

### Advisory Committee

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Commission Di-  
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Northwest Arctic  
Borough

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North-Slope Bor-  
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Barb Nickels  
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Bering Strait  
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Council

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Alfred "Bear"  
Ketzler  
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City of Tanana

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Specialist  
Fairbanks North  
Star Borough

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Deb Hickok  
President/CEO  
Fairbanks  
Convention and  
Visitors Bureau

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Scott Swingle  
Small Business  
Administration

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## Barrow Bypass Mail Realignment: Impacts Studied

The North Slope and Fairbanks North Star Boroughs commissioned a study to analyze and quantify the impacts of the Barrow bypass mail realignment that was implemented by the United States Postal Service on July 1, 2006.

The preliminary report, prepared by Information Insights, is currently being reviewed and soon to be released.

### Postal Rates to Increase May 14

#### Impacts on bypass mail rates

- The average rate increase for the typical bypass parcel will be **39%**
- The typical price per pound will go up **9 cents** (from an average of **22 cents** per pound to an average of **31 cents** per pound)

## Funding Opportunities.

- ◆ Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements funds available to agriculture producers and rural small businesses. [www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/farbill/index.html](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/farbill/index.html)
- ◆ Value-Added Producer Grants are available to independent agriculture producers for planning activities or working capital expenses. [www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/vadg.html](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/vadg.html)

(Contact Noel Purdy at FEDC at 1-888-476-FEDC or Karen Dearlove at USDA at 907-761-7761 for technical assistance with these USDA programs.)

- ◆ Rural residents may qualify for training funds from the Department of Labor. Contact Julia Quist at 451-3184 or email: [Julia\\_quist@labor.state.ak.us](mailto:Julia_quist@labor.state.ak.us) for more information.

## Upcoming Regional and Statewide Events.

**Kenai Economic Development Forum**  
April 27—Kenai Visitor & Convention Center  
Contact: John Parker—[jparker@kpedd.org](mailto:jparker@kpedd.org) or  
907-283-3335, ext. 224

**24th Annual Rural Providers Conference**  
June 4-8—Copper Center  
Contact: [RPC@ruralcap.com](mailto:RPC@ruralcap.com) or  
1-800-478-7227

**Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council**  
*Beaver Population Changes Workshop*  
April 26 & 27—Emmonak  
Contact: Bryan K. Maracle—[bmaracle@yritwc.com](mailto:bmaracle@yritwc.com)  
or 907-451-2530

**National Congress of American Indians**  
Mid-Year Conference  
June 10-13—Anchorage, Egan Center  
Contact: Rose Ellis—[rellis@nativefederation.org](mailto:rellis@nativefederation.org)  
or 907-274-3611

**National Association of Counties**  
2007 Western Interstate Region Conference  
May 9-11—Fairbanks  
Contact: [www.explorefairbanks.com](http://www.explorefairbanks.com) &  
[www.co.fairbanks.ak.us](http://www.co.fairbanks.ak.us)

**2007 Arctic Economic Development Summit**  
*Architects of Change,*  
*Taking Responsibility for our Future*  
July 9, 10, 11—Kotzebue  
Contact: Jade Hill - [Jhill@nwabor.org](mailto:Jhill@nwabor.org)

## Public Review and Comments.

- Proposed discontinuance of U.S. Air Force owned navigational aids and automated weather reporting system. Comment deadline **April 30**—[www.alaska.faa.gov/at/notices/GAL\\_BRACdecommission.htm](http://www.alaska.faa.gov/at/notices/GAL_BRACdecommission.htm)
- Denali Commission proposed FY07 work plan. Comment deadline **May 18** — [www.denali.gov](http://www.denali.gov)
- Alaska municipal and state leaders take action against proposed FAA funding plan to increase user fees and aviation fuel taxes. Read more at [www.aopa.org/whatsnew/newsitems/2007/070413ak.html](http://www.aopa.org/whatsnew/newsitems/2007/070413ak.html)