

Kwethluk Activity Report

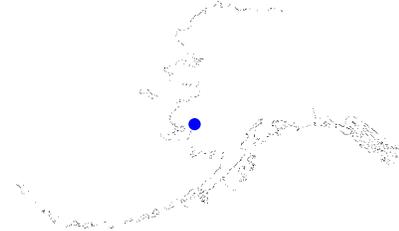
Community Overview

Lead RUBA Staff: Johnny Evan, Bethel Office

2000 Census Population: 713

Region: Lower Kuskokwim

Local Governments: Second Class City



The City of Kwethluk operates the central watering point where residents can come and haul their own water. The City also maintains multiple watering points in the City. They also provide a honeybucket haul service to the sewage lagoon. The City Council is the policy making body for the utility.

The washeteria and water treatment plant were recently rehabilitated. The school and teachers' housing have individual systems. Honeybuckets are hauled to a sewage lagoon. Very few homes have running water or plumbing for showers, but many residents have steambaths. Planning and engineering of a piped water and sewer system is underway.



General Information

Contributions to the Kwethluk Utilities Commission by the City and Tribe are not occurring as agreed, which puts the sanitation services in financial jeopardy. The commission is struggling financially due to uncommitted contributions and low collection rate. The commission hosts fiddle dances quarterly to raise funds for operation and maintenance. The utility organization instituted a water user rate, but that is still not enough to cover the water treatment expenses. This will be concurrent until the residential customers start paying for sanitation services. The water plant has a new operator, and the utility manager is taking the necessary process in getting him certified

Observations and Recommendations

Finances — The commission holds quarterly fiddle dances to raise funds for operations and maintenance that help in much needed funds. The two local government monthly contributions are not frequent, therefore, resulting in financial jeopardy. The City drafted and adopted an ordinance dealing with user rates for the sanitation services. The commission now has new utility rates in effect, to include water rates. The user fees are still not sufficient to cover the operation and maintenance of the sanitation services due to low collection.

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

Tax Problems — The commission is still current with their tax liabilities.

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 commission is fairly well organized despite the low operating funds.

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

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

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

A new utility assessment will be initiated next quarter, and a new RUBA Work Plan developed.