



# Alaska Community Database Community Information Summaries (CIS)

State of Alaska > Commerce > DCRA Home Page > Community Database Online > CIS > Results



## Ambler

(AM-blur)

For Photos of Ambler click [here](#)

For a Map of Ambler click [here](#)

<b>Current Population:</b>	277 (2006 DCCED Certified Population)
<b>Incorporation Type:</b>	2nd Class City
<b>Borough Located In:</b>	Northwest Arctic Borough
<b>Taxes:</b>	Sales: 3%, Property: None, Special: None
<b>National Flood Insurance Program Participant:</b>	Yes
<b>Coastal Management District:</b>	Northwest Arctic Borough

### Location and Climate

Ambler is located on the north bank of the Kobuk River, near the confluence of the Ambler and the Kobuk Rivers. It lies 45 miles north of the Arctic Circle. It is 138 miles northeast of Kotzebue, 30 miles northwest of Kobuk and 30 miles downriver from Shungnak. The community lies at approximately 67.086110° North Latitude and -157.851390° (West) Longitude. (Sec. 31, T020N, R005E, Kateel River Meridian.) Ambler is located in the Kotzebue Recording District. The area encompasses 9.5 sq. miles of land and 1.3 sq. miles of water. Ambler is located in the continental climate zone. Temperatures average -10 to 15 degrees Fahrenheit during the winter and 40 to 65

Topographic map of Ambler area

degrees Fahrenheit during the summer. Temperature extremes have been recorded from -65 to 92 degrees Fahrenheit. Snowfall averages 80 inches and precipitation is 16 inches total per year. The Kobuk River is navigable from early July to mid-October.



## History, Culture and Demographics

Ambler is named after Dr. James M. Ambler, U.S. Navy, surgeon on the U.S.S. Jeannette, who perished in 1881 in the Lena River delta while with the Arctic expedition under the command of Lt. Comdr. G.W. DeLong (1879-1880.) Ambler was permanently settled in 1958 when people from Shungnak and Kobuk moved upstream because of the variety of fish, wild game and spruce trees in the area. An archaeological site is located nearby at Onion Portage. A post office was established in 1963. The City was incorporated in 1971.

A federally-recognized tribe is located in the community -- the Ambler Traditional Council. The population of the community consists of 86.7% Alaska Native or part Native. The residents of Ambler are Kowagniu Inupiat Eskimos, with a traditional subsistence lifestyle. The sale or importation of alcohol is banned in the village. During the 2000 U.S. Census, total housing units numbered 98, and vacant housing units numbered 19. Vacant housing units used only seasonally numbered 2. U.S. Census data for Year 2000 showed 75 residents as employed. The unemployment rate at that time was 27.88 percent, although 46.81 percent of all adults were not in the work force. The median household income was \$43,500, per capita income was \$13,712, and 14.29 percent of residents were living below the poverty level.

## Facilities, Utilities, Schools and Health Care

The main source of water for the community is a 167' well near the Kobuk River. Water is pumped 940 feet to the treatment facility and stored in a 210,000-gallon insulated tank, then piped to most homes. An 80' standby well is also located at the water treatment plant. Sewage is collected via 6- and 8-inch arctic pipes and flows to a facultative lagoon through two lift stations, where it discharges to a natural watershed, then to the Kobuk River. Currently, 53 homes are served by the piped water and sewer system. Funds have been requested to connect the remaining 13 homes and offices to the piped system. A new water treatment plant, washeteria and sewage lagoon have been funded. The landfill is not permitted. Electricity is provided by AVEC. There is one school located in the community, attended by 89 students. Local hospitals or health clinics include Ambler Health Clinic (907-445-2129). Ambler Health Clinic is a Primary Health Care facility. Ambler is classified as an isolated village, it is found in EMS Region 4A in the Maniilaq Association Region. Emergency Services have river and air access. Emergency service is provided by volunteers and a health aide.

## Economy and Transportation

Cash employment is limited to the school, City, clinic, and local stores, and some mining occurs. Five residents hold commercial fishing permits. Subsistence is a major part of the local economy. Chum salmon and caribou are the most important food sources. Freshwater fish, moose, bear, and berries are also harvested. Birch baskets, fur pelts, and jade, quartz, bone and ivory carvings are sold in gift shops throughout the state. The community is interested in developing a lapidary facility for local artisans.

