

**Site Specific - New Housing Subdivision Improvements
 Environmental Assessment
 Determinations and Compliance Findings for HUD-assisted Projects
 24 CFR Part 58
 June 2020**

Akiak Home Relocation and Managed Retreat Project

Project Information

Project Name: Akiak Home Relocation and Managed Retreat Project

Responsible Entity: Akiak Native Community

Grant Recipient (if different than Responsible Entity):

State/Local Identifier: Alaska

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

Certifying Officer Name and Title: Mike Williams, Chief, ANC

Grant Recipient (if different than Responsible Entity):

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

Direct Comments to:

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Project Location: Akiak, Alaska

Tiered Environmental Review (see 24 CFR Part 58.15 Tiering): This document is the third 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 broad Project descriptions, so that this information does not have to be repeated in subsequent site-specific environmental review documents. While the Project construction proposed is work commonly carried out in rural Alaska villages, the complexity for Akiak comes from the many different funding and regulatory agencies currently, and potentially, involved in the community's response to a new natural hazard (i.e. spring time high water / river bank destabilization). 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.
3. New Housing Subdivision Improvements. **This document.**

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]:

Background: New Housing Subdivision Improvements Project tasks are a combination of conventional subdivision infrastructure improvements including new roads, extension of existing water and sewer mains, and extension of the existing electrical distribution grid, and new housing construction. With new housing construction there are two primary purposes: quarantine housing to address the COVID-19 pandemic, and new housing to address overcrowding.

Akiak was already on a path to continue housing development, as documented by the [2018 Akiak Sanitation Preliminary Engineering Report](#) (2018 Akiak PER) carried out by the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium for sanitation development west of the existing Akiak Subdivision. The referenced report analyzes expanding water and sewer service to six existing homes that are unserved and eight adjacent vacant lots.

Given the May 2019 bank destabilization event, the community decided it would be prudent to plan for a new housing subdivision sized for up to 30 homes and structures. While development of one housing subdivision may be optimum, the community is open to expanding and relocating community infrastructure and residences to more than one site.

Analysis of Possible Housing Subdivision Sites: The community identified the following site features and project development goals for selection of a preferred housing subdivision alternative.

1. Expedient and Phased Development.
2. Affordability of Construction.
3. Affordability of Operation.
4. Safe Ground from Erosion and Flooding.
5. Proximity to the Akiak Airport, Solid Waste Site, and Honey Bucket Lagoon.

Four potential sites for a 30-lot housing subdivision are shown in the figure below.



Analysis of the four sites follow.

Site #1 (up to 26 acres) Westerly Expansion of Existing Akiak Housing Subdivision (Dummocks Street):

1. Expedient and Phased Development: This site would expand an existing housing subdivision (i.e. recorded as Akiak Subdivision with the Alaska District Recorders Office in Bethel) that was developed by the AVCP Regional Housing Authority in the past decade. Road, power, and sanitation infrastructure are adjacent to the new expansion site and allows for ease of phased development. Features of the new housing subdivision follow:

- Road: an existing gravel road, Dummocks Street, is immediately adjacent to the expansion of Akiak Subdivision (i.e. Site #1) requiring construction of subdivision roads, but no access roads.
- Power: single phase electrical power is immediately adjacent to the expansion of Akiak Subdivision, requiring upgrading the power distribution to three-phase power (based upon interviews with electrical engineers with the Alaska Energy Authority) and construction of the subdivision power grid.
- Water: community water distribution piping is approximately 500 feet from the point the Akiak Subdivision would be expanded (e.g. requiring up to 930 feet of water main to extend the circulating water Loop 2). This water main extension is the basis of the 2018 Akiak PER that would serve six existing homes recently constructed with US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funding.

- Sewer: is approximately 600 feet from the point the Akiak Subdivision would be expanded. This, too, is the basis of the 2018 Akiak PER.
- 30-lot potential: There is sufficient vacant land available to accommodate 30 new housing lots west of the existing Akiak Housing Subdivision.

2. Affordability to Construct: Power and road extension into Site #1 will require little additional cost to reach the new housing lots - notwithstanding the cost of development within the housing subdivision. Water and sewer main extension to reach the beginning of the new subdivision is estimated to cost \$600K and three phase power expansion to be \$50K.

3. Affordability of Operation: Extending utilities and roads into Site #1 are limited and will add little to the overall cost to operate and maintain once constructed.

