

# **MERTARVIK RELOCATION PROJECT**

## **Status Report for Steering Committee**

Prepared by DOWL

November 8, 2017

The Steering Committee last met on October 4, 2017. Since then we want to report on the following:

- 1) Roads and Quarry Development:
  - a) Road construction stopped for the season on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Shut down was in response to deteriorating working weather conditions and breakdown of the project crusher.
  - b) Work crews parked and winterized equipment, closed up and winterized the construction camp and storage units, and departed from the site on October 27<sup>th</sup>.
  - c) Road work was advanced to the point where the entire length of road is useable, the emergency runway is developed and useable, culverts are in, and the road functions as a rudimentary road between the quarry and town site. The road is not to full section and the surface course is still required.
  - d) The quarry development has been extremely challenging and has not produced rock as well as the team had hoped. The quarry quality was a significant unknown on the project. The quarry was not shot very well in 2011 and the work crews continually dealt with rocks too big for the crusher. The quarry also had significant fines that hampered gravel production. DOWL will meet with HC & GEI next week to evaluate the quarry and how to best approach the 2018 quarry development program.
  - e) The crusher experienced a significant breakdown near the end of the work season with the failure of the main rotor. Preliminary estimates for the repair are that it will cost between \$60-80,000 and it will take 24 weeks to have new parts manufactured. An RFP will developed and sent to suppliers for quotes by the end of the month.
- 2) MEC Request for Proposals from General Contractors:
  - a) The MEC RFP has been released to the contracting community for development of proposals. Contractor proposals are due on 12/4/2017. NVC will review and score proposals on 12/7 and a contract issued to the successful proposer on 1/5/2018.
  - b) The RFP is set up with a base bid for the shell only and an alternate bid for MEP components of the project. The independent cost estimate for the project as designed is \$2.3M; available funding is \$1.85M (\$1.4M State and \$0.45M HUD for MEP). Freeing up USACE funds (we've been told there is \$0.8M available upon approval of the Section 116 agreement) is critical to being able to start this project. There is concern as to whether or not the shell component can be built given limited funding NVC currently has.
  - c) Denali Commission has appropriated \$1.5M in their FY18 work plan for house funding. Funds are not available for housing until early 2018.
- 3) Barracks Status:
  - a) A draft executive summary is provided. The summary shows it will take approximately \$4-5 million to renovate and relocate one barge load of barracks, equivalent of 13 dwellings in Mertarvik.

## 4) Energy:

- a) AEA is moving forward with the development of a small power plant and distribution grid that can be built with available Denali Commission funding, this is “Plan B”. The power plant will be sized to run the MEC and 10-20 houses as an interim measure.
- b) Newtok currently has only one (1) functioning generator. AEA is assisting with finding a 2<sup>nd</sup> unit that can provide backup generation to the community. Funding for the generator has not been secured.

## 5) Financial &amp; Funding:

- a) Grant Status (attached).
  - i) NVC is applying for the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) funding for teacher and health care housing. The application is due in December.
  - ii) FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation
  - iii) HMPG grant due in December.
  - iv) Tribal Transportation Safety Grant
  - v) University of Fairbanks Alaska Center for Safety Equity in Transportation (CSET)
- b) NVC needs a determination from the BIA on whether or not the A16AV01004 “Bruce Grant” funds for technical assistance and training can be used as a match to the Denali Commission funds for prime power. The concept is to have the successful power contractor incorporate training program into the work for both construction and operations of the new power plant in Mertarvik.
- c) NVC has hired a grant writer to assist with grant applications. Current focus is on AHFC and FEMA grants noted above.

## 6) Planning Efforts

- a) A long term strategic implementation plan is starting to be developed with the community based upon the Master Development plan (attached).
- b) DOWL is developing the following plans for NVC:
  - i) Updating their Long Range Transportation Plan
  - ii) Developing their Tribal Transportation Safety Plan

## 7) Gaps

- c) Design and construction dollars for honey bucket / septage disposal pit and a trash disposal pit for pioneer homes in 2018.
- d) A relocation plan for the 2018 residents who will be moving to Mertarvik needs to be developed.