



Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) Solid Waste Program (Trisha Bower and Rebecca Colvin) conducted a Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP), Waste Erosion Assessment and Review (WEAR) site visit for Saint Michael on July 31st, 2014. Michelle Snowball, IGAP Coordinator, participated in the site visit. The following narrative is a brief description of our findings during the July inspection.

WEAR Sites

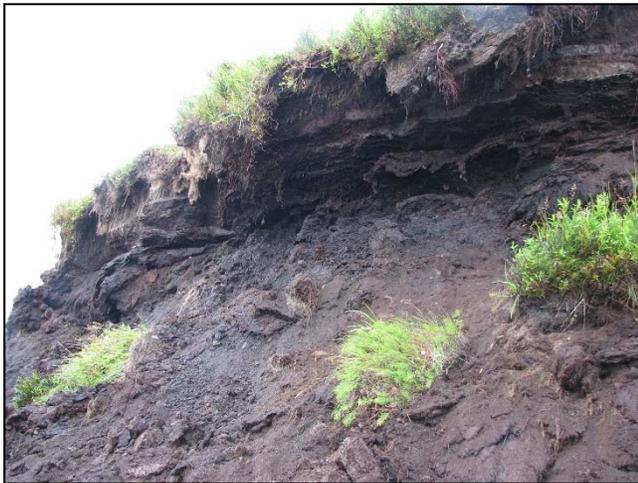
- **Landfill, 63.483465/-162.039482 (Active)** – This unpermitted landfill is operated by the City of Saint Michael and has been in operations since around the late 1980s. A large scale cleanup of the landfill was conducted before the site visit. Half of the landfill is closed with intermediate cover and is blocked off by a line of vehicles and metals to prevent future waste disposal in this closed area. However waste had been dumped along the line of vehicles. The active disposal area of the landfill is accessed by a break in the vehicles at the far end of the landfill. There are two connex containers encasing the active area, where burning on the ground is performed. Even with the recent cleanup, waste is already spreading out from the active area and is also along the roadside. The landfill is located less than ½ mile north of the community along a maintained gravel road and is 1,740 feet from an actively eroding area.



- **AVEC Tank Farm, 63.477841/-162.038179 (Active)** – This tank farm is owned and operated by AVEC to supply fuel for the adjacent power plant. It has been in place since the 1970s and consists of 6 vertical fuel tanks on wooden pallets in a lined area surrounded by sandbags. It also has 3 new horizontal fuel tanks each in three separate lined areas surrounded by sandbags. All 9 tanks are unfenced, open to public access and are connected to piping. They have an estimated combined capacity of 108,000 gallons. The closest tank is located 35 feet from the high tide line and 70 feet from the beach of Saint Michael Bay. The Army Corps of Engineers 2009 *Baseline Erosion Assessment* (BEA) reports erosion at 3 feet per year.



- **School Tank Farm, 63.483085/-162.029172 (Active)** – This tank farm is owned and operated by the Bering Strait School District (BSSD). It was constructed in 2008 and provides fuel to the school and the adjacent back-up power plant for the community. It consists of three 30,000 gallon double-walled fuel tanks in a fully fenced area and is located 160 feet north of the school on the old runway. It is 760 feet from Norton Sound which is eroding at 3 feet per year according to the BEA study.



- **Retail Fuel Tanks, 63.478453/-162.039412 (Active)** – This site contains three horizontal fuel tanks that are owned and operated by the City of Saint Michael for retail fuel sales. There is no visible liner and no fence; however, the tanks appeared to be double-walled. They are centrally located in town between the two drinking water storage tanks. Tank capacity and contents are unknown. This site is located 320 feet from the high tide line of Saint Michael Bay, which is eroding at 3 feet a year per the BEA study.



- **Crowley Tank Farm, 63.484225/-162.007373 (Abandoned)** – This tank farm is located one mile east of town at the end of a gravel road on a spit into Norton Sound. A tank farm has been in this location since the 1970s. It was last owned and operated by Crowley Marine Services until its closure in October 2011. It consists of 4 vertical fuel tanks and 5 horizontal fuel tanks. Although the facility is closed, the tanks and related structures remain within a locked and fenced area. The tanks are each labeled ‘Permanently Closed 10-25-11’. This site is located on bedrock and the base of the site has riprap of large boulders installed along the shoreline for erosion mitigation. It is 74 feet from the closest section of riprap.



- **City Tank Farms, 63.478754/-162.038569 (Inactive)** – This site consisted of two adjacent tank farms which have been in place since at least the 1990s. The tanks were originally owned by the Bering Strait School District, but it was reported that they were given to the City of Saint Michael when the new school was constructed around 2008. The tank farm on the east side had 4 vertical fuel tanks on wooden pallets within a fenced area. These tanks had been removed and cut up for disposal at the time of the site visit; however the supporting structure was still in place. The west tank farm consists of 6 vertical, yellow fuel tanks on wooden pallets within a fenced area. This tank farm is planned to also be removed by the City. The remaining tank farm is approximately 380 feet from the high tide line of Saint Michael Bay, which is eroding at 3 feet per year according to the BEA study.



- **Former Airstrip, 63.483577/-162.030929 (Active)** – This site is an active site under the Contaminated Sites Program (File ID 640.38.002) due to historic contamination that could date back to Fort Saint Michael being in operation from 1897-1923. The site consisted of several contaminated areas along the airstrip including: tar pits, a barrel and batteries dump, a closed landfill, and a drum disposal area. There have been several cleanups of these sites throughout recent years and exposed drums, barrels and batteries have been removed. At the time of the site visit, we could not find visible evidence of barrels, waste, or drums. Future cleanup work is planned for this site under the Contaminated Sites Program. At the closest point, this site is less than 250 feet from the north end of the airstrip, which is eroding at 3 feet a year per the BEA study.

