

Mertarvik Community Update 2025





2024

- Since our last planning group meeting we acquired a new project manager, RESPEC
- Respec and Newtok Village Council have been working diligently to get something going for summer of 2024.
- Meetings every one or 2 weeks, to ensure proper planning for the short construction season.

Newtok 2024

- Meeting with RESPEC and Newtok Village Council, we have identified 112 residents remaining in Newtok.
- We couldn't have another year in Newtok. Operating 2 generators under one budget drained us financially.
- Contractors for the school project had started demolishing the schools water source, and elementary wing. Demolishing Newtok School will remain in spring 2025



Mertarvik Powerplant

Just shortly after our Planning group meeting, a 180 kW generator was swapped out with a 210 kW and new Gen End just to meet demands of power load in Mertarvik.

Hiring 2 operators was a must, we had 1 operator doing all the work. With addition of new operators, it put us in a good position for stable power.

With the proper training from Northern Power and Generation, and AEA our operators caught up to speed on how to properly maintain our generators.

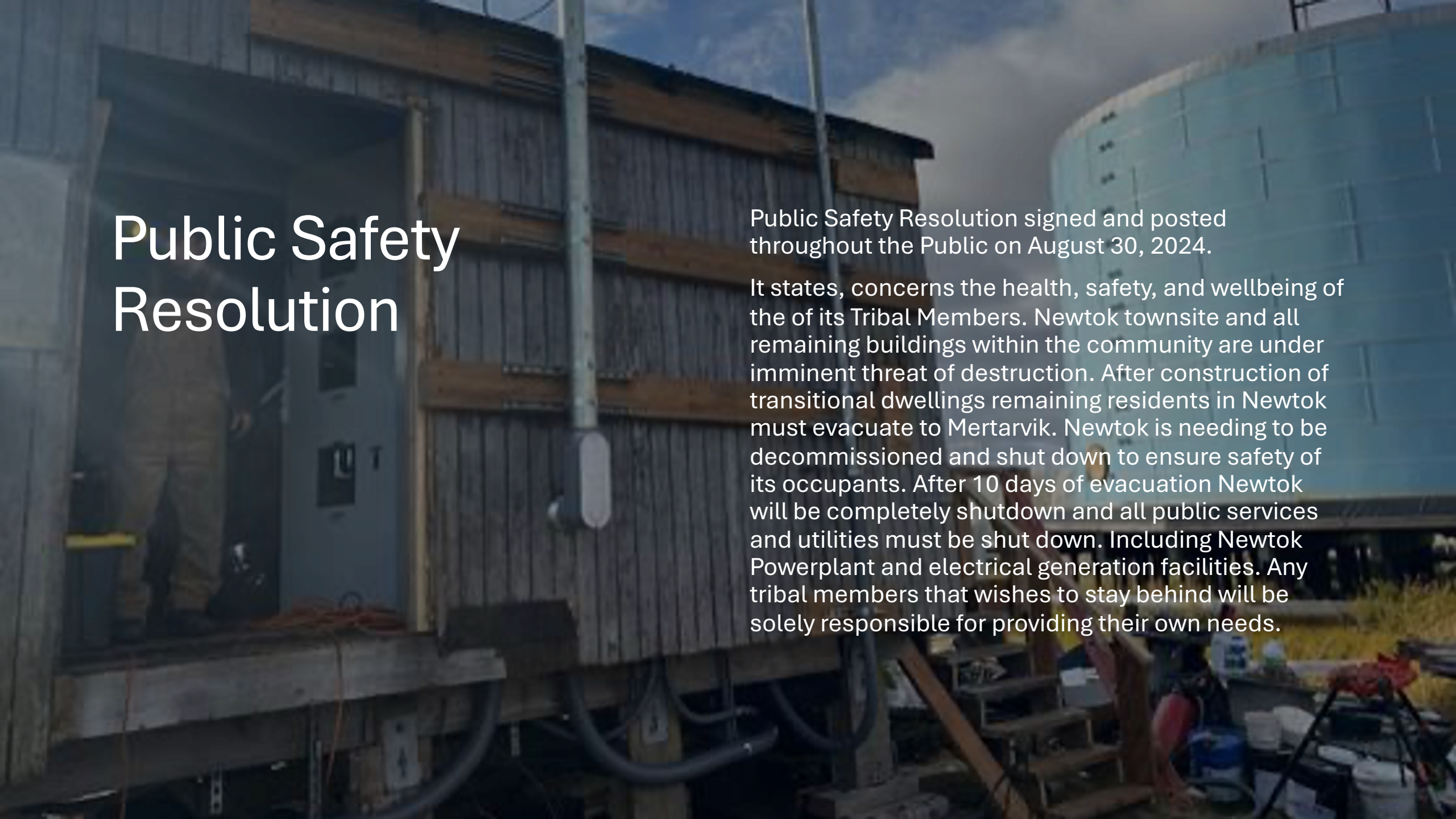
Upgrades for new generators are in the works, replacing both 65 kW and adding another 210 kW and a 230 kW



