

Ashepak Home
Photo taken January 13, 2021



**Site Specific
Short Term Response
Addendum No. 1 - Environmental Assessment
Determinations and Compliance Findings for HUD-assisted Projects
24 CFR Part 58
January 2021**

Akiak Home Relocation and Managed Retreat Project

Project Information

Project Name: Akiak Home Relocation and Managed Retreat Project

Responsible Entity: Akiak Native Community (ANC)

Grant Recipient (if different than Responsible Entity):

State/Local Identifier: Alaska

Preparer: Joel Neimeyer, P.E. & Sheila Carl

Certifying Officer Name and Title: Michael P. Williams, Sr. Chief, ANC

Grant Recipient (if different than Responsible Entity):

Consultant (if applicable): Joel Neimeyer, P.E.

Direct Comments to:

Sheila Carl, ANC Tribal Administrator
PO Box 52127
Akiak, AK 99552
Phone: (907) 765-7112 Fax: (907) 765-7512
Akiarmiu@yahoo.com

Project Location: Akiak, Alaska

Tiered Environmental Review (see 24 CFR Part 58.15 Tiering): This document is Addendum No. 1 to the second environmental review document of what is envisioned to be five documents that will communicate the potential environmental impacts associated with the Akiak Home Relocation and Managed Retreat Project (Project). This document provides new information specific to one home (the Ashepak home) that is structurally unsound to be relocated, however is within the 200-foot zone established by engineers with the US Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for relocating homes to safe ground. The tribe in 2020, using NRCS grant funds, was successful in relocating six homes (that are structurally sound) to safe ground further inland from the river.

The five environmental review documents follow:

1. Broad Review Environmental Assessment - Akiak Home Relocation and Managed Retreat Project.
2. **Short-Term Response:** Infrastructure Less Than 200 Feet from the River. This includes six home relocations and assorted “out buildings”, riverbank stabilization and building a seventh home. **This document, Addendum No. 1 provides new information about a seventh home (e.g. the Ashepak home) that was discussed in the June 2020 Short-Term Response Environmental Assessment document.**
3. New Housing Subdivision Improvements.
4. Solid Waste Site, Honey-bucket Lagoon, and Sewage Lagoon Improvements.
5. Long-Term Response: Infrastructure Less Than 600 Feet from the River. This includes contaminated sites, a commercial store, the City building, Head Start building, the old BIA School (unused), National Guard building, bulk fuel farm and marine fuel header, roads, utilities, and additional home relocations. Given how critical the bulk fuel farm is to the community for electrical power and heating, this infrastructure is included in the long-term response despite being 650 feet from the river’s edge (as of June 2019).

Description of the Proposed Project [24 CFR 50.12 & 58.32; 40 CFR 1508.25]:

Short-Term Response Project tasks are generally those that will be carried out in 2020/21, and will relocate or reclaim existing infrastructure within 200 feet of the Kuskokwim River. Of note, additional Project work may be carried out in 2020/21 that are part of New Housing Subdivision Improvements or Solid Waste Site, Honey-bucket Lagoon, and Sewage Lagoon Improvements, and these tasks will be considered in other tiered environmental review documents.



Houses labeled 578, 574, 559, 558, 555, and 554 have been identified by NRCS as structurally sound for relocation and were relocated in 2020. The Ashepak home is shown with the red arrow and is just south of Homes 558 and 559.

The scope of work for acquiring, demolition and disposal of the Ashepak home follows.

1. Tribe hires an abatement contractor who is practiced in identifying and managing regulated items commonly found in older homes such as asbestos and lead-based paint.
2. Abatement contractor travels to Akiak and obtains samples from the Ashepak home for regulated items, and prepares a report including scope of effort for the abatement contractor technicians.
3. Based upon the abatement contractor report, contract abatement technicians remove and properly package regulated items for barge transport to an approved landfill that accepts regulated waste materials.
4. Tribal force account crews now access the abandoned Ashepak home for demolition (free of regulated items). Those non-regulated items that are salvageable will be provided to interested community members such as metal roof siding, windows and lumber. The rest of the structure will be demolished and packaged for barge shipment to an approved landfill that accepts non-regulated waste materials. Tribal force account crews remove underground buried water and sewer service lines and above ground electrical service line - all of which the tribe can reuse. The crews rake the site of debris, and where needed, bring in sand fill material to fill low lying spots and seed the site with grass.
5. Abatement contractor receives barged waste materials from demolition of the Ashepak home, and transports to the approved landfill including submittal of all required documentation for acceptance of regulated materials.

