

Tuntutuliak Activity Report

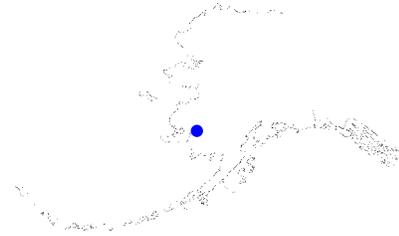
Community Overview

Lead RUBA Staff: Johnny Evan, Bethel Office

2001 Population: 370

Region: Lower Kuskokwim

Local Governments: Traditional Council



Tuntutuliak Community Services Association (Utility Organization) operates the washeteria, flush haul system, landfill/lagoon site, garbage collection service, and the central watering point.

A flush/haul system was completed for 31 homes in 1997, including bathroom plumbing. Construction continues for the remaining 30 homes, who currently use honeybuckets. The Tuntutuliak Community Service Association (TCSA), a non-profit arm of the Village Council, operates the utilities. A new landfill, sewage lagoon, and a 4-mile sanitation boardwalk were recently completed. The school has its own well and sewage lagoon; design of a new water treatment system and lagoon is underway.

General Information

The Utility Bookkeeper took an eight week maternity leave, leaving the Utility Clerk to do the accounting for the utility. Once the Utility Bookkeeper came back, the Utility Clerk took her maternity leave in March and April 2002. Both water plant operators, primary and alternate, are now OIT/Water Distribution certified. As a result they got an FY02 funding award from VSW, amounting to 1.4 million dollars, with the construction projected for FY03. Fourteen additional remaining flush haul units will be installed to complete the system.

CE2 Engineering, a consultant firm, conducted a feasibility study to determine if the school should be connected to the community's flush tank and haul system. The firm recommended the school construct a 1,200 gallon septic tank that would be emptied four times for a single service charge. The idea is realistic, but with the amount and size of equipment on hand, they would need new equipment to meet the schools disposal requirement.

Each service unit (water treatment plant – washeteria – flush haul system – garbage services – electrical generators) all have the required operators and are operating as expected. Recently, an alternate water operator was sent to the OIT/Water Distribution training in Bethel and passed the required certification tests. Garbage service recently raised the user fee, from \$0.50 a bag to \$10 per month, to hopefully meet the operation and maintenance expenses. Each service unit has completed a rate analysis for residential user fees. The rate analysis can be referred to when the service unit is not paying for itself.

Observations and Recommendations

Finances — The finances are still stable through user fees. They have a reserve