Community Engagement

- RESPEC and NVC has hosted multiple meetings regarding transitional homes, RESPEC put together a powerpoint on what to expect with transitional homes. A lot of comments, concerns, questions within the tribal members.
- NVC has explained to remaining residents the dire need of moving everyone to Mertarvik. Public safety resolution was presented in a public meeting summer of 2024. Passed by council 8-30-2024. Some excited, some hesitant, few didn't want to leave. Its hard to move away, where your ancestors and family grew up in.



The background image shows a weathered wooden building with a person standing in a doorway on the left. To the right, a large, cylindrical blue storage tank is visible. The scene is outdoors with some debris and equipment in the foreground, suggesting a construction or industrial site.

Public Safety Resolution

Public Safety Resolution signed and posted throughout the Public on August 30, 2024.

It states, concerns the health, safety, and wellbeing of the of its Tribal Members. Newtok townsite and all remaining buildings within the community are under imminent threat of destruction. After construction of transitional dwellings remaining residents in Newtok must evacuate to Mertarvik. Newtok is needing to be decommissioned and shut down to ensure safety of its occupants. After 10 days of evacuation Newtok will be completely shutdown and all public services and utilities must be shut down. Including Newtok Powerplant and electrical generation facilities. Any tribal members that wishes to stay behind will be solely responsible for providing their own needs.

Heavy Equipment Maintenance

- Before the transitional homes came in, we had to do maintenance on our heavy equipment.
- Summit Consulting Services, came and helped out the operators to do the required maintenance for all the equipment that we would need to do road and housing pad repair.
- Tribe is confident with the operators trained to do the required maintenance, these machines would last us through out the relocation project and after the relocation project.



Road and Housing Pad Project

- Stitt Construction and TC Construction have come out and evaluated the conditions of the roads and housing pads.
- They felt it wasn't adequate enough for transportation and placement of the transitional homes, work needed to be done.
- Before transitional homes arrived, NVC has purchased a Bomag Compactor. It arrived on 9-13-25.
- Work continued for a few weeks, before the transitional homes arrived. Rain wasn't in our favor so once we have permanent homes in place. The housing pads and driveways will need to be worked on.



Newtok Generator Shutdown

- Temporary homes arrived September 30, 2024. TC Construction and Stitt Construction were in the community checking on conditions of the roads. Working in the community 3-4 weeks setting Temporary homes.
- Prior to shutdown, rural maintenance workers out of YKHC came out and winterize the water plant. Disassembled pumps and drained remaining water that's in holding tank.
- Newtok Power shut down at 12-1-24 1:51 pm
- Few residents remained but finished moving that week

Newtok 2025



- No Newtok resident resides in Newtok, all moved to Mertarvik
- Contractors are on site doing demolition on Newtok Ayaprun School
- GCI set place fuel tanks for their generator, to keep cell tower going. Fuel should last until GCI is set up in Mertarvik.
- Ungusraq Power Company workers been transporting fuel from Newtok to Mertarvik via snowmachine.
- Residents are still hauling stuff to their temporary homes.



Mertarvik Updates 2025

- Community is all in Mertarvik as of December 2024, first 4 years in Mertarvik were awfully quiet. Once everyone moved over, the village is more active.
- Although we didn't fully relocate, we still have tons of projects in the community that will benefit tribal members in the community. Permanent homes for temporary homes, completing roads in the community, finish power distribution, water & sewer, Alaska Tribal Spectrum, GCI.
- We would like to thank all federal and state agencies that contributed to the relocation, Sally Cox for setting up Newtok Planning group, were we all can sit together and give updates about the community. Huge thanks to previous council who paved the way for relocation. Current council for making tough decisions that would help the tribal members in the community. Thanks to Tracy McKeon and RESPEC for helping us finish the relocation and help build a sustainable village for the tribal members. Each and everyone in this room played a huge role for the relocation of Newtok, the people of Newtok thank you all.