for rural Alaska.

The remoteness and sparse populations that so uniquely identify rural Alaska also are the primary limitations for private telecommunications to justify connections in most communities.

Typically, small communities have access only through the local public school or library, and tribes may have access through a program being implemented by the Department of Interior. Private users are prohibited from accessing these federally subsidized services. So, an individual who wishes to access vital information, obtain distance education or training, open a web-site for commerce, or have an e-mail account from home, must use ''1800 dial-up access''. Such service in rural Alaska costs between $200–$400 per month for basic e-mail and minimal Web browsing.

The Denali Commission will evaluate the availability of basic telecommunications, Internet technologies, and other advanced telecommunications in relation to the future of economic development, education, training and healthcare in rural Alaska.

Community Facilities

Need: Unknown.

Annual Funding: Unknown.

Background: Communities have a need for community assembly facilities for various purposes, including planning, meetings, traditional functions, and recreation for youth. These facilities, when available, are heavily used in rural communities. No assessment mechanism is in place for determining statewide needs for community facilities.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP00–42–000]

Algonquin Gas Transmission Company; Notice of Proposed Changes in FERC Gas Tariff

November 3, 1999.

Take notice that on October 29, 1999, Algonquin Gas Transmission Company (Algonquin) tendered for filing as part of its FERC Gas Tariff, Fourth Revised Volume No. 1, Tenth Revised Sheet No. 40, to become effective on December 1, 1999.

Algonquin states that, pursuant to Section 32 of the General Terms and Conditions of its FERC Gas Tariff, it is filing to revise the Fuel Reimbursement Percentages (FRPs) for the four calendar periods beginning December 1, 1999. Algonquin states that the use of actual data for the latest available 12-month period yields increased FRPs which, compared to the last FRQ annual filing, consist of a 0.01% increase in the FRP for the Winter season and seasonal increases for the Spring, Summer and Fall seasons ranging from 0.02% to 0.28%. Algonquin proposes to levelize the three non-winter periods in response to requests from customers for rate stability.

Algonquin requests any waivers necessary to permit the percentages calculated from the actuals for the entire 8-month period, combining Spring, Summer and Fall, to be applied during each of the three seasonal periods so that for the entire 8-month period the FRP will not change from one season to the next.

Algonquin also states that it is submitting the calculation of the fuel reimbursement quantity (''FRQ'') deferral allocation, pursuant to Section 32.5(c) which provides that Algonquin will calculate surcharges or refunds designed to amortize the net monetary value of the balance in the FRQ Deferred Account at the end of the previous accumulation period. Algonquin states that for the period August 1, 1998 through July 31, 1999, the FRQ Deferred Account resulted in a net credit balance that will be refunded to Algonquin's customers, based on the allocation of the account balance over the actual throughput during the accumulation period, exclusive of backhauls.

Algonquin states that copies of this filing were mailed to all affected customers of Algonquin and interested state commissions.

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest said filing should file a motion to intervene or a protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with Sections 385.214 or 385.211 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations. All such motions or protests must be filed in accordance with Section 154.210 of the Commission's Regulations. Protests will be considered by the Commission in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceedings. Any person wishing to become a party must file a motion to intervene. Copies of this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection in the Pubic Reference Room. This filing may be viewed on the web at http://ww.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm (call 202–208–2222 for assistance).

David P. Boergers,

Secretary.

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