

# **Kwethluk Activity Report**

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## **General Information:**

The Kwethluk Utility Commission (KUC) offices moved to the Water Treatment Plant/Washeteria due to late night activity at the City offices. This activity increased the electricity bill to the City, and was the main reason for the requisition to move. The water sewer project is now under the IRA Tribal Council.

In January 2001, the utility manager attended the Utility Organizational Management Workshop held in Bethel, Alaska. In March, the Utility Commission held a fiddle dance fund raiser to raise funds for operation and maintenance of the sanitation services.

The IRA Tribal Council contributed an ATV to the utility commission for container haul system use.

## **Observations and Recommendations:**

Finances — KUC held a fiddle dance fund raiser for operations and maintenance that helped in bring in much needed funds. Originally, both the IRA and the City had agreed to give donations to the KUC to support the utility. The IRA Council reduced its contribution by half and the City is not keeping up with their contribution donations. The City has allowed KUC to use office space at no charge. The user fees are not sufficient to cover the operation and maintenance of the sanitation services due to low.

Accounting Systems — The Utility is now separate and is operating its own accounting functions.

Tax Problems — The Utility is current with their tax liabilities, as a matter of fact, they have a credit with IRS.

Personnel System — The water treatment plant operator resigned, and a new water treatment operator was hired. The new operator needs training to get OIT Certified.

Organizational Management — The Utility is fairly well organized despite the low operating funds. The City drafted and adopted an ordinance dealing with user rates for the sanitation services. The commission now has new utility rates in effect. The City, understanding that this should have been done through a non-code ordinance and was planning to repeal the ordinance at a later date.

Leadership/Governance — Despite the financial discrepancies, the utility board continues actively in pursuance of the piped sewer system.

Operation of Utility — The Utility has a new ATV contributed by the IRA Tribal Council.

**Ranking**

1 = Inadequate

4 = Adequate to meet minimum requirements

7 = Exceeds requirements

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

**Anticipated Activity:**

A new utility assessment will be initiated next quarter, and a new RUBA work plan developed. Most of the tasks on the last RUBA work plan were met in accordance to the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) work plan.