

Shungnak Activity Report

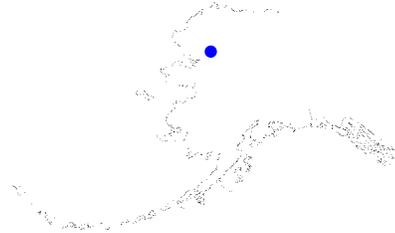
Community Overview

Lead RUBA Staff: Margaret Hansen, Kotzebue Office

2001 Population: 256

Region: Northwest Arctic

Local Governments: Second Class City



The City of Shungnak operates the piped water and sewer system. The City Council is the policy making board for the utility.

The water infiltration gallery was destroyed by ice several years ago, and needs replacement. A reservoir is intermittently filled from the Kobuk River — a portable pump fills a 200,000-gallon steel storage tank through 1,110' of buried arctic pipe. Groundwater wells have proven unsuccessful. Piped water and sewer are provided to 53 homes (those at the top of the bluff,) the clinic, school and community building. Shungnak has a 6-inch buried gravity sewage main, which drains into a small diked lake one-half mile northwest of the City. The main, lift station and manholes need replacement. The effluent is chlorinated before discharge. A new landfill has recently been completed.



General Information

In October, Margaret Hansen, Kotzebue office staff, provided telephone and fax assistance to the Administrator on the budget for FY02. With all their State Revenue Sharing taken by IRS, she will need to find additional revenue to make up for the shortfall. We discussed possible increases in revenues.

In December, the Kotzebue LGS provided phone and fax assistance on planning for funding needed for a new public safety, fire and heavy equipment storage.

Observations and Recommendations

Finances — The city has paid off their IRS debt but will have a very tight budget this year. I reminded her that they need to follow through with the second increase in water/sewer rates for January.

Accounting Systems — The City is doing very well with all the journals, reconciling and filing.

Tax Problems —No tax problems.

Personnel System — The next trip this quarter we will be able to concentrate on updating their policies now that they have paid off their IRS debt.

Organizational Management — During the personnel policy review and training we will update their organizational chart. Everyone knows and understands the current organizational structure.

Operation of Utility —They have a fully certified water/plant operator with two alternates being trained currently. Still working on compliance issues.

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

Margaret was not able to travel to Shungnak this last quarter but definitely will sometime during January-February-March 2002 to meet with the council on alternate operator training issues, compliance issues and financial issues.