

Shaktoolik Activity Report

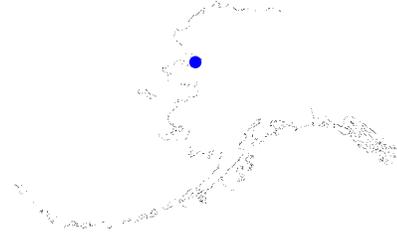
Community Overview

Lead RUBA Staff: Leroy Seppilu, Nome Office

2001 Population: 230

Region: Bering Straits

Local Governments: Second Class City



The City of Shaktoolik operates the piped water and sewer system and provides a central watering point. The City Council is the policy making board for the utility.

Water is pumped three miles from the Togoomenik River to the pumphouse, where it is treated and stored in a 848,000-gallon insulated tank. A piped water and sewage collection system serves most homes.

75% of households have complete plumbing and kitchen facilities. The school is connected to City water, and has received funding to develop a sewage treatment system to serve the entire community. The City burns refuse in an incinerator. The landfill needs to be relocated; the current site is not permitted.



General Information

A visit was made October 25-26, 2001. The utility uses manual record keeping system. The Utility Clerk has a very old computer that recently crashed on her and she is not using it anymore. She was using Excel spreadsheet to keep track of the payments made by the water & sewer utility customers. She has one of the best collection rates in the region.

Observations and Recommendations

Finances — The utility clerk keeps excellent records of the utility's finances despite using manual method. She spends within the means of the utility's earnings and quits issuing checks when the funds get low. This is rare and unique for this region. The utility barely breaks even. It probably operates at a loss. The clerk said she sometimes waits to pay

bills until customers pay and she has enough money in the bank. She lets her vendors know when to expect the payment if it's going to be late.

The city owes a fuel company about \$18,000 for fuel purchased last summer. The city had agreed to use the money from SRS. However, the council has not yet passed fy01 budget and therefore, the money is being held Juneau until they submit their budget. The fuel company is threatening to sue if payment is not made soon. The council was asked by RUBA if they needed assistance in filling out the manual but the mayor declined and said they would work on it right away. The budget not being finalized is not the fault of the utility clerk.

Accounting Systems — Manual system used and utility clerk keeps good records. She said she is ready for a new computer and wants to use whatever accounting software program is available.

Tax Problems — The city has no tax problems this quarter.

Personnel System — The utility and city operations is a family-run business. The long-time mayor's daughters work as city clerk and utility clerk. I asked for general feeling about this set-up around the community and nobody seemed to care very much. Both of them are very competent and the city clerk has been working there for years.

Organizational Management — The utility has been around for a long time through good times and bad times. I think it is going through a good period with this clerk. She is very experienced and good with her customers.

Operation of Utility — The utility clerk needs a new computer badly. She would benefit greatly from one. The U S. HUD had sent a couple of old computers to the city (166MHz) for their use. However, the utility would be better off in purchasing a new one that can last for several more years. The utility has good collection record.

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

Leroy doesn't anticipate any activities from this community other than telephone assistance for a while. He might be able to work with them to get a new computer for the utility. It would be a big moral boost for the utility clerk if she can get one. She could use the basic Quicken for starters. Leroy noticed they may need to update the water & sewer utility ordinance.