Statement of Purpose and Need for the Proposal [40 CFR 1508.9(b)]:

Akiak is facing a new environmental threat from spring time / high water riverbank degradation that put seven existing homes near the Kuskokwim River at risk. The Short-Term Relocation Project relocated six existing homes in 2020, and includes demolishing a seventh home (the Ashepak home), as discussed in this Addendum No. 1 document. In addition, additional work is proposed within 200 feet of the river including relocation or demolishing outbuildings, and excavating and reclaiming arctic pipe sewer mains and water and sewer service lines.

Existing Conditions and Trends [24 CFR 58.40(a)]:

All of the work within 200 feet of the river is on disturbed ground from the prior development of housing, roads, and utilities.

The tribe's review of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) has concluded that the Ashepak home does not qualify for historic property designation. The Ashepak home is over 50 years old and is therefore eligible, by age, for designation as a historic property. However, the original log-cabin home was significantly altered in the 1980's during a weatherization project which included insulation, new T1-11 exterior plywood siding and a metal roof. The original character of the log cabin was forever altered. Furthermore, there have been no none historical

events associated with the home including occupancy by historically relevant people. The tribe has submitted to the Alaska State Historic Preservation Office a NHPA Section 106 review of the Ashepak home with a recommendation that the home is not a historic property.

Funding Information (pertaining to Ashepak Home Project Tasks)

Grant Number	HUD Program (or other source)	Funding Amount	Status
Alaska VSW funding	Infrastructure Protection Funding (for disconnecting water and sewer services to 6 homes and a portion of two sewer mains)	\$68,159	Approved. Work Completed.
NRCS	Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program (for relocation of 6 homes)	\$134,831	Approved. Work Completed.
Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) - BRIC program - FY2020 tribal funding	Acquiring, demolition and disposal of the Ashepak home.	\$179,885	Request pending - January 2021

Estimated Total HUD Funded Amount: No HUD funding is envisioned for the Ashepak home, however HUD funding is envisioned for other managed retreat efforts as discussed in other tiered environmental review documents.

Estimated Ashepak Home Project Cost (HUD and non-HUD funds) [24 CFR 58.32(d)]:

\$179,855

Compliance with 24 CFR 50.4, 58.5, and 58.6 Laws and Authorities

Record below the compliance or conformance determinations for each statute, executive order, or regulation. Provide credible, traceable, and supportive source documentation for each authority. Where applicable, complete the necessary reviews or consultations and obtain or note applicable permits of approvals. Clearly note citations, dates/names/titles of contacts, and page references. Attach additional documentation as appropriate.

Compliance Factors: Statutes, Executive Orders, and Regulations listed at 24 CFR §58.5 and §58.6	Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?	Compliance determinations

STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS LISTED AT 24 CFR 50.4 and 58.6		
Airport Hazards 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart D	No	No issues associated with short term response tasks.
Coastal Barrier Resources Coastal Barrier Resources Act, as amended by the Coastal Barrier Improvement Act of 1990 [16 USC 3501]	No	Alaska is not one of the States that are part of the Act.
Flood Insurance Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 and National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 [42 USC 4001-4128 and 42 USC 5154a]	No	Akiak does not participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). From the Federal Emergency Management Administration website, for Akiak, Alaska: <i>“FEMA has not completed a study to determine flood hazard for the selected location; therefore, a flood map has not been published at this time.”</i> Consequently, Akiak is not in a Special Flood Hazard Area as identified by FEMA.
STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS LISTED AT 24 CFR 50.4 & 58.5		
Clean Air Clean Air Act, as amended, particularly section 176(c) & (d); 40 CFR Parts 6, 51, 93	No	Consultation with Mr. Adeyemi Alimi (Yemi) State of Alaska, Department of Environmental Conservation, Air Quality Division. June 4, 2020. Akiak is not in an attainment or maintenance area.
Coastal Zone Management Coastal Zone Management Act, sections 307(c) & (d)	No	Alaska does not participate in this Act.
Contamination and Toxic Substances 24 CFR Part 50.3(i) & 58.5(i)(2)	No	No issues associated with short term response tasks.
Endangered Species Endangered Species Act of 1973, particularly section 7; 50 CFR Part 402	No	From the US Fish and Wildlife website it reports that there are no migratory birds of conservation concern or endangered species in Akiak. This was confirmed via phone call with Douglass Cooper on June 4, 2020.