4. Safe Ground from Erosion and Flooding: Site #1 is over 2800 feet from the nearest point on the Kuskokwim River where significant riverine erosion occurred in May 2019. Site #1 is virtually the highest ground in the community and offers the best opportunity to keep homes safe from extreme flooding events. It is noted that south of Site #1 is a drainage swale that effectively separates the site from Site #4. The community has expressed interest in co-development of Site #1 with Site #4 however a significant bridge would have to be constructed to cross the drainage swale, which fills to flood stage during spring ice jamming events.

5. Proximity to the Akiak Airport, Solid Waste Site, and Honey Bucket Lagoon: Site #1 varies from 1600 to 2000 feet from the airport. The concern for the community is the close proximity - approximately 300 feet - to the existing solid waste site and existing honey bucket lagoon.

Site #2 (up to 12 acres) Northerly Expansion along No Name Street:

1. Expedient and Phased Development: This site would allow for phased development, much like Site #1, given close proximity to roads and utilities.

- Road: a gravel road, No Name Street, is immediately south of Site #2 requiring construction of subdivision roads and no access roads.
- Power: single phase electrical power is immediately adjacent to the expansion of Site #2, requiring upgrading the power distribution to three-phase power (based upon interviews with electrical engineers with the Alaska Energy Authority) and construction of the subdivision power grid.
- Water: community water distribution mains exists along No Name Street which would not require extending the water mains to reach Site #2.
- Sewer: likewise, community sewer collection mains exists along No Name Street which would not require extending the sewer mains to reach Site #2.
- 30-lot potential: There is sufficient vacant land available to accommodate 30 new housing lots north of No Name Street in Site #2.

2. Affordability to Construct: Power and road extension into Site #2 will require little additional cost to reach the new housing lots - notwithstanding the cost of development within the housing

subdivision. Water and sewer main extension to reach the beginning of Site #2 would be minimal and three phase power expansion estimated to be \$50K.

3. Affordability of Operation: Extending utilities and roads into Site #2 are limited and will add little to the overall cost to operate and maintain once constructed.

4. Safe Ground from Erosion and Flooding: Site #2 is the closest of all four sites to the nearest point on the Kuskokwim River (i.e. 1600 feet) where significant riverine erosion occurred in May 2019. Site #2 is low lying in comparison to the three other housing sites, which will add development costs to raise housing above the 1964 flood stage levels.

5. Proximity to the Akiak Airport, Solid Waste Site, and Honey Bucket Lagoon: Site #2 is approximately 2000 feet from the airport. The concern for the community is the close proximity - approximately 300 feet - to the existing solid waste site and existing honey bucket lagoon, which is a similar concern as with Site #1.

Site #3 (up to 2.6 acres) Easterly Expansion from the School:

1. Expedient and Phased Development: This site like Sites #1, and #2 will accommodate phased development and is near roads and utilities.

- Road: the site is adjacent to existing roads
- Power: power lines are adjacent to Site #3
- Water: water mains are adjacent to Site #3
- Sewer: sewer mains are adjacent to Site #3
- 30-lot potential: This site will not accommodate 30 housing units. The site is included in the event future erosion is not significant and the community decides to develop the site for non-residential construction. It is anticipated that relocation of the community bulk fuel farm may best be to this location and adjacent to the school bulk fuel farm.

2. Affordability to Construct: As roads and utilities are nearby expansion of infrastructure into Site #3 would be nominal.

3. Affordability of Operation: Extending utilities and roads into Site #3 are limited in length and will add little to the overall cost to operate and maintain once constructed.

4. Safe Ground from Erosion and Flooding: Site #3 is 2000 feet to the nearest point on the Kuskokwim River where significant riverine erosion occurred in May 2019. Site #3 is higher in elevation than Site #2, but not as high in elevation as Sites #1 and #4.

5. Proximity to the Akiak Airport, Solid Waste Site, and Honey Bucket Lagoon: Site #3 is the only site that is not close to the existing solid waste site and not close to the airport.

Site #4 (up to 22 acres) Westerly Expansion from the School:

1. Expedient and Phased Development: This site does not allow for easy phased development, unlike Site #1 and Site #2, as it is not close to existing roads and utilities. In other words, significant investment in roads and utilities would be required to get to the beginning point of the housing subdivision development, wherein phased development can then begin.

- Road: the nearest gravel road to Site #4 is approximately 800 feet away.
- Power: the nearest power line, serving the school, is approximately 1000 feet away.
- Water: the school is served by a water main sized for the school only and not for a 30-unit housing subdivision, too. Water Loop #2 is approximately 1200 feet from Site #4.
- Sewer: likewise, the school is served with a sewer force main sized for the schools needs only. The nearest sewer collection main sufficiently sized to accommodate the demand from 30 housing units is 1600 feet from Site #4.
- 30-lot potential: There is sufficient vacant land available to accommodate 30 new housing lots in Site #4.