Ambler's major means of transportation are by barge, plane, small boat and snowmachine. There are no roads linking the City to other parts of the state. A State-owned 3,000' long by 60' wide lighted gravel airstrip, with a 2,400' long by 60' wide gravel crosswind airstrip, is located one and a half miles from the City. Bering Air, Hageland Aviation, Tanana Air Service and Warbelow's Air Ventures offer passenger flight service. In addition, daily scheduled services are provided out of Kotzebue, and air taxis provide charter flights. The airstrip has recently undergone major improvements. Crowley Marine Services barges fuel and supplies to Ambler each summer. Boats are used for inter-village travel and subsistence activities. ATVs and snowmachines are commonly used in winter.

## Organizations with Local Offices

**City** - City of Ambler  
P.O. Box 9  
Ambler, AK 99786  
Phone 907-445-2122  
Fax 907-445-2174

E-mail [cityofamblerak@yahoo.com](mailto:cityofamblerak@yahoo.com)

**Village Council** - Native Village of Ambler

P.O. Box 47

Ambler, AK 99786

Phone 907-445-2196

Fax 907-445-2181

E-mail [virginia.commack@ivisaappaatt.org](mailto:virginia.commack@ivisaappaatt.org)

## Regional Organizations

**Borough** - Northwest Arctic Borough

P.O. Box 1110

Kotzebue, AK 99752

Phone 907-442-2500

Fax 907-442-2930

E-mail [hhildreth@nwabor.org](mailto:hhildreth@nwabor.org) or [mwhiting@nwabor.org](mailto:mwhiting@nwabor.org)

Web <http://www.nwabor.org>

**Regional Native Corporation** - NANA Regional Corporation

P.O. Box 49

Kotzebue, AK 99752

Phone 907-442-3301

Fax 907-442-2866

E-mail [marie.greene@nana.com](mailto:marie.greene@nana.com)

Web <http://www.nana.com>

**Native Housing Authority** - Northwest Inupiat Housing Auth

P.O. Box 331

Kotzebue, AK 99752

Phone 907-442-3450

Fax 907-442-3486

E-mail [gadams@maniilaq.org](mailto:gadams@maniilaq.org)

**Regional Development** - NW Arctic Economic Dev. Comm.

P.O. Box 1110

Kotzebue, AK 99752

Phone 907-442-2500

Fax 907-442-3740

E-mail [dhamilton@nwabor.org](mailto:dhamilton@nwabor.org)

Web <http://www.nwabor.org/edc/>

Services Webmaster



# Ruba Status Report

State of Alaska > Commerce > DCRA Home > Ruba Community Profile > Ruba Status Report

## RUBA Status Report

Community:	<b>Ambler</b>	RUBA:	Yes
Staff:	Margaret Hansen	Agreement:	No
DCA Region:	Kotzebue	Agreement Date:	
Region:	Northwest Arctic	Exp Date:	
Govt Type(s):	2nd Class City		
Borough:	Northwest Arctic Borough	Assessment Date:	6/25/2005
Population:	283		
Active Community:	Yes	Date Updated:	4/5/2008

**Community Sanitation Overview:** The main source of water for the community is a 167' well near the Kobuk River. Water is pumped 940 feet to the treatment facility and stored in a 210,000-gallon insulated tank, then piped to most homes. An 80' standby well is also located at the water treatment plant. Sewage is collected via six and eight inch arctic pipes and flows to a facultative lagoon through two lift stations where it discharges to a natural watershed, then the Kobuk River. Recently the city had to file an DEC accidental discharge/spill notification report due to a leak in their sewage lagoon. They repaired it using 40 sand bags and hauled frozen leakage to the dump site. Currently, 53 homes are served by the piped water and sewer system. Funds have been requested to connect the remaining 13 homes and offices to the piped system. A new water treatment plant, washeteria, and sewage lagoon have been funded. The landfill is not permitted. Here is the status of the projects: The plans for the sewage lagoon, lift station, and force main are complete. The intent was to finish construction of these during the summer 2006 but due to asbestos in the gravel, NANA has not released any usage of their gravel as yet. The City Office/Washeteria project has begun and expected to be completed by October 1st but to date the boiler just got hooked up and they have been waiting for a plumber before they can complete the project. The Water Treatment Plant design is 100% complete. They intended to start construction in the summer of 2007 and complete the project (including demolition of the existing water treatment plant) during the summer of 2007 but due to a mix up in the ordering of materials, they did not get the cement in time before freeze up so the foundation did not get started. Plans for the two water distribution system projects are complete, the city got the materials this fall and only were able to complete one home that froze last fall. The sewage lagoon project started this fall but will need approximately an additional \$500,000 or so to complete. The city needs to get their operator certified in order to help maximize their points when applying for VSW funding.

