

CIAP WEAR Trip Report
Tuntutuliak (population 420)
August 28, 2012



Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) Solid Waste Program (Doug Huntman and Rebecca Colvin) conducted a Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP), Waste Erosion Assessment and Review (WEAR) site visit for Native Village of Tuntutuliak on August 28th, 2012. Elsie Smith, IGAP Coordinator and Nick Frank, Native Village President, participated on the site visit. The following narrative is a brief description of our findings during the August inspection.

WEAR Sites

- **Landfill, 60.350417/-162.684556 (Active)** – The site is a 1.9 acre self-haul landfill, located 1,600 feet from the nearest structure. The landfill is owned and operated by the Native Village of Tuntutuliak and is on semi-discontinuous permafrost. The site is adjacent to the sewage lagoon used to dispose honeybucket waste. Although the landfill is fenced, waste has overflowed outside of it. The landfill accepts municipal wastes, but does not prohibit any special wastes or hazardous wastes. Its operations are very basic: there is no cover material, no heavy equipment for consolidation/compaction, and they open burn. There was a large amount of contractor waste in and outside the landfill at the time of the inspection. The site contains silty soil. The site is located 3,270 feet from the Qinaq River, but is surrounded by tundra ponds. ADEC observations from a 2012 October storm event showed that both the sewage lagoon and landfill flooded.



- **Bulk Tank Farm, 60 60.338758/-162.664766 (Active)** – This tank farm was completed in 2000 under the Denali Commission. It contains five vertical and six horizontal fuel tanks with diesel and gasoline. The tank farm is a fenced secondary containment facility built on a gravel pad above flood level. There was no evidence of fuel spills. The site is located 150 feet from an actively eroding Qinaq River. Per the Army Corps of Engineers 2009 study Alaska Baseline Erosion Assessment (BEA), this section of riverbank is eroding at a rate of 2 feet per year. There are some mitigation efforts in place along the bank to slow erosion. Rip rap of geotextile fabric has been placed in a 400 foot section along the banks at this section of the Qinaq River. It is not effectively controlling erosion as local residents reported having to continually move the onsite village propane tanks away from the eroding riverbank. ADEC documented approximately 5 feet of erosion between the August inspection and an October 2012 storm event.



- **Former BIA Power Plant, 60.34304/-162.666324 (Active)** – This building is part of the Brownfield site ‘Former BIA School Site’ under the Contaminated Sites Program (File ID 2452.57.001). It is owned by the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED). It was built in 1957 as the power plant for the BIA school. The building was constructed on top of pilings above the tundra and is in very unstable condition. Although it is adjacent to the boardwalk, the windows and doors are boarded up and inaccessible to the public. It contains asbestos and lead-based paint per sampling completed in 2009. There was no visible evidence of petroleum contamination outside the building. The silty soil was vegetated with grass and alder. It is 50 feet from the Qinaq River, which has no erosion mitigation in this section. Per the BEA study this section of riverbank is eroding at a rate of 1 foot per year. This site also floods during storm surge events.



- **Former BIA School, 60.342669/-162.666382 (Active)** – This former school is owned by DEED and is part of the Brownfield site ‘Former BIA School Site’ under the Contaminated Sites Program (File ID 2452.57.001). It contains two connected buildings constructed in 1957 that are approximately 85 feet from the Former BIA Power Plant. One of the buildings is slated for future demolition, and the other building may be reused by the community. Sampling in 2009 found the siding to contain asbestos. This site is located approximately 65 feet from the Qinaq River. Like the Former BIA Power Plant, no erosion mitigation efforts are being implemented in this section of riverbank. The erosion rate is 1 foot a year per the BEA study.



- **Former BIA Tanks, 60.343063/-162.666826 (Active)** – This is the tank farm for the former BIA school built in 1957. It is also part of the Brownfield site ‘Former BIA School Site’ under the Contaminated Sites Program (File ID 2452.57.001). It contains 10 vertical, 5000 gallon fuel tanks. The tanks were emptied but were not reported to have been cleaned of fuels. They were on wooden platforms in a fenced area. The fencing was falling over in places and some of the tanks had tipped over from their platforms. Piping to some of tanks had been removed. There was no evidence of stressed vegetation. The site less than 200 feet from the banks of the Qinaq River, which has an erosion rate of 1 foot a year per the BEA study. This site floods during storm surge events.



- **Old Fuel Station, 60.346679/-162.66078 (Abandoned)** – This old fuel station is located at the south end of the airstrip. One empty and tipped over 10,000 gallon fuel tank remained on site along with piping. There were also a few 55 gallon drums scattered from the riverbank to the downed tank. Most of other infrastructure had been removed. The ground was blackened and shows signs of stressed vegetation. The old fuel pump and piping are approximately 15 feet from the Qinaq River. Through the stressed vegetation to the tank is approximately 220 feet from the river at the farthest point. The BEA study indicates this section of riverbank is eroding at a rate of 3.5 feet a year. It is also prone to flooding during the storm surges.

