

*Finding of No Significant Impact*

Environmental Assessment for  
Newtok Evacuation Center  
US Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District July 2008  
Mertarvik, Nelson Island, Alaska

The U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is adopting the Environmental Assessment completed by the Corp of Engineers, in which a FONSI was issued on September 4, 2008. This decision is consistent with 43 CFR 4.120 (D) use of existing NEPA documents by supplementing, tiering to, incorporating by reference, or adopting previous NEPA environmental analyses to avoid redundancy and unnecessary paperwork.

The proposed action included many components:

- Barge Landing
- Evacuation Center Pad
- Lagoon and landfill
- Community Site
- Access Roads to evacuation center, quarry, landfill and lagoon

The total project area identified within the document is 33.34 acres with access roads having a 48 foot wide corridor of development. The Corp of Engineers developed portion of the proposed action, but the BIA intends to complete the development of access roads to a safe all-weather configuration within the 45 wide corridors identified within the previously approved document.

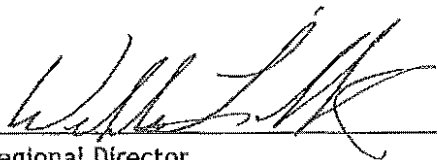
The potential of the proposed action to impact the human environment was analyzed in the previously approved Environmental Assessment (EA), as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The BIA revisited the information within the document and determined that the document adequately assessed the environmental effects and reasonable alternatives. Based on that EA and our review of current information, I have determined that the proposed action will not significantly affect the quality of the human or natural environment. In accordance with Section 102 (2) (c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

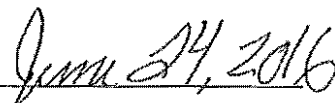
This determination is based on the following factors:

1. Agency and public involvement solicited for the preceding NEPA document was sufficient to ascertain potential environmental concerns associated with the currently proposed project.
2. Protective and prudent measures were designed to minimize impacts to air, water, soil, vegetation, wetlands, wildlife, public safety, water resources, and cultural resources. The remaining potential for impacts was disclosed for both the proposed action and the No Action alternatives.
3. Guidance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been fully considered regarding wildlife impacts, particularly in regard to threatened or endangered species. This guidance includes the

Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703 et seq.) (MBTA), the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) (NEPA), the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668-668d, 54 Stat. 250) (BGEPA), Executive Order 13186 "Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds", and the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) (ESA).

4. The proposed action is designed to avoid adverse effects to historic, archaeological, cultural and traditional properties, sites and practices. Compliance with the procedures of the National Historic Preservation Act is complete.
5. Environmental justice was fully considered.
6. Cumulative effects to the environment are either mitigated or minimal.
7. No regulatory requirements have been waived or require compensatory mitigation measures.
8. The proposed project will improve the socio-economic condition of the affected Indian/Alaska Native community.

  
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Regional Director

  
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Date