2. Affordability to Construct: Utilities and road extension into Site #4 is significantly more than the other three sites. Whereas, Site #1 requires approximately \$600K for sanitation improvements and \$50K for three phase power expansion, and Site #2 requires the \$50K in power expansion, Site #4 requires a minimum of \$1.5 M for water and sewer expansion, \$400K for road extension and \$150,000 in power line extension.

3. Affordability of Operation: Extending utilities and roads into Site #4 are more extensive than Sites #1 and #2 and will require additional operational overhead.

4. Safe Ground from Erosion and Flooding: Site #4 is the furthest of all four sites to the nearest point on the Kuskokwim River (i.e. 3400 feet) where significant riverine erosion occurred in May 2019. Site #4 is also relatively high ground, like Site #1.

5. Proximity to the Akiak Airport, Solid Waste Site, and Honey Bucket Lagoon: Site #4 is the closest to the airport at 800 feet and is the furthest site from the existing solid waste site and honey bucket lagoon.

Community Selection of Alternative Housing Subdivision Development: The community supports the economical and efficient development of a new housing subdivision site(s), that are not near the airport and the existing solid waste site and are relatively safe from erosion and flooding. While the airport cannot be relocated without significant cost, the existing solid waste site and honey bucket lagoon can be relocated at far less cost.

Site #4 can be developed for 30 lots but is nearest to the airport and has the highest development costs. The community has found this site to be the least favored for development.

Site #3 is too small for a 30 lot housing subdivision, but on the other hand is adjacent to much of the commercial facilities. The community has found this site to be a reasonable location for relocating non-residential facilities.

Site #2 can be developed for 30 lots but is low-lying and adjacent to the existing solid waste site. The community has found this site can be developed at a reasonable cost given close proximity to utilities and roads.

Site #1 can be developed for 30 lots but is adjacent to the existing solid waste site. The community has found this site can be developed at a reasonable cost given close proximity to utilities and roads.

The community has concluded that it may develop lots in Sites #1, #2 and #3. Site #1 will be the primary location for residential development. Site #2 vacant land that is next to the road may be developed at a lower cost, but the housing will have to be elevated above the 1964 flood stage. Unless matters change, development of Site #2 beyond vacant land adjacent to the existing roads is unlikely. Site #3 will be available for non-residential development at a reasonable cost. Site #4 will not be considered for development at this time.

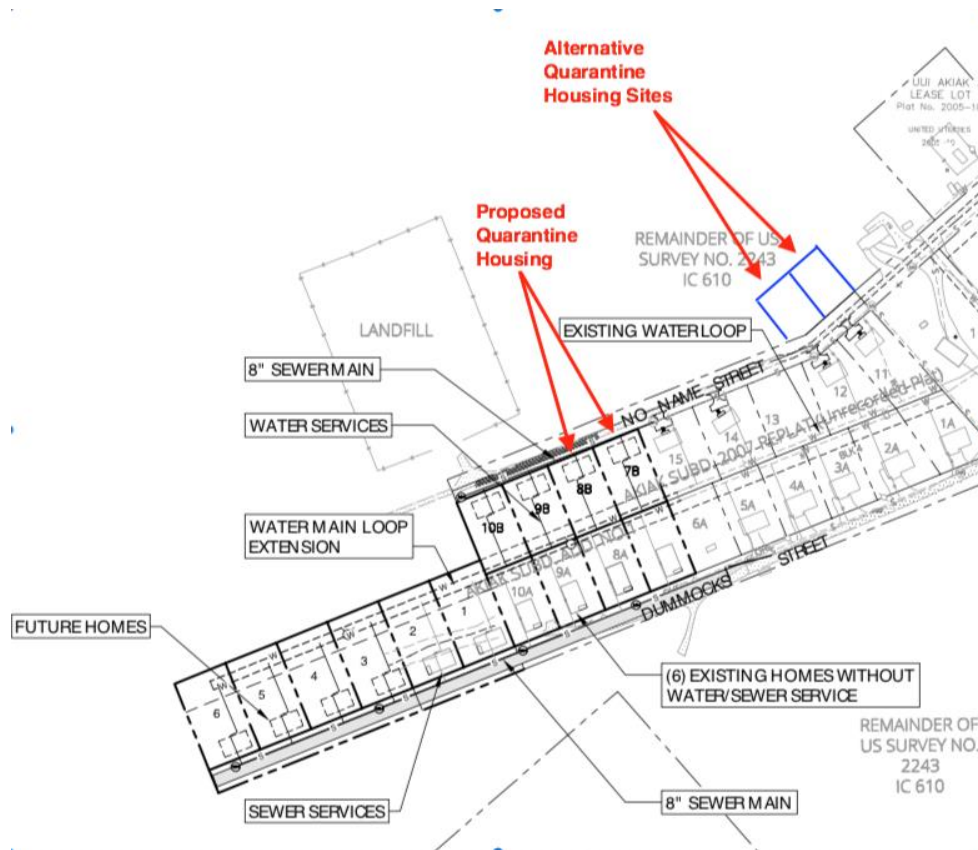
In developing Sites #1 and #2 the community has concluded that the existing solid waste site and honey bucket lagoon must be closed out and a new solid waste site and a new honey bucket lagoon must be built away from residential housing. The development of this infrastructure will be discussed in a separate environmental review document.

