

Newtok Relocation Project

Environmental Assessment

Public Scoping Overview – April 5, 2016

FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

- Funds from federal disaster declaration – Newtok affected with past damages
- Roles and responsibilities and grant award process
 - Ê Village - applies to State, does project after grant award
 - Ê State – determines eligibility, administers grant
 - Ê FEMA – confirms eligibility, completes environmental review, awards grant
- Pending application = relocate 12 homes from Newtok to Mertarvik

BIA Tribal Transportation Program

- Available funds
- Roles and responsibilities
 - Ê Village
 - Ê BIA
- Process for use of funds
- Existing contracts and scope of work in Mertarvik



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Other Potential Funds/Projects for 12 Home Relocations

- HUD
- State
- Private

Federal Environmental Review

- Use of Federal funding triggers environmental review
- Key law – National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
 - Ê Consider, disclose, and document affects to human environment before action (e.g. funding use)
- Other laws –
 - Ê National Historic Preservations Act – How are historic properties and cultural resources affected?
 - Ê Endangered Species Act – How are threatened and endangered species affected?
 - Ê Various Executive Orders – such as affects to wetlands

Basic NEPA Review Process

- Ê Initial determination of review level based on scope of work
- Ê Scope review – who, how, what
 - § Public involvement
- Ê Complete analysis and agency consultations to determine impacts
- Ê Document review and findings in Environmental Assessment
 - § Public involvement



What is an Environmental Assessment?

- ü Purpose and Need – What is the ‘problem’ and why do something about it
- ü Alternatives - What do we want to do and other options to address the ‘problem’
- ü Affected environment and consequences – if we proceed with options, how things will change
 - § land, water, air, vegetation wildlife, community
- ü Mitigation – ways to reduce negative impacts

EA Scoping

- Scoping is an **important step** of the NEPA process
- Purpose of scoping is to **share information** about the proposed project and **gather input** to prepare EA
 - Ê Gather pertinent information and studies done to date
 - Ê Get public and organizational input
 - Ê Determine who needs to participate and role
- After scoping
 - Ê **Review comments** to help refine alternatives and identify topics for study in the EA
 - Ê **Conduct analysis and draft EA** for later public review and comment

An aerial photograph of a wide, calm river with a small island of trees in the middle. The water is a light, milky green color, and the surrounding land is lush green.

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Questions about NEPA or Process?

Purpose and need

- The **purpose** of the Newtok Relocation Project is to:
 - Ê Reduce flood and erosion damage to property and economic losses
 - Ê Reduce public health and life safety risk from floods and erosion
- The **need** for this project is because of:
 - Ê Ongoing and forecast erosion from the Ninglick River
 - Ê Past and forecast storm flooding
 - Ê Widespread damage to property and economic losses
 - Ê Life safety risks

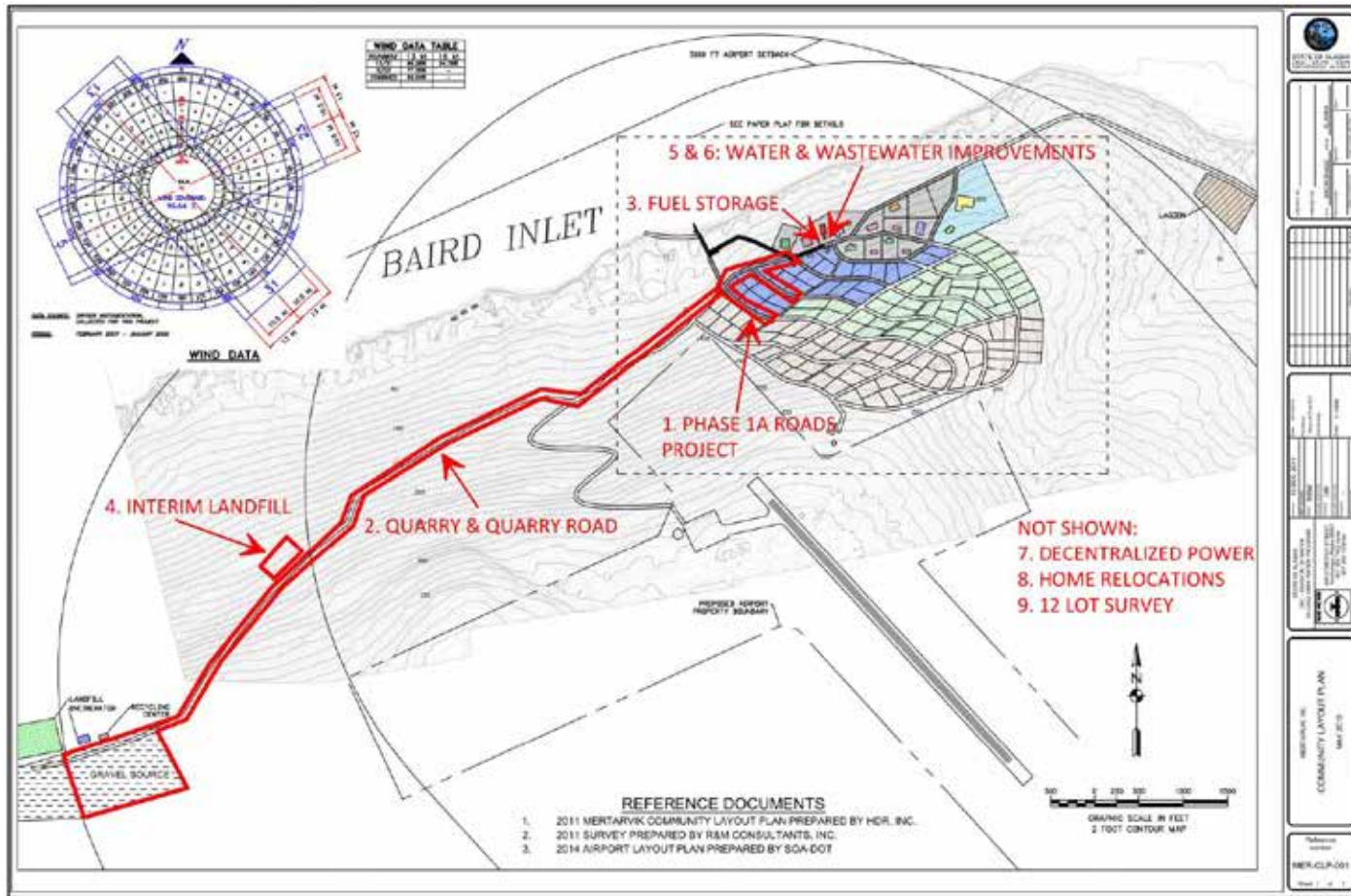
Proposed Alternative - Newtok Relocation (part of 'Pioneer Phase')

- In Mertarvik: Build some community roads, retrofit community well, retrofit wastewater septic system, increase bulk fuel storage, interim landfill
- Complete an emergency response plan
- Purchase skiff
- Move 12 houses from Newtok to Mertarvik by barge
- Purchase home generators

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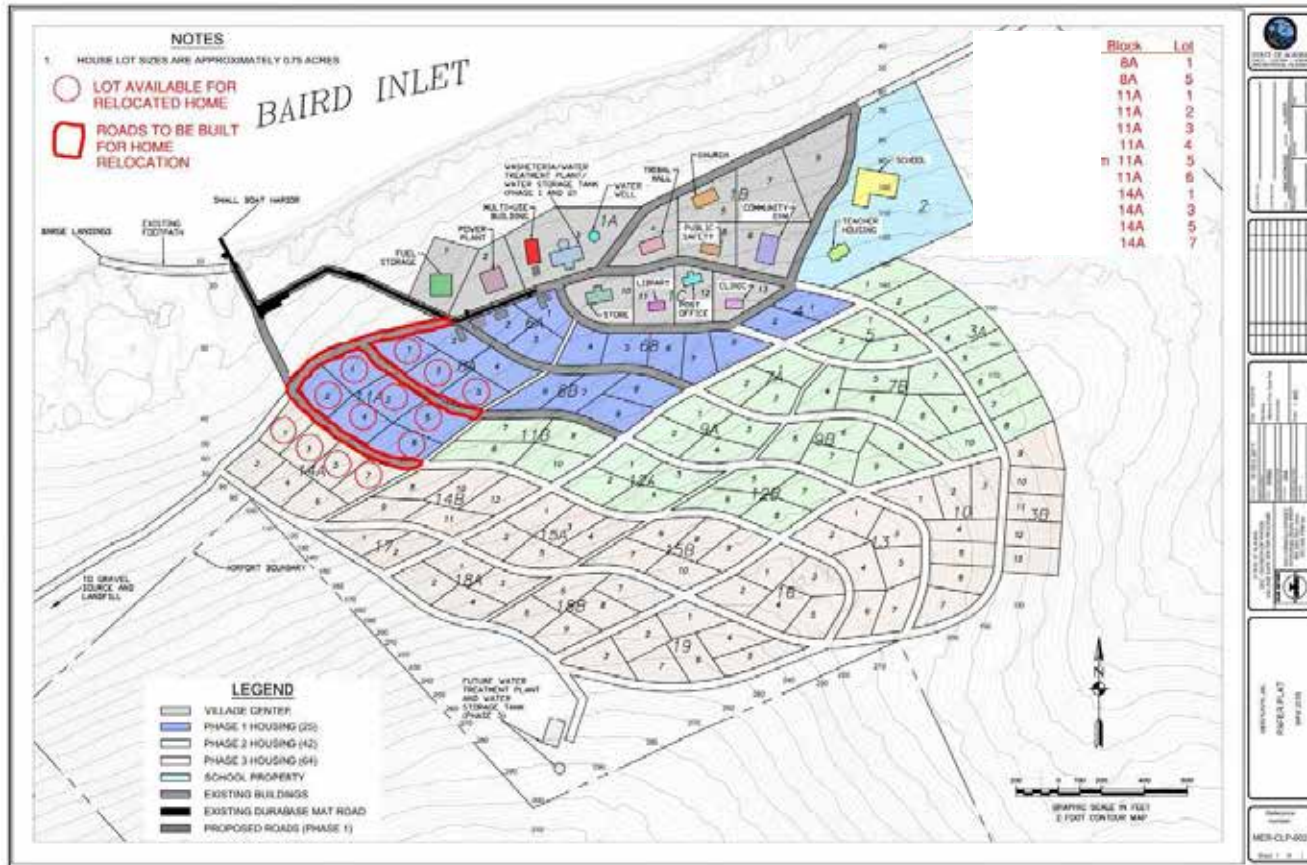
Mertarvik Layout with Project Elements



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Planned Lots for Relocated Homes



Other possible alternatives

- No Action Alternative – required and used for comparison of impacts
 - Ê No project funded by FEMA and BIA
- Build erosion and flood control in Newtok
- Buyout of select homes
- *Are there other options we should consider?*

Natural resources and social/community considerations

- Air quality
- Water
- Wetlands
- Vegetation
- Wildlife and habitat
- Transportation
- Healthcare/medical
- Education
- Emergencies
- Utilities
- Hazardous Materials



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How to provide comments:

- Ê **Comment Period Closes on April 25, 2016**
- Ê **Fill in Comment Sheet:** either leave it with us or mail/fax/email it back
- Ê **Fax:** (425) 487-4613, attention: Science Kilner
- Ê **Email:** science.kilner@fema.dhs.gov
- Ê **Mail:**
 - Science Kilner
 - Federal Emergency Management Agency
 - 130 228th Street SW
 - Bothell, WA 98021