

CIAP WEAR Trip Report
Nelson Lagoon (population 520)
August 13, 2013



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 Village of Nelson Lagoon on August 13th, 2013. The following narrative is a brief description of our findings during the August inspection.

WEAR Sites

- **Landfill, 55.997119/-161.229392 (Active)** – This unpermitted 2.4 acre landfill is located about half a mile west of the community of Nelson Lagoon and was constructed around 1988. The landfill accepts municipal waste, sewage sludge, and construction and demolition debris. Residents self-haul waste to the site. The landfill is managed on an “as needed” basis by the Nelson Lagoon Village Council. There is no restricted site access or hazardous/prohibited waste screening. A Tok Burn Box is used to burn waste near the entrance to the landfill, and the ash is emptied from the unit and buried in an adjacent trench. There are large stores of various segregated waste items including empty propane tanks, lead acid batteries, old fuel tanks, fishing nets and buoys, and a metals pile. The landfill is 80 feet south of the Bering Sea which, according to the US Army Corps of Engineers – 2009 Alaska Baseline Erosion Assessment (BEA), is eroding at a rate of up to 5 feet per year.



- **Tank Farm, 56.006299/-161.177389 (Active)** – This 0.45 acre tank farm is located a quarter mile west of the airport, north of the dock. The site serves as the gas station and houses nine tanks with a total capacity of 259,000 gallons within the fenced perimeter. It is completely fenced with secondary containment. Outside of the fencing there are two vertical tanks, of an estimated 35,000 gallon capacity, which are labeled as spill response. The tank farm was constructed in 2004 through a Denali Commission project and is 450 feet from the Bering Sea. The community has installed gabions to anchor existing wood in the breakwater and has placed geotube containment structures in an effort to slow erosion.

