

Engineers form new group

A new Alaska organization through which professional engineers can work together on problems unique to the state has been formed.

The new Consulting Engineers Council of Alaska unites a dozen engineering firms but is expected to eventually include most of the more than 100 professional engineering offices in the state, according to Charles E. Torkko, president.

Torkko, who is with CH2M Hill, was one of three officers of the new group who traveled to the national American Consulting Engineers Council convention in Las Vegas, Nev., to accept the charter for the Alaska organization.

Others making the trip were Walter E. Steige of Crews, Mac Innes & Hoffman, president-elect of the Alaska council; and Charles W. Tryck of Tryck, Nyman & Hayes, vice president.

The other officers are Arthur R. Jacobs of Anderson-Bjornstad-Kane-Jacobs, secretary, and Sidney E. Clark of Arctic Environmental Engineers, treasurer.

Torkko said the objective of the new Alaska council is "to address issues of professional practice as they relate to the conduct of consulting engineering for both private and governmental clients.

"We believe the profession is facing challenges and opportunities without precedence in Alaska's history. These issues are going to place demands on the consulting engineer in Alaska because of his unique position on the firing line in the implementation of major capital projects efforts."



Walter E. Steige



Charles E. Torkko



Charles W. Tryck



Arthur R. Jacobs

He said Alaska's consulting engineers are "facing the demands of an accelerating construction program which will tax the capabilities" of the profession and "the entire construction industry." He said problems are likely to surface because of the short time frame which typically accompanies massive development.

Torkko said he and his professional associates considered it vital that both governmental and private owners of capital projects recognize the capabilities and limitations of the practicing consulting engineer and join with him "in developing competent working relationships that will be to the ultimate benefit of all . . ."

He said the council will have access to regulatory agencies through the national organization's headquarters in Washington, D.C. The American Consulting Engineers Council is made up of 3,740 individual firms throughout the country. It now has a 50-state roster with the addition of two state councils, Alaska and West Virginia.

Torkko said the national organization, of which the Alaska group is an affiliate, has "a record of performance . . . in matters of vital con-

cern to the consulting engineer" which he said will benefit the Alaskan members.