Development of Site #1 would include extending the existing water and sewer mains to the site. In so doing, there are six existing homes constructed by the AVCP Housing Authority that are not presently served with water and sewer service. Connection of these six homes would be part of any water and sewer main extension to serve Site #1.

New Housing for Quarantine and Housing Shortage

The tribe is considering development of new housing for quarantine purposes and when the COVID-19 pandemic is past, this housing can then be used to address housing shortages. Two approaches are being considered. The first is to build new modular structurally insulated panel homes in Akiak, which are quicker to construct than stick-built homes. The second is to obtain and refurbish barracks that are presently available on Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson (JBER), ship to Akiak, and connect the refurbished housing units to the existing utility systems. The advantage in using the JBER barracks is the availability of skilled construction contractors to timely carry out the refurbishing work in Anchorage and then the ease of reassembling the units in Akiak.

However, the tribe develops quarantine quarters the placement of the quarters will be near existing roads and utilities for immediate connection. After the relocation of six existing homes in 2020 away from the rivers' edge to vacant lots within the community there are few remaining lots that can be developed in 2020 and 2021 that have utilities nearby. A proposed site plan is provided (below) for development of four lots for quarantine housing that are near utilities for immediate connection but are adjacent to the existing solid waste site.



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

The purpose of the new housing subdivision is to provide the people of Akiak a cost effective solution in response to natural hazards that allows them to keep their community and way of life within their traditional lands, while also providing the necessary infrastructure for a safe, sustainable, and healthy existence.

With respect to quarantine housing, the tribe will use them to isolate community members who return from travel status for 14 days. As many houses are overcrowded, isolating the community members will provide assurance that if they have the COVID-19 virus they will not pass it on to family members. In the event that the virus does arrive in Akiak, the quarantine housing will allow for separating those family members who are infected from those who are not.

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

The vacant lots for quarantine housing development are adjacent to disturbed land and to existing residential homes. While the placement of the quarantine homes is consistent with land use patterns, the community has concerns about the placement adjacent to the existing solid waste site and honey bucket lagoon.

Development of Site #1 for the bulk of the new housing subdivision development will be on undeveloped land that is not in a wetlands.

Funding Information (New Housing Subdivision Improvements & Quarantine Housing):

Grant Number	HUD Program (or other source)	Funding Amount	Status
FR-6200-N-23	Community Development Block Grant Program for Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Villages (This EA is written for this grant application)	\$449,697	Requested November 2019
HUD - ICDBG FR-6200-N-23	Community Development Block Grant Program for Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Villages (for sanitation improvements to six HUD funded homes on Dummocks Street)	\$800,000	Requested in February 2020
DOD - IRT	DOD Innovative Readiness Training program (for manpower support for civil earthwork projects)	Estimated value - up to \$1M	Requested in September 2019
Alaska Division of Homeland Security	Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (for “advanced assistance” with pre-construction tasks for the proposed subdivision)	\$200,000	Requested in December 2019
A-DCCED	Alaska CDBG program (for pre-construction tasks with the managed retreat efforts)	\$194,250	Requested in December 2019
BIA-Housing Improvement Program	For a new home for the seventh homeowner living within 200 feet of the river, and whose home is structurally unsound for moving.	To be identified by the agency	Requested in December 2019
BIA - Tribal Resilience	Pre-construction activities for managed retreat project elements	\$149,815	Requested in March 2020
HUD - ICDBG CARES	Community Development Block Grant Program for Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Villages (for two quarantine homes)	\$900,000	Requested in June 2020
ANTHC	Sanitation improvements for the new housing subdivision. This funding request in 2020 is being managed by ANTHC and not the tribe.	\$1.4M	Pending
CARES Act Tribal funding	The tribe is considering using some of its 2020 CARES Act funding for quarantine housing.	Not yet identified	Pending