<p>Explosive and Flammable Hazards 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart C</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No issues associated with short term response tasks.</p>
<p>Farmlands Protection Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981, particularly sections 1504(b) and 1541; 7 CFR Part 658</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>There are no farms or farmland in Akiak.</p>
<p>Floodplain Management Executive Order 11988, particularly section 2(a); 24 CFR Part 55</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No issues associated with short term response tasks.</p>
<p>Historic Preservation National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, particularly sections 106 and 110; 36 CFR Part 800</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>See NRCS 9/26/2019 letter to Alaska State Historic Preservation Office that confirms there are no known historic sites in Akiak (in the Broad Environmental Assessment). In addition, the tribe has determined that the Ashepak home is not eligible for historic preservation status. On January 21, 2021 sent a NHPA Section 106 review (attached) to the Alaska State Historic Preservation Office to confirm this opinion. If SHPO disagrees, then the tribe will follow the agency’s guidance and likely withdraw this Addendum No. 1 to the Short Term Environmental Assessment.</p>
<p>Noise Abatement and Control Noise Control Act of 1972, as amended by the Quiet Communities Act of 1978; 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart B</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Akiak is not within 1000 feet of a major roadway, 3,000 feet of a railroad, or 15 miles of a military or FAA-regulated civil airfield.</p>
<p>Sole Source Aquifers Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended, particularly section 1424(e); 40 CFR Part 149</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Akiak is not over a sole source aquifer.</p>
<p>Wetlands Protection Executive Order 11990, particularly sections 2 and 5</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No issues associated with short term response tasks.</p>

Wild and Scenic Rivers Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, particularly section 7(b) and (c)	No	The Kuskokwim River is not listed as a Wild and Scenic River.
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE		
Environmental Justice Executive Order 12898	No	Most of the residents of Akiak are low-income Alaska Natives. All the seven homeowners facing relocation in 2020 are Alaska Natives, and they are being relocated due to natural events as opposed to community project needs.

Environmental Assessment Factors [24 CFR 58.40; Ref. 40 CFR 1508.8 &1508.27] Recorded below is the qualitative and quantitative significance of the effects of the proposal on the character, features and resources of the project area. Each factor has been evaluated and documented, as appropriate and in proportion to its relevance to the proposed action. Verifiable source documentation has been provided and described in support of each determination, as appropriate. Credible, traceable and supportive source documentation for each authority has been provided. Where applicable, the necessary reviews or consultations have been completed and applicable permits of approvals have been obtained or noted. Citations, dates/names/titles of contacts, and page references are clear. Additional documentation is attached, as appropriate. **All conditions, attenuation or mitigation measures have been clearly identified.**

Impact Codes: Use an impact code from the following list to make the determination of impact for each factor.

- (1) Minor beneficial impact
- (2) No impact anticipated
- (3) Minor Adverse Impact – May require mitigation
- (4) Significant or potentially significant impact requiring avoidance or modification which may require an Environmental Impact Statement

Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
LAND DEVELOPMENT		
Conformance with Plans / Compatible Land Use and Zoning / Scale and Urban Design	2	No issues associated with short term response tasks.

Soil Suitability/ Slope/ Erosion/ Drainage/ Storm Water Runoff	3	The soils in Akiak are generally silty sands which do not offer much structural strength against riverine erosion. Furthermore, as the riverbank is destabilized the result is often a vertical riverbank which is unsafe to residents. Stabilizing the riverbank will be an important managed retreat objective to protect residents from falling in the river in the event there is a bank failure.
Hazards and Nuisances including Site Safety and Noise	2	As with all construction projects the tribe must be mindful of site safety for residents moving construction equipment.
Energy Consumption	2	Demand for electrical power or heating fuel is expected as a result of the managed retreat objectives.