**RUBA Status and Activities This Quarter:** Kotzebue RUBA/LGS traveled to Ambler and provided on-site training and assistance to the new administrator on year end tax reporting and financial management. Ambler's city clerk quit and a temporary hire received the training. Hopefully this temporary clerk will remain. With all the turnover for this city, it has been hard for them to keep up with all of the financial management procedures. Although the previous clerk was behind a couple months of financial reporting, they had kept up with recording onto the journals including the payroll which made it easier to complete the year end tax reporting training.

### Capacity Indicator: Finances

#### Essential Indicators

Yes	All revenues and expenses for the utility are listed in the utility budget.
Yes	The utility has adopted a balanced realistic budget.
	Monthly financial reports are prepared and submitted to the policy

- Yes making board.
- No The utility is current in paying all water/wastewater electric bills.
- No The utility has on hand a year's adequate fuel supply or it has a financial plan to purchase an adequate supply.
- No The utility is receiving revenues (user fees or other sources) sufficient to cover operating expenses.

Sustainable Indicators

- No The utility is receiving revenues (user fees or other sources sufficient to cover operating expenses and Repair & Replacement (R) costs.
  - No YTD revenues are at a level equal to or above those budgeted.
  - Yes YTD expenditures are at a level equal to or below those budgeted.
  - Yes A monthly manager's report is prepared.
  - No Budget amendments are completed and adopted as necessary.
- Finances Comment: This last quarter when they had only a temporary staff on board, bills were left unpaid and customers were not keeping their accounts current so the city has been trying to recover and collect what is due now.

**Capacity Indicator: Accounting Systems**Essential Indicators

- No The utility has adopted a collection policy and actively follows it.
- Yes The utility bills customers on a regular basis.
- Yes An accounts receivable system is in place which tracks customers and reports past due accounts and amounts.
- Yes An accounts payable system is in place.
- Yes The payroll system correctly calculates payroll and keeps records.
- Yes A cash receipt system is in place that records incoming money and what it was for.
- Yes The utility has a cash disbursement system that records how money was spent.

Sustainable Indicators

- Yes A chart of accounts is used that identifies categories in a reasonable, usable manner.
  - Yes Monthly bank reconciliations have been completed for all utility accounts.
  - Yes The utility has a purchasing system that requires approval prior to purchase, and the approval process compares proposed purchases to budgeted amounts.
- Accounting Systems Comment: During the last quarter when temporary staff were on board, the policy was not followed. They now have a few delinquent accounts the council directed the new administrator to disconnect if they do not come in and pay their bill or work out a payment plan.

**Capacity Indicator: Tax Problems**Essential Indicators

- Yes The utility has a system to accurately calculate, track, and report payroll tax liabilities.
  - Yes The utility is current on filing tax reports.
  - Yes The utility is current on making tax deposits.
  - Yes If there are any past due tax liabilities, a repayment agreement has been signed and repayments are current.
- Tax Problems Comment: There are no known tax liabilities at this time.

**Capacity Indicator: Personnel System**Essential Indicators

Yes The utility has a posted workers compensation insurance policy in effect.

Sustainable Indicators

Yes The utility has adopted and uses a Personnel Policy, which has been reviewed by an attorney, AML or Commerce for topics and language.

Yes The utility has adequate written job descriptions for all positions.

Yes The utility has adopted and follows a written personnel evaluation process that ties the job description to the evaluation.

Yes The utility has an adequate written hiring process.

Yes The utility has personnel folders on every employee that contain at least: I-9, Job Application and Letter of Acceptance.

Yes The utility has a probationary period for new hires that includes orientation, job training/oversight, and evaluations.

Yes The utility provides training opportunities to staff as needed and available.

Personnel System Comment: The new administrator had a probationary evaluation but agrees they need to follow through with her training needs in order for her to do her job well.

**Capacity Indicator: Organizational Management**

Essential Indicators

Yes The entity that owns the utility is known; the entity that will operate the utility is set.

Yes The policy making body is active in policy making of the utility.

Yes The policy making body enforces utility policy.

Yes The utility has an adequately trained manager.

Yes The utility has an adequately trained bookkeeper.

No The utility has an adequately trained operator or operators.

Yes The utility has adopted the necessary ordinances (or rules and regulations) necessary to give it the authority to operate.

Sustainable Indicators

Yes The utility has adopted an organizational chart that reflects the current structure.

Yes The policy making body meets as required.

Yes The utility complies with the open meeting act for all meetings.

Organizational Management Comment: They still need to get the new operator to training and certified. He is scheduled to attend the next training session in Kotzebue.

**Capacity Indicator: Operation of Utility**

Essential Indicators

Yes The utility operator(s) are actively working towards necessary certification.

Yes The utility has a preventative maintenance plan developed for the existing sanitation facilities.

Sustainable Indicators

Yes The manager receives a monthly O&M report from the utility operator and routinely "spot checks" the facilities to see that the maintenance items are being completed.

No The utility has a safety manual and holds safety meetings.

Yes Utility facilities have not suffered any major problems/outages due to management issues that are unresolved.

Yes The utility is operating at the level of service that was proposed.

Yes The operator provides status reports to the manager on a routine basis.

The utility has completed and distributed its "Consumer Confidence

Yes Report".  
Yes The utility is not on the "Significant Non-Complier" (SNC) list.  
Yes The utility maintains an inventory control list.  
Yes The utility maintains a critical spare parts list.  
Operation of Utility No safety meetings have been done yet. They have put in a request to  
Comment: the Sanitarian for assistance on this. Maniilaq still does not have a  
Remote Maintenance Worker.

RUBA Activities for RUBA staff has scheduled to travel to Ambler in April to train and  
the Coming Quarter: assist the new staff with FY 09 budget training.

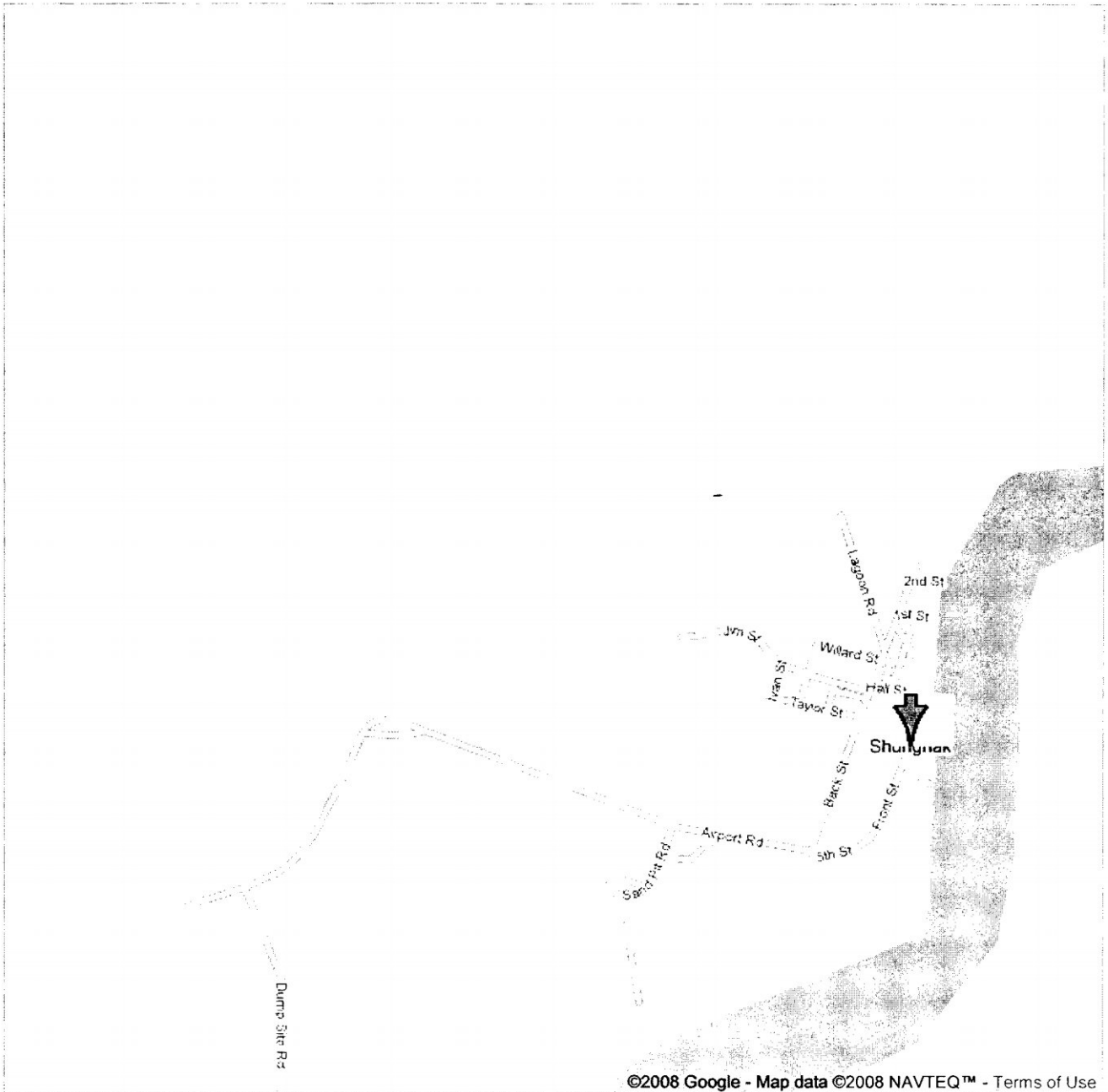

Webmaster





Address **Shungnak, AK**

Get Google Maps on your phone  
Text the word "GMAPS" to 466453



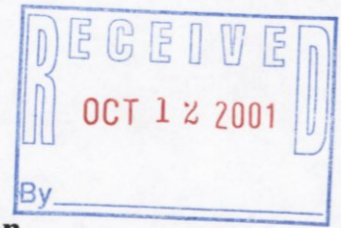
©2008 Google - Map data ©2008 NAVTEQ™ - Terms of Use



Note to file #470.38.001 City of Ambler Clinic

Information in this file indicates diesel contamination was causing vapor intrusion concerns at the clinic. Based on a phone conversation on 4/21/08, a new clinic has been built and the old clinic building is vacant, but remains in place.

Bill O'Connell



Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation  
Division of Spill Prevention and Response  
Site-Screening Report Form

---

Person logging data: JOHN DIXON Date: 10/4/01

Name of person reporting site: Barbara MacMannus Phone Number: 907-445-2122

Address: PO Box 9  
AMBLER, AK 99786

Status (owner, neighbor, realtor, etc.): Mayor of  
Ambler

How did this person come to know about contamination? complaints  
from clinic workers

Location of site: Ambler, AK

Owner of site: City of Ambler

Phone Number: 907-445-2122

Address: PO Box 9  
Ambler, AK 99786

**Description of contamination:**

Include the following information to the extent possible (indicate whether contamination is *known* or *suspected*). Nature of release (new or historic), specific substance(s), volume of hazardous substances (released and/or stored on or near site), types of containers that hazardous substances are/were stored in, media contaminated (soil, ground/surface water, or air), dead or stressed vegetation or wildlife, and acute health risks (e.g., threat of fire or explosion, hazardous vapors, poisonous or corrosive substances).

Complaints of fuel odor from clinic workers from  
historic spill.

**Site description:**

Include the following to the extent possible. Environmental setting, water wells, proximity to groundwater or surface water, ongoing activities, dwellings or other structures located at the site, and historical uses of site.

Map included.







8-29-01  
MAP 1

- \* Site of water/sewer work being done & contaminated soil
- ① Site of AVEC spill back in 80's sometime
- ② Pipe from barge crosses 2 roads at intersection above clinic but I'm not sure of pipe route from point of ② to river



FROM : City of Ambler

FRX NO. : 19074452174

Aug. 29 2001 01:33PM

**ASCG**  
INCORPORATED  
ENGINEERS • ARCHITECTS • SCIENTISTS • SURVEYORS  
301 ANCHOR SLOPE AVENUE - ANCHORAGE, AK 99516  
PHONE (907) 237-8866 • FAX (907) 237-8488

PROJECT AN 98-P03  
ALASKA NATIVE TRIBAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM  
3925 TUDOR CENTRE DRIVE  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99508

This is a water/sewer map of water lines. I have AMBLER CITY COUNCIL attempted to draw in P.O. BOX 9 pertinent info in regard AMBLER, ALASKA 99786 to area of contaminated ground. BM