Estimated Total HUD Funded Amount: For this site specific environmental assessment a portion of the \$449,697 for the HUD-IT application, all of the \$800,000 for the HUD-ICDBG

application, and all of the \$900,000 for the HUD-ICDBG-CARES application would be for New Housing Subdivision Improvements

Estimated Total Project Cost (HUD and non-HUD funds) [24 CFR 58.32(d)]: \$6.5M

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 development of Sites #1, #2, #3 which are the preferred lands selected by the community for relocation of residential homes.
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		

<p>Clean Air Clean Air Act, as amended, particularly section 176(c) & (d); 40 CFR Parts 6, 51, 93</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Coastal Zone Management Coastal Zone Management Act, sections 307(c) & (d)</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Alaska does not participate in this Act.</p>
<p>Contamination and Toxic Substances 24 CFR Part 50.3(i) & 58.5(i)(2)</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No issues associated with development of a new housing subdivision.</p>
<p>Endangered Species Endangered Species Act of 1973, particularly section 7; 50 CFR Part 402</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>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>
<p>Explosive and Flammable Hazards 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart C</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No issues associated with development of a new housing subdivision.</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 development of a new housing subdivision.</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).</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 development of a new housing subdivision.</p>
<p>Wild and Scenic Rivers Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, particularly section 7(b) and (c)</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The Kuskokwim River is not listed as a Wild and Scenic River.</p>
<p>ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE</p>		
<p>Environmental Justice Executive Order 12898</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Most of the residents of Akiak are low-income Alaska Natives.</p>

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	3	Community has concerns about development of a new housing subdivision site adjacent to the existing solid waste site and honey bucket lagoon.
Soil Suitability/ Slope/ Erosion/ Drainage/ Storm Water Runoff	2	The housing subdivision development will be largely on flat ground
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	2	Development of a new housing subdivision will avoid the prospect of future displacement of family members from homes threatened by the Kuskokwim River.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES		
Educational and Cultural Facilities	2	No issues associated with development of a new housing subdivision.
Commercial Facilities	2	No issues associated with development of a new housing subdivision.
Health Care and Social Services	2	No issues associated with development of a new housing subdivision.
Solid Waste Disposal / Recycling	3	As noted previously, the community has concerns about development of housing adjacent to the existing solid waste site and honey bucket lagoon.
Waste Water / Sanitary Sewers	2	No issues associated with development of a new housing subdivision.
Water Supply	2	No work is anticipated near the community groundwater wells.
Public Safety - Police, Fire and Emergency Medical	2	No issues associated with development of a new housing subdivision.
Parks, Open Space and Recreation	2	No issues associated with development of a new housing subdivision.
Transportation and Accessibility	2	No issues associated with development of a new housing subdivision.

NATURAL FEATURES		
Unique Natural Features, Water Resources	2	No issues associated with development of a new housing subdivision.
Vegetation, Wildlife	2	No issues associated with development of a new housing subdivision.

Other Factors	3	This 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.
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List of Permits Obtained:

None to date

Anticipated:

1. Permit to Construct from Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation for Water and Sewer Main Improvements

Cumulative Impact Analysis [24 CFR 58.32]: Development of a new housing subdivision and new housing 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]

Alternatives for a new housing subdivision are discussed above. Also discussed above are the two alternatives for new quarantine housing: either built new in Akiak or shipping out refurbished barracks units.

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

Akiak is already facing housing shortages and the no action alternative will lead to greater overcrowding as the Kuskokwim River continues to destabilize and claim the riverbank and threaten existing homes.

The no action alternative in developing quarantine homes may result in the COVID-19 virus spreading throughout the community. With quarantine homes, Akiak may have a chance to limit the spread of the virus.

Summary of Findings and Conclusions:

1. Development of a new housing subdivision is a critical component of Akiak’s managed retreat objectives. The community prefers development of Site #1 (just west of the existing Akiak Subdivision) for housing and Site #3 for non-residential structures. Site #2 which is low-lying will be developed only where land is next to existing water, sewer, power and roads.
2. Akiak will develop quarantine housing on vacant lots that can be readily served with power, water and sewer facilities – even if the locations are not desirable.

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.

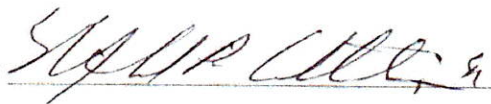
Law, Authority, or Factor	Mitigation Measure
Operating Heavy Equipment and moving homes on the roads	Construction crews will ensure residents are not nearby while operating heavy equipment..

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:  Date: 6/18/2020
Name/Title/Organization: Joel Neimeyer, P.E., Consultant to Akiak Native Community

Certifying Officer Signature:  Date: 6/18/2020
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).