SOCIOECONOMIC		
Employment and Income Patterns	1	Construction projects will result in short term jobs in the community.
Demographic Character Changes, Displacement	3	The Ashepak family will be impacted and will have to relocate.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES		
Educational and Cultural Facilities	2	No issues associated with short term response tasks.
Commercial Facilities	2	No issues associated with short term response tasks.
Health Care and Social Services	2	No issues associated with short term response tasks.
Solid Waste Disposal / Recycling	3	FEMA requires disposal of construction waste from acquired properties to be disposed in an approved landfill. For Akiak this means either Anchorage or the Lower 48. The tribe has obtained approval from the Municipality of Anchorage Solid Waste Services for disposal of regulated and unregulated construction waste from the Ashepak home.

Waste Water / Sanitary Sewers	3	Two existing sewer mains are parallel to the rivers edge. If the river erodes to where these mains are located, during high water events river water will flood into the sewer mains and overwhelm the main lift station. The sewer mains and sewer service lines must be pulled up once the houses are relocated and before the river erodes further.
Water Supply	2	No work is anticipated near the community groundwater wells.
Public Safety - Police, Fire and Emergency Medical	3	Mitigation is recommended to pare back the riverbank slopes from a vertical face to a 30-degree angle of repose. Otherwise, there are no other public safety concerns associated with the managed retreat tasks.
Parks, Open Space and Recreation	2	No issues associated with short term response tasks.
Transportation and Accessibility	3	While moving houses there will be minor impact to traffic patterns.

NATURAL FEATURES		
Unique Natural Features, Water Resources	2	No issues associated with short term response tasks.
Vegetation, Wildlife	2	No issues associated with short term response tasks.
Other Factors	3	This broad environmental assessment is drafted during a time of the COVID-19 pandemic. The timing of carrying out construction work in Akiak and ensuring the safety of the community is made more complicated by the pandemic.

List of Permits Obtained:

None required. However, Alaska SHPO NHPA Section 106 review designating the Ashepak home as not a historic property is needed. In addition, it is expected that the abatement contractor will find regulated items, that are presently unknown, and that handling and transport of these regulated items will have to follow Federal and State laws, but no permits are required for this effort.

Cumulative Impact Analysis [24 CFR 58.32]: Short Term Response Project Tasks are a subset of the larger Akiak Home Relocation and Managed Retreat Project and the cumulative impact analysis for the full project is discussed in the Broad Environmental Assessment document.

Alternatives [24 CFR 58.40(e); 40 CFR 1508.9]

The Ashepak home is not structurally sound to be relocated. It must be removed before the river claims the home.

No Action Alternative [24 CFR 58.40(e)]:

If the Ashepak home is not removed and the family relocates to another home, then the abandoned home becomes an attractive nuisance. If at some time the Kuskokwim River again has a spring melt / high water event that rapidly destabilizes the riverbank and causes significant land slide then the Ashepak home will be claimed by the river and become a navigational hazard to local boaters.

Summary of Findings and Conclusions:

Acquisition, demolishing and disposal of the Ashepak home is the preferred alternative.

Mitigation Measures and Conditions [40 CFR 1505.2(c)]

Summarize below all mitigation measures adopted by the Responsible Entity to reduce, avoid, or eliminate adverse environmental impacts and to avoid non-compliance or non-conformance with the above-listed authorities and factors. These measures/conditions must be incorporated into project contracts, development agreements, and other relevant documents. The staff responsible for implementing and monitoring mitigation measures should be clearly identified in the mitigation plan.

Law, Authority, or Factor	Mitigation Measure
Operating Heavy Equipment and moving homes on the roads	Construction crews will ensure residents are not nearby while operating heavy equipment, and the community will be informed when homes are to be relocated on the community roads.

Determination:

Finding of No Significant Impact [24 CFR 58.40(g)(1); 40 CFR 1508.27]
The project will not result in a significant impact on the quality of the human environment.

