

## Tanana (Too'gha) Activity Report

### General Information:

Too'gha continues to experience growth as a viable organization according to all indications that John Fischer, RUBA staff in the Fairbanks office, has seen. The year end statement shows that the Utility was about \$1,100 below the break-even point, much better than had originally been projected. Accomplishments this past quarter include:

**The Management Agreement**—A snag continues centering around what assets would belong to which organization in the event of a Too'gha dissolution. The Tribal Council, Too'gha Board, and City Council will meet and resolve this problem. Logically, the dissolution of a non-profit is governed under Alaska Statutes Title 10 and does not deserve the endless debate, which appears to revolve around this position. RUBA personnel directed a memo to the Too'gha Board on the subject and it appears that the best solution is already in the works—the various parties must meet and resolve this to their satisfaction.

**Construction**—The Utility Manager took RUBA personnel through the new water plant/laundromat on the last visit. The construction appears to be going very well. Both the VSW engineer and the construction foreman appear to have established a good working relationship with the Too'gha Board and the community. Problems and disagreements are solved in short order.

**Grants**—Documentation was sent by Too'gha to the granting agency on the Community Planning Grant. It appears this grant is near close out. Too'gha Board and management have talked about utilizing the grant once again in the year 2000 but no firm decisions have been made. In addition, the Board wants RUBA and the Too'gha manager to explore further possibilities of the Alaska Native Health Board (ANHB) mentoring grant with the City of Hughes.

**Insurance**—Too'gha placed a general liability on the existing laundromat, one of the last conditions of the management agreement.

**Monthly Financial Reports**—Monthly financial reporting to the Board of Directors is in place.

### Observations and Recommendations:

**Finances** — Much improved. The Operator spends a great deal of time working for VSW at the new facility. This is highly beneficial to Too'gha for two reasons: The Operator becomes familiar with the workings of the new facility, and the Too'gha organization is temporarily relieved of that payroll burden. Too'gha's cash flow continues to be positive.

Overall revenues showed that the laundromat might be slightly down for FY99 while water/sewer revenues have improved considerably over 1998 totals.

Accounting Systems — Good, since the Manager has learned the system. Only some very minor accounting changes were made by RUBA staff on the last site visit. It appears that the Too'gha accounting has reached a point of self-sufficiency.

Tax Problems — None. All quarterly reports (IRS and DOL) have been filed. Second quarter returns were amended to pick up the last payroll period in March.

Personnel System — Good. The organization has a good personnel policy and so far has followed it to the letter.

Organizational Management — Good. The Board and Manager must work towards improving communication regarding financial matters and the state of the budget. Manager is working on 2000 budget but this has not been completed as of September 30. More work needed with Board and Manager on budgeting matters.

Leadership/Governance — Good. Board is establishing a good working relationship with all members. Several new members of the Board appear to be working out well. Members with diverse backgrounds and interests are getting the job done.

Operation of Utility — Manager is taking a much more active role in the operation of the utility on a day to day operation and maintenance routine. This is out of necessity, since the primary operator spends a great deal of time at the new facility. This leaves the Too'gha Manager to sort out the routine problems. Since the Manager has the bookkeeping and paper work pretty well in tow this leaves him more time to devote to the operation and maintenance side of the system.

**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>	