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Pat McGuire reports on NASA's Earth Resources laboratory proposal for Fort Wainwright. Mike Gravel's office said that NASA was less inclined to approve the program for Fairbanks. The U.S. Armed Services committee has decided to retain control of the north side of Fort Wainwright where the proposed center would be located. Two of the problems facing the establishment of the center are finding funding to build the center and finding room in NASA's charter to allow for such a center. Gravel and his office have maintained that NASA has funds for the center. They estimate that the funds run from 18-26 million dollars. NASA said there are not funds in that amount. NASA is operating on a tight budget. NASA is working in experimental endeavors only. Gravel said that NASA must approve the program first and then the charter issues can be worked out. Last month several people traveled from the Fairbanks area to Washington D.C. to discuss the proposal with the head of NASA, Dr. James Fletcher. John Carlson, Tom Clementis, Ken Carson, Bob Parsons, Wally Behr, John Miller and Allen Baillon attended the meetings. There was confusion from reports. Dr. Fletcher was not familiar with the program. They did not get any commitments from NASA but they felt the meeting had a positive effect on Dr. Fletcher. NASA is expected to send an evaluation of the project within the month. Costs for the trip were listed. The obstacles to the proposal may be major ones. When Gravel was in Fairbanks he expressed confidence that if NASA approved the program then funding could be found. He indicated that it was now up to NASA.

Legislative activity on the pipeline construction is reported.