CIAP WEAR Trip Report
Port Alsworth (population 159)
July 23-25, 2013

Alaska Department Environmental Conservation (ADEC) Solid Waste Program (Kit Persson and Jamie Gorman) conducted a Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP), Waste Erosion Assessment and Review (WEAR) site visit for Port Alsworth, July 23rd – 25th, 2013. The following narrative is a brief description of our findings during the July inspection.

Visit Summary

The community of Port Alsworth does not have a landfill. Waste is either shipped out via airplane or is burned and buried by residents on their property. Several of these burn sites, usually consisting of a 55-gallon drum and a depressed portion of land for waste disposal, were witnessed during the community visit.

A few agencies within the community utilize commercially manufactured burn units for waste management. Two of these units were examined during the July visit: one was owned by Samaritan's Purse, and the other was owned and operated by the National Park Service (NPS). Both units were large shipping freights with vent stacks on top and appeared to be in like-new condition. A short tour of the NPS incinerator was given by a Park staff member. From the tour, it was discovered that this incinerator was a product of ACS, Inc., a Bellingham, Washington-based company. Another ACS, Inc. incinerator is located at the Iliamna Landfill for use by The Pebble Partnership.

According to the Lake and Peninsula Borough Comprehensive Plan – Port Alsworth Community Action Plan (2012), the borough is working on creating a better strategy for waste removal. The community desires the construction of a landfill, and funding for an Environmental Impact Statement and road development is being awaited. However, determining placement of the landfill is one of the greatest challenges since much of the surrounding land is either designated as National Preserve or National Park and Wilderness.

The NPS Visitors' Center in Port Alsworth was discovered to have a comprehensive and well-organized waste separation and recycling program. Recyclable materials are separated from household trash to be shipped out for further processing. This operation is held within a small garage next to the NPS sewage lagoon.

According to the 2007 Alaska Baseline Erosion Assessment, there are no facilities or structures within Port Alsworth that are reported to be threatened by erosion. The majority of erosion that does occur is associated with the Tanalian River along the southwest side of the community and is contributed to seasonal fluctuations.

Bulk fuel facilities currently exist at the NPS visitor center, the Port Alsworth School, and on private properties, such as the Samaritan Lodge and Tanalian Bible Camp Facilities.

WEAR Sites:

- **Samaritan Lodge Fuel Tanks, 60.201657/-154.315713 (Active) –** This bulk fuel facility was installed in 2013 and serves the Samaritan Lodge on the western edge of Hardenburg Bay. There were four, equally sized tanks with a total 12,000 gallon capacity sitting on a concrete pad. As of the 2013 inspection, the facility was unfenced but appeared to have poles in place for future fencing. Two of the tanks were labeled for Jet-A fuel, one tank was labeled for Diesel, and the final tank was labeled for unleaded fuel. The site was roughly 0.01 acres in size and located 215 feet from Hardenburg Bay.

- **NPS Visitor Center Fuel Tanks, 60.197692/-154.322856 (Active) –** This fully-fenced bulk fuel facility is owned and operated by the National Park Service's (NPS) Port Alsworth Visitor Center within the Lake Clark National Park. Observed were four tanks of varying age, size, and shape. Two of the tanks were labeled for AVGAS, one tank was labeled for Diesel, and one tank was labeled for Gasoline. One tank appeared to be newly installed while the others looked more dated. The site was located at the midway point of the south airstrip, and at the time of inspection, there was a spill response kit staged near the facility. The bottoms of the tanks were resting above the ground surface but no secondary containment was in place. The site is located 3,085 feet from the Tanalian River.