

Deering Activity Report

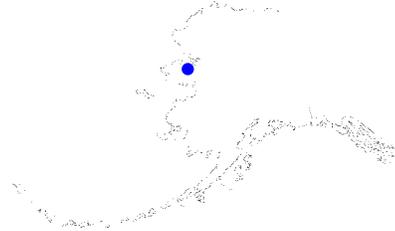
Community Overview

Lead RUBA Staff: Margaret Hansen, Kotzebue Office

2000 Census Population: 136

Region: Northwest Arctic

Local Governments: Second Class City



The City of Deering operates the piped water & sewer system, central watering point and water delivery haul system. The City Council is the policy making body for the utility.

Water is derived from the Inmachuk River; is treated and pumped to a 400,000-gallon insulated storage tank. Water is delivered to home tanks or hauled from the watering point.

Major improvements are under construction for a water haul and vacuum sewer system. A new washeteria and water treatment plant are nearing completion. Archaeological remains were discovered while excavating for the new system. The City would like to purchase an incinerator with waste heat recovery to reduce the volume of refuse.



General Information

In April, the Kotzebue Local Government Specialist provided telephone and fax assistance on the City's FY 02 budget and soon to lapse capital matching grant. Assistance was also provided on the economic development plan. The City hopes to provide jobs for local residents so they can afford to pay for their water/sewer monthly

In May the Kotzebue Local Government Specialist provided on site training and assistance to the Mayor and clerk on their FY 02 budget and coordinate with the IRA and tourism staff to plan for the community training on tourism.

In June, the Kotzebue Local Government Specialist provided phone and fax assistance in finalizing their budget, personnel problems and coordinating the need to move community training to end of September.

Observations and Recommendations

Finances — No problems at this time.

Accounting Systems — The current City Clerk still needs more training on QuickBooks Pro. The previous clerk is coming in and providing assistance as needed.

Tax Problems — No tax problems.

Personnel System — They started their review of the AML personnel policies but have not completed them yet at this time.

Organizational Management — The person from Kotzebue they hired as a City Administrator declined at this time due to inadequate housing. They went out to advertise once again.

Leadership/Governance — The Mayor is still working as a temporary administrator. He plans to work for Northwest Inupiat Housing Authority starting in June.

Operation of Utility — They still do not have certified operators. This is what I will stress with the Council to set a time frame for their two operators and schedule the training needed.

Many customers are complaining about their increased electric due to the heat tape attached to the pipe from the home to the main needing to be plugged in. Even though folks were trained on when they need to plug them in, they seem to use the heat tape more than they need to; therefore seeing a lot higher electric bill.

Ranking

1 = Inadequate

4 = Adequate to meet minimum requirements

7 = Exceeds requirements

Category	1	4	7
Finances			X
Accounting Systems			X
Tax Problems			X
Personnel System		X	
Organizational Management	X		
Leadership/Governance		X	
Operation of Utility		X	

Anticipated Activity

In August the LGS plans to travel out to Deering to provide training to the new administrator just hired from Kiana.

I continue to coordinating with the Remote Maintenance Worker and the VSW engineer to work towards certification and planning to complete their water/sewer system construction.

