



DENALI COMMISSION

**Mertarvik EIS Agency Scoping Meeting
March 29, 2017**



DENALI COMMISSION

Agenda

- 1. Introduction and Updates**
- 2. EIS process and schedule**
- 3. Public Scoping Meeting at Newtok**
- 4. Update on Community Layout Plan selection**
- 5. Items not to be covered by EIS**
- 6. Topics to be included in EIS environmental analysis**
- 7. Other discussion items**



Introductory Topics and Updates

- Information sharing and websites
- Construction and other activities planned to begin in 2017
- Agency acknowledgment of invitation letters
- EIS is no longer called “programmatic”



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EIS PROCESS AND SCHEDULE...

1. Publish Notice of Intent (NOI) in the Federal Register Mar 3
 - **Scoping period** begins – minimum of 30 days Mar 3 – Apr 3
 - On-site Public Scoping Meeting - Newtok Mar 22
 - Agency Scoping Meeting – Anchorage Mar 29

2. Complete Draft EIS Jul 1
 - EPA publishes Notice of Availability (NOA) Jul 7
 - Public Review Period – min. of 45 days Jul 7 – Aug 21
 - Public Review Meetings – Newtok, Anchorage TBD

3. Complete Final EIS Sep 30
 - EPA publishes NOA Oct 6

4. Publish Record of Decision (ROD) after min. 30 days Nov 6

Public Scoping Meeting at Newtok, March 22nd





Public Scoping Meeting at Newtok, March 22nd

- Presentations by Denali Commission, Corps of Engineers, and ANTHC.
- 39 Newtok attendees signed in.
- Yup'ik interpreter covered entire event.
- Digital recordings made of meeting.
- Verbal comments solicited; forms for written comments provided with instructions on submitting comments.



Public Scoping Meeting at Newtok, March 22nd

Only 3 comments provided on comment forms:

- 1 comment expressed concern whether landfill contaminants could reach Takikchak Creek.
- 2 comments expressed thanks for discussion of traditional sites, resources.

More information obtained through informal discussions with residents after PSM.

- Discussions about cultural resources between the Corps archaeologist and residents revealed potential additional grave sites near the existing HUD homes.



Public Scoping Meeting at Newtok, March 22nd

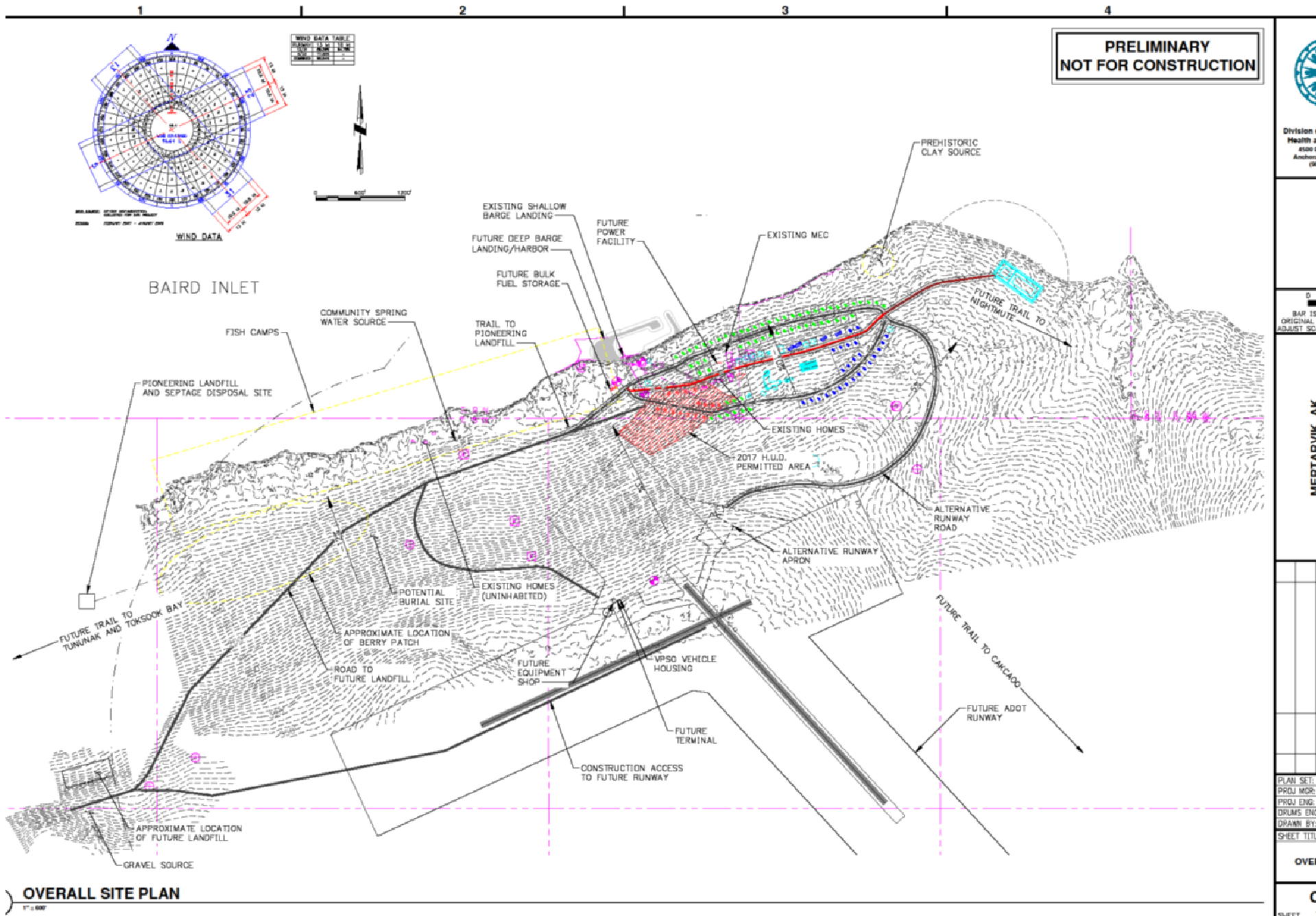
General take-aways from public comments –

- Little concern about changes to subsistence as a result of relocation, or impacts on subsistence resources at Mertarvik.
- Some concern about timing the move to reduce interference with subsistence activity.
- Eagerness to get on with building the new community site.



Update on Selected Community Layout Alternative

- Alternative II (see handouts) has been approved through resolution by Newtok Village Council.
- At 65% design stage; some tweaking possible before 100% design completed in May.



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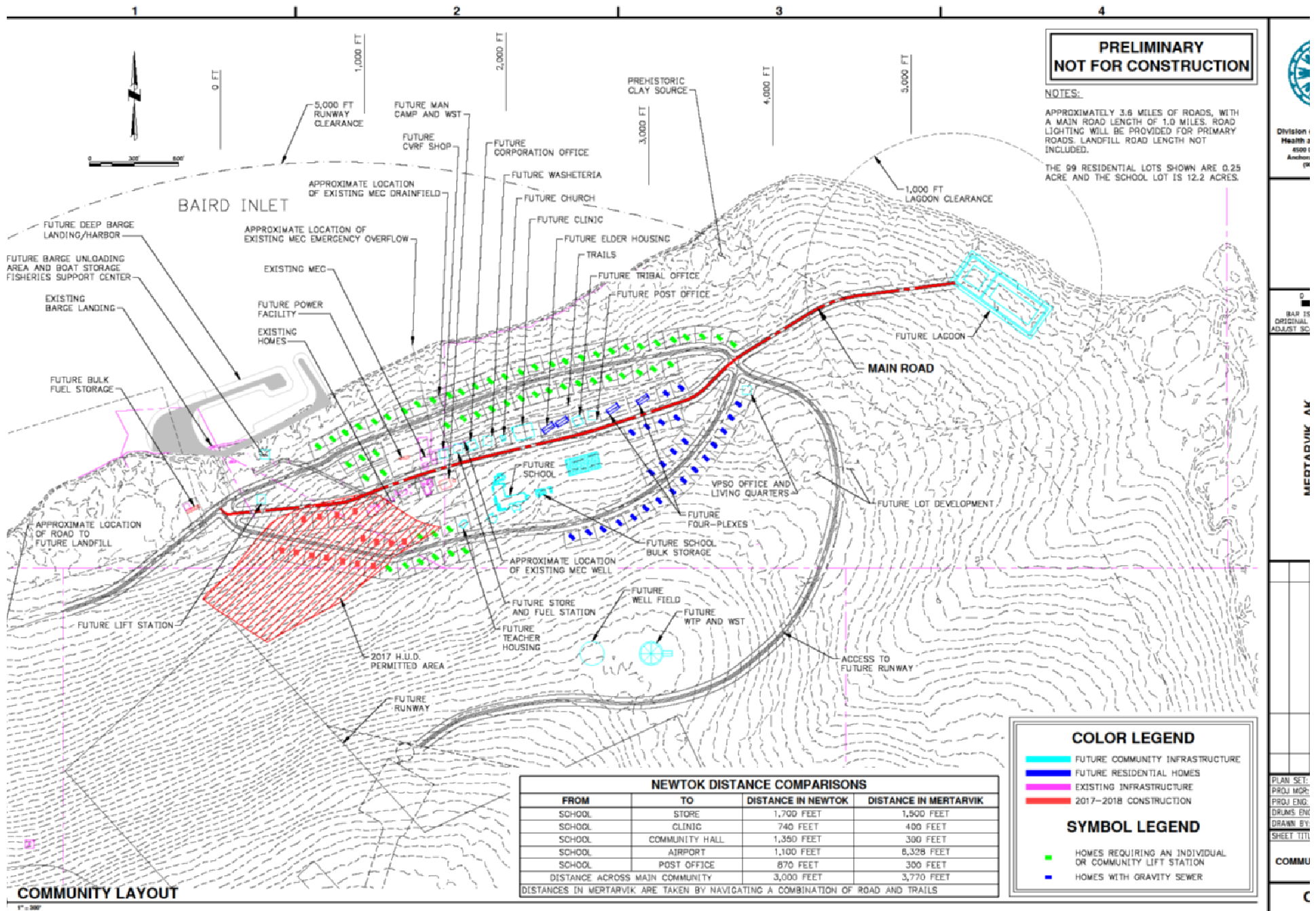
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What's NOT to be included in the EIS -

- Analysis of decommissioning activities at Newtok.
- Small boat harbor.
- Airport hub concept.
- USFWS property exchange.



DENALI COMMISSION

What's Included in the EIS Environmental Analysis

a.k.a., Existing Conditions & Environmental Consequences

Current list of topics:

1. Geology and Soils
2. Hydrology and Hydraulics
3. Groundwater Resources
4. Surface Water Resources
5. Climate and Climate Change
6. Biological Setting and Habitat
7. Protected Species (ESA, etc)
8. Migratory Birds
9. Anadromous Streams & Essential Fish Habitat
10. Wetlands
11. Refuges and other Protected Lands
12. Community & Cultural Environment*
13. Public Health & Safety*
14. Public Services & Utilities*
15. Land Use & Planning*
16. Socioeconomics & Enviro Justice*
17. Transportation & Traffic*
18. Air Quality
19. Water Quality
20. Noise and Visual Environment
21. Subsistence
22. Cultural Resources