

STATE OF ALASKA

JAY S. HAMMOND, GOVERNOR

August 20, 1981

WATER RESOURCES BOARD

323 E. 4TH AVENUE
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501
PHONE: (907) 279-5577

Robert W. Ward, Commissioner
Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
Pouch Z
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Commissioner Ward:

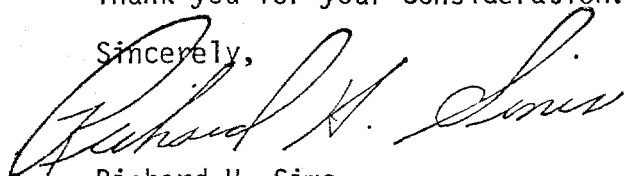
At the past few meetings of the Water Resources Board we have heard reports on the State Division of Geological and Geophysical Survey's resource inventory program. Funded by this Legislature this program will embark on an extensive data collection program statewide. Based on our personal experiences the Water Resources Board knows that DOT/PF should have much to add to and benefit from this program and we are concerned that this might not happen.

DOT/PF builds or supervises many projects in remote areas for which water resources data is needed. When that data is not available from conventional sources your agency oftentimes must collect the data itself. According to the Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys this data is not being fed into a retrievable system, neither by submission to DGGs nor by application for water rights when that is appropriate. This has resulted in data gatherers not being aware of useful information and water resources managers not being able to make fully informed decisions in relatively data-poor areas. Conversely, from our meeting discussions, it does not appear that DOT/PF's data needs are receiving adequate consideration in the development of the resource inventory program.

We believe it is important that better communication be established between data users and sometime collectors such as DOT/PF and the Department of Natural Resources because of both of its water resources inventory and management roles. Alaska will definitely benefit if the data collected in capital projects can be incorporated into the resource inventory program and, likewise, if the resource inventory program is responsive to the needs of data users. We urge you to direct your program managers to communicate their activities to the Department of Natural Resources; to apply for water rights when appropriate and to make data collected for projects available to the Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Richard H. Sims
Chairman