

CIAP WEAR Trip Report
Kalskag, Upper and Lower (population 520)
June 20-21, 2012



Alaska Department Environmental Conservation (ADEC) Solid Waste Program (Doug Huntman and Jamie Gorman) conducted a Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP), Waste Erosion Assessment and Review (WEAR) site visit for the Villages of Lower Kalskag and Upper Kalskag, June 20th – 21st, 2012. Vivian Changsak, Assistant Administrator for the Village of Lower Kalskag, participated on the site visits. The following narrative is a brief description of our findings during the June inspection.

WEAR Sites

- **Landfill, 61.510595/-160.378706 (Active)** – The landfill was constructed in Lower Kalskag around 1995. It accepts waste from both Upper and Lower Kalskag residents. The landfill is operated as a self-haul site with unlimited access. There is: waste spread throughout the site, uncontrolled open burning, and disposal of prohibited and hazardous waste at the landfill. We spoke to the operator and city administrators about consolidating, compacting and covering the site to further reduce the impact the landfill has on the surrounding environment. Efforts were made to clean up the site during our 2012 visit. It is located 2,175 feet from the edge of the Kuskokwim River. Per the the US Army Corps of Engineers - 2009 Alaska Baseline Erosion Assessment (BEA) study, this section of river is eroding at 1.5 feet per year.



- **1990s Landfill, 61.509647/-160.378184 (Closed)** – This landfill is located in Lower Kalskag and was used by the residents of Upper and Lower Kalskag from around 1985-1995. It accepted primarily municipal waste. When it reached capacity, it was closed and the current landfill was built adjacent to it on the north side. During the inspection, the area appeared covered and well-vegetated. It is 1,800 feet west of the Kuskokwim River and 570 feet from Oxbow Lake. Per the BEA study, this section of river is eroding at 1.5 feet per year.



- **1980s Landfill, 61.521622/-160.353064 (Retired)** – This old landfill is located northeast of Lower Kalskag on the east side of the road. It was used by both Upper and Lower Kalskag residents. This landfill was covered and left to re-vegetate. Buried refuse is resurfacing due in part to incomplete cover, but mainly due to a river-fed slough that is carrying the trash out to the river. The site is located about 3,960 feet north of Lower Kalskag and is around 750 feet west of the Kuskokwim River. Per the BEA study, this section of river is eroding at 3.0 feet per year



- **1970s Main Street Landfill, 61.518511/-160.354888 (Retired)** – This landfill was reportedly retired in the early 1970’s. It appears on a 1979 map of Lower Kalskag by the Alaska Division of Community and Regional Affairs. The landfill was used primarily for municipal waste. The area was totally re-vegetated with large birch trees and no smell or disturbed vegetation was observed. The area was located 290 feet from the banks of the Kuskokwim River. Per the BEA study, this section of river is eroding at 3.0 feet per year.



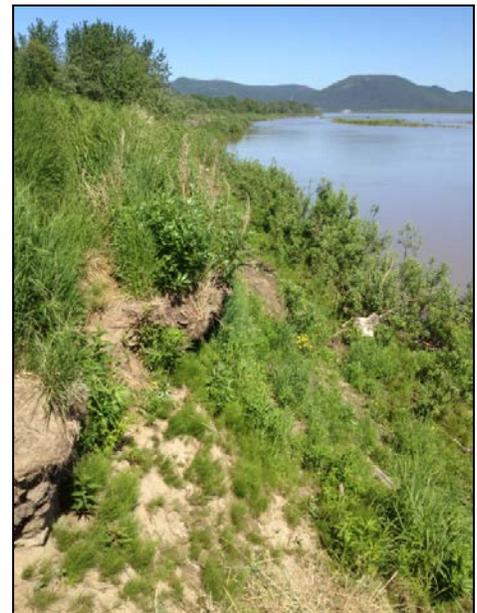
- **Consolidated Tank Farm, 61.526208/-160.348904 (Active)** – This consolidated tank farm is located between Upper and Lower Kalskag. It provides fuel storage for Upper Kalskag, Lower Kalskag and the Kuspuk School District. The tank farm was funded through the Denali Commission and AVEC; and was completed in 2004. The tank farm is located 450 feet from the Kuskokwim. Per the BEA study, this section of river is eroding at 6 feet per year.



- **Old AVEC Tank Farm, 61.512810/-160.363054 (Active)** – This old tank farm and power plant in Lower Kalskag is a Brownfield site under the Contaminated Sites Program (File ID 2427.57.001). It was reported as operational from 1969-2004 when a new power plant and consolidated tank farm were built. Screening samples were collected in 2008. Several tanks have been removed from their foundation, blocked, and prepared for removal. The tanks are located close to the tribal office, a school, and several residences. The area smelled of diesel. The tanks are approximately 605 feet from the Kuskokwim River bank. Per the BEA study, this section of the river is eroding at 1.5 feet per year.



- **Elementary School Tank Farm, 61.512284/-160.361306 (Active)** – The elementary school tank farm has three horizontal diesel tanks: 12,000 gallon, 8,000 gallon, and approximately 1,000 gallon. The tank farm is located in Lower Kalskag about 260 feet from the Kuskokwim River in a fenced area and is owned by the Kuspuk School District. The marine header for refueling is, however, located around 15 feet from the edge of the river. The header is connected to the tanks with above ground piping approximately 180 feet in length. The banks along this section of the river are severely eroding. There were up-rooted trees evident, as well as cracks in the soil and evidence of dirt eroding into the river. It was reported that the erosion was seasonal. Storms in both the spring and fall are responsible for most of the damage. Erosion rates were reported by locals as between 1 and 15 feet per year; and the BEA study report an erosion rate of 1.5 feet.



- **1980s Fuel Station, 61.525096/-160.345878 (Abandoned)** – The old gas station was reportedly shut down in the early 1980s. The site is located near the consolidated tank farm between Upper and Lower Kalskag. It consists of a large metal out-building, two horizontal fuel tanks and two vertical fuel tanks. The two horizontal tanks appear to have a 10,000 gallon capacity. All tanks are up on wooden blocks. There is no noticeably disturbed vegetation near the tanks, which are approximately 60 feet from the Kuskokwim River. The bank is highly eroded in this area; trees with leaves and freshly disturbed soil were observed in the river at this location. The bank is eroding at a rate of 6 feet per year according to the BEA study. The riverbank area immediately adjacent to the site is used as a small boat launch.



- **1990s Fuel Station, 61.509903/-160.362093 (Abandoned)** – This site was a public fuel station in Lower Kalskag that closed around 1998. The site is privately owned by a former teacher, Mark Steer. This site had at least 5 tanks on the property, with two large tanks having at least a 12,000 gallon capacity. The area smelled of fuel, and there was a large section of dead vegetation surrounding the tanks. It is less than 40 feet from the Kuskokwim River, which is actively eroding at a rate of 1.5 feet per year according to the BEA study. Brush had recently been placed along the bank between the site and the river in an effort to mitigate erosion. The site is roughly an acre and a half in size. The nearest house is about 50 feet away.