Preparer Signature: Joel Neimeyer Date: 1/21/2021

Name/Title/Organization: Joel Neimeyer, P.E., Consultant to Akiak Native Community

Certifying Officer Signature: Michael P. Williams, Sr. Date: 1/21/21

Name/Title: Michael P. Williams, Sr., Tribal Chief, Akiak Native Community

This original, signed document and related supporting material must be retained on file by the Responsible Entity in an Environmental Review Record (ERR) for the activity/project (ref: 24 CFR Part 58.38) and in accordance with recordkeeping requirements for the HUD program(s).

ALASKA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
REQUEST FOR SECTION 106 REVIEW FOR HUD AND DOE/AHFC PROJECTS

Use this form to request SHPO review of any projects involving HUD or DOE/AHFC assistance for building repair, rehabilitation, change of use, demolition, new construction, or land acquisition.

General Information

Client name or number: Akiak Native Community - Elizabeth Ashepak Home

Property address: Akiak, Alaska

Funding source (HUD or DOE): FEMA

Applicant (the Housing Agency): Akiak Native Community

Applicant address: PO Box 52127; Akiak, Alaska 99552

Contact person: Norma Williams, or Joel Neimeyer

Telephone number: 907-765-7112; 907-244-2980 (Joel's cell)

e-mail: NKBWilliamms@hotmail.com; joel.neimeyer@gmail.com

Project Information

What year was the building constructed? Reportedly in the 1950's or 1960's as a log cabin. Sometime in the 1980's the house was weatherized with new insulation, siding and roofing such that the original nature of the log cabin is no longer seen. Enclosed is an appraisal of the Ashepak home that provides photos and additional information about the home in question.

Age: The Ashepak home is over 50 years old.

Integrity: The Ashepak has been changed significantly and no longer retains its original character defining feature as a rustic log cabin built in a rural Alaska setting. It now looks like an older home with failing T1-11 wood siding.

Significance: The tribe does not find the Ashepak home to be significant or historic.

- (1) There are no known direct associations with individuals, events, activities, or developments that shaped history or historical events;
- (2) As noted the Ashepak home no longer embodies a distinctive physical and spatial characteristics of an architectural style or type of building, structure, landscape,

or planned environment, or a method of construction, or by embodying high artistic values or fine craftsmanship; and

- (3) The tribe has concluded that the home does not have potential to yield information important to understanding of the past through archaeological, architectural, or other physical investigation and analysis. More importantly, the tribe believes the home once abandoned will become an attractive nuisance and therefore must be demolished.

What are the existing conditions at the project site? The site is within 200 feet of the eroding Kuskokwim River. In 2020 the tribe relocated six homes - within 200 feet of the river - to safe ground away from the erosion. The Ashepak home is not structurally sound for relocation and the only solution is to acquire, demolish and appropriately dispose of the construction waste. Otherwise, the home will be abandoned and will eventually fall into the river creating a hazard for local boaters.

Describe the proposed project: The tribe is seeking acquisition and demolition funding from the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) to demolish the Ashepak home. Also, the tribe is seeking FEMA funding to hire an abatement contractor to remove regulated materials such as asbestos and lead based paint as part of the grant request. In addition FEMA requires that the construction waste be shipped to an approved landfill. The tribe has obtained permission from the Municipality of Anchorage Solid Waste Services for this disposal.

Describe any ground-disturbance associated with the project (such as the installation of new utilities, connections to existing utilities, equipment staging area, etc.):

Buried arctic water and sewer piping will be excavated and removed. Heavy equipment will be used in the demolition process.

Provide Additional Information

Attach a **photograph** of the building and one or the following:

- the **latitude/longitude coordinates** for your project site

OR:

- a **geographical map** of the community, e.g., a Google Earth map or a community map from <https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/dcra/PlanningLandManagement/CommunityProfileMaps.aspx> (State of Alaska, Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, Division of Community and Regional Affairs).

Identify your **project location(s)** with a circle or an arrow.

Determine the Finding of Effect for Your Project

What effect will your project have on historic properties located on your project site, or visible from your project site? **Choose one:**

- (X) No historic properties affected [36 CFR 800.4 (d)(1)]
- () No Adverse Effect on historic properties [36 CFR 800.5(d)(2)]
- () Adverse Effect [36 CFR 800.5(d)(2)] *If the project will have an adverse effect on a historic property, further consultation must be conducted to resolve the adverse effect.*