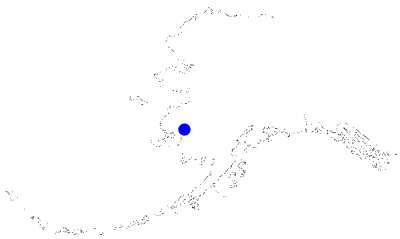
Nunapitchuk Activity Report

Community Overview



Lead RUBA Staff: Johnny Evan, Bethel Office

2001 Population: 466

Region: Lower Kuskokwim

Local Governments: Second Class City, Village Council

The City of Nunapitchuk and the Village Council jointly operate the central watering point and provide a water truck delivery service. The City operates the washeteria and provides a honeybucket haul service.

Well water is treated and supplied from a central tap year round. Fifteen additional flush/haul units are currently under construction and are slated to complete by February 2002. Remaining households not in the flush haul system, haul their own water and honeybuckets. Sewage containers are located throughout the City, and are emptied into one of two new sewage lagoons (one on each side of the River). The City provides piped water to the school. Teacher's housing, located in the old school, has an independent water and sewer system that needs improvements.

General Information

Boardwalk construction throughout the community with access to homes is still ongoing. The primary purpose of the boardwalks are to provide water/sewer haul vehicles access to every house for utility services. Currently, there are twenty-nine flush haul units in operation, and fifteen units are currently under construction. Supplies and material have arrived to the community, and construction for the additional planned units are underway. LKSD and Nunapitchuk are considering whether to close the BIA compound well and water treatment plant and connect it via the school. The water plant renovation was finally complete at the

end of the summer. The community is still planning to construct a second water plant at the other part of the main community. This project requires a feasibility study and financial projection, before implementation. A new rate study was completed for the service units in operation and the community met to adopt the new rates.

Observations and Recommendations

Finances — Finances are still stable this quarter, but they do not cover the true cost of providing services. The City still needs to develop a budget for the new additional units and for the second water treatment plant.

Accounting Systems — The accounting system is primarily managed through Excel spreadsheets. The organization purchased QuickBooks Pro financial software, and still is planning to computerize their accounting system.

Tax Problems — They are current with their tax liabilities.

Personnel System — The City hired a utility bookkeeper for the sanitation services.

Organizational Management — The City Council still need to decide whether they want to hire a City Manager and/or a Utility Manager. It has been recommended to the Council that a full time City Administrator, and/or a Utility Manager be hired. With the current sanitation services, container haul and flush haul, they need a utility manager who would monitor and coordinate the water sewer services. The governing body is proactive in all aspects of the city planning process. There are several new members on the city council.

Operation of Utility —The community is planning to construct a second water treatment plant on the second part of the community that is on the other side of the river. A new rate analysis will be required after the additional fifteen units are installed.

Category	Inadequate	Meets Minimum Requirements	Exceeds Minimum Requirements
Finances	X		
Accounting Systems	X		
Payroll Taxes		X	
Personnel System	X		
Organizational Management	X		
Operation of Utility	X		

Anticipated Activity

- Review the rates with the utility bookkeeper for the additional units & conduct a rate analysis.
- Conduct a financial projection for the planned water treatment plant.
- Provide sample chart of accounts for review, before installation of new financial software.