

CIAP WEAR Trip Report
Chevak (population 984)
July 8, 2014



Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) Solid Waste Program (Stephen Price and David Carlson) conducted a Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP), Waste Erosion Assessment and Review (WEAR) site visit for Chevak on July 8th, 2014. The following narrative is a brief description of our findings during the July inspection.

WEAR Sites

- **Landfill, 61.524117/-165.613004 (Active)** – This unpermitted landfill is operated by the City of Chevak and was constructed around 1997. The site is 8.7 acres and is a fully fenced area fill landfill. It contains at least one closed cell in the landfill. A landfill operator works part-time to manage the landfill. There is a homemade burn unit where waste is burned, but waste is also burned on the ground. Cover material stockpiled at the landfill, which is used to periodically cover the waste. There are separate areas designated for ATV's, metals, white goods, and construction and demolition debris. The landfill is about a mile south of the airport and a half mile west from the town. The Ninglikfak River is $\frac{3}{4}$ miles away from this landfill, where the Army Corps of Engineers 2009 Baseline Erosion Assessment (BEA) calculated erosion to be 5 feet per year.



- **Chevak Old River Landfill, 61.528443/-165.584035 (Retired)** – This site accepted household waste back from the 1970's to around 1985. The waste had been covered for a several decades, but within the last ten years the river has been eroding this area. During the 2014 inspection waste was uncovered and falling into the river. The ground had caved in where the waste was previously buried. Locals placed posts to indicate where the ground drops, but no measures have been taken to move or clean this site. The waste is spread on the banks downstream of this eroding site.



- **Consolidated Tank Farm, 61.525271/-165.591180 (Active)** – This consolidated tank farm was built in 2009 and 2010 through the Denali Commission. Per a 1994 map for Chevak, this tank farm was constructed on top of historic landfill sites which were used until the current landfill was constructed in 1997. It consists of three separate steel secondary containment decks supported on a foundation of steel pilings on a gravel pad. One deck contains AVEC tanks with a total capacity of 310,000 gallons. The other two decks contain 14 tanks with a total of 501,000 gallons for the Chevak Company Corporation and Wayne Hill Store, which both operate as fuel suppliers in Chevak. AVEC provides diesel to the adjacent community power plant. The site is 1,000 feet from the nearest source of erosion, the Ninglikfak River.



- **Water Treatment Plant Tanks, 61.527680/-165.589678 (Active)** – This site is centrally located in town next to Chevak Lake, across from the clinic. The site was constructed around 1997 and includes four tanks that are approximately 10,000 gallons in volume. The tank farm is fully fenced and the tanks are elevated on a gravel pad with no visible secondary containment. The nearest source of erosion is the Ninglikfak River 800 feet away.



- **Gas/Oil Containers, 61.525976/-165.589571 (Active)** – This site is near the new Consolidated Tank Farm on the south edge of town. The containers are used dust control containers that the community appears to be reusing. They are approximately a cubic yard in volume. There are over 30 of these containers gathered together, some empty and some with liquid in them. One of the containers was labeled “gas”, although there appeared to be oil on the ground as well. The soil was darkened and no vegetation was growing between the containers. Per imagery review, the containers have been stored here prior to 2009. It is located 900 feet from the actively eroding section of the Ninglikfak River.



- **Chevak Company Tanks, 61.526782/-165.586047 (Abandoned)** – This site includes a various assortment of empty tanks that were reported to be owned by the Chevak Company. The tanks range in size from just a few hundred gallons to 26,000 gallons. There are upwards of 12 tanks at this location. Most of the tanks were used from around the 1990s until 2010 when the Consolidated Tank Farm was constructed. The tanks are located at the barge landing and are 200 feet from the closest eroding part of the Ninglikfak River.



- **School Tank Farm, 61.532168/-165.584593 (Active)** – This site contains five, 27,000 gallon tanks that supply the new high school. The tanks are fully fenced and have secondary containment consisting of a liner and earthen berms. The site was constructed around 2003 and is owned and operated by the Kashunamiut School District. The school tank farm is located 1,300 feet from the closest eroding part of the Ninglikfak River.



- **Former City Tank Farm, 61.528139/-165.585886 (Abandoned)** – This tank farm is located 60 feet south of the old high school building and directly west of the Former AVEC Tank Farm. It consists of 16 red, single-walled vertical fuel tanks within a fenced area. They were originally owned by the school and were reportedly given to the City of Chevak. The tanks were in operation from around the 1970s-2010 when the new Consolidated Tank Farm was constructed. The tanks are no longer in use and are reported to be empty. This site is 215 feet from an eroding part of the Ninglikfak River.



- **Former AVEC Tank Farm, 61.528480/-165.585547 (Abandoned)** – This tank farm was owned and operated by AVEC from around the 1970s-2009 when the new Consolidated Tank Farm was constructed across town. It is located 38 feet from the old high school and is between the Former City Tank Farm and the Former Corporation Tank Farm. It consists of 18 grey, single-walled, vertical, diesel fuel tanks within a fenced area. The tanks are reported to be empty. It is located 225 feet from an eroding part of the Ninglikfak River.



- **Company Corporation Tank Farm, 61.528517/-165.584802 (Active)** – This tank farm is owned by the Chevak Company, which is the village corporation. It has been in this location since around the 1970s and was in operation until 2010 when the new Consolidated Tank Farm was constructed. It is a Contaminated Site (File ID 2409.38.001) due to an adjacent fuel spill that leaked under the liner into the soil in 2002. Site characterization work was completed in 2003, but no further remediation work has been done. The site contains 10 vertical fuel tanks that are sitting on pallets with large holes cut into the side of each tank and 4 horizontal fuel tanks which are disconnected. The site is not fenced; however, all tanks are reported to be empty of fuels. It is located 135 feet from an eroding part of the Ninglikfak River.



View of three adjacent tank farms located by the old high school building.

From left to right: Former City Tank Farm, Former AVEC Tank Farm and
Company Corporation Tank Farm

