

# **MERTARVIK RELOCATION PROJECT**

## **Status Report for Steering Committee**

Prepared by DOWL

August 9, 2017

NOTE: The Steering Committee meeting for August 10, 2017 is cancelled due to “Ribbon Cutting” Ceremonies in Newtok and Mertarvik on that day. The report is provide to the Committee to keep them apprised of activities and issues affecting the relocation over the past month and half.

Steering Committee last met on June 22, 2017. Since then we want to report on the following:

- 1) Community Site Plan:
  - a) Town site design work is complete and accepted by the community. A preliminary plat is 80% complete and field monumentation work has started. Final plat will be submitted to AkDNR this fall for recording.
  - b) Site geotechnical work is complete and lab testing of samples taken is ongoing. Final geo-tech report is due end of August. Geo-tech work did find more permafrost than anticipated.
  - c) Airport geo-tech work started this week; this work will advance airport design by 1 year.
  - d) Preliminary Engineering Reports for water, wastewater, and landfill infrastructure are being prepared by ANTHC.
  - e) A construction phasing analysis describing project components and timeline of activities is nearing completion by ANTHC. The analysis will be the basis of an overall, long-term schedule that can guide future development in Mertarvik.
- 2) Housing:
  - a) AVCP RHA construction crew (8 from Newtok + foreman) to arrive in Mertarvik on 8/8/2017 to begin work on 4 houses.
  - b) House pads are complete and read for houses. House materials were delivered to Mertarvik in early June.
  - c) Plan is to have house ‘dried in’ with windows, siding, roof, etc. complete by late October 2017.
  - d) Barracks Study – Phase II Concept Design and Cost Estimate work in on-going by Bettisworth North (BNAP). Design team met with NVC representatives last week to obtain input on possible renovation configurations and needs of the community. Team will price renovation & relocation of 10 structures that will provide 20 housing units for the community.
- 3) Mertarvik Evacuation Center (MEC):
  - a) LCG Lantech working towards 65% drawings for the MEC shell and initial build out. These documents will be provided to the USACE for their information and review as we need to keep this potential funding source engaged in this project.
  - b) Current plans do not have accommodation for an educational component. LCG continues to talk with LKSD on their needs and plans will be developed that can be incorporated into the bid documents when funds become available.
  - c) MEC foundation cover has been installed by GEI/HC/NVC crews.

- 4) Roads and Quarry Development:
  - a) NVC has obtained full NTP from the BIA for the Quarry Road project thus releasing NVC to begin full development of the quarry and road from quarry to town.
  - b) Quarry development is an ongoing activity in support of the road construction. All equipment is onsite and functioning for use by the construction team.
  - c) Work camp construction is complete and being fully utilized by NVC & HC road construction crews as well as rentals to contract surveyors, geotechnical crews, and house construction crews. A third IRT building has been renovated to serve as bunkhouse for overflow crews onsite.
  - d) Road construction is progressing from the quarry site towards town. Minor changes to alignment near the quarry are being made to meet field conditions; material testing of soils from the quarry has determined the road base materials can be simplified into one class.
- 5) Energy:
  - a) AEA is working towards an August delivery of the concept design report for the community bulk fuel storage facility and 65% design documents for the powerhouse.
  - b) AEA to work with LCG on possible heating options for the MEC utilizing waste heat from the powerhouse.
  - c) AEA schedule calls for full time prime power in Mertarvik by end of October 2018. Full funding of the project is still needed.
- 6) Financial & Funding:
  - a) AkDMVA and FEMA has notified NVC the “Homes Buy-out” application (Hazard Mitigation Grant Program) has been deemed incomplete and will no longer be considered as a viable project candidate.
  - b) DOWL is assisting NVC with applying for two funding opportunities:
    - i) HUD IT Grant – Proposed project is to fund mechanical / electrical / plumbing for the MEC building. This project provides a solution to the imminent threat of the loss of the school.
    - ii) ICDBG Grant – Proposed project is to fund construction of two additional houses.
  - c) NVC obtained a full NTP for Road Construction from the BIA to pay for the Quarry Road.
- 7) Gaps
  - a) Housing funds to provide for the relocation of the barracks or new houses in Mertarvik. Funding budget request will be identified within the next month.
  - b) Funds for prime power plant and distribution system for pioneer phase of project. A \$2.5M request has been made to USDA/RUS for assistance with this project.
  - c) Funds for MEC mechanical-electrical-plumbing (MEP) needed. NVC has state grant 12-DC-550 that should cover costs to erect the shell and some interior walls. We believe the grant is not sufficient to cover MEP costs needed to make the MEC functional for its intended use.
  - d) Utility design: water storage, water source (new community well), sewage lagoon. Also need design and construction dollars for honey bucket / septage disposal pit and a trash disposal pit for pioneer homes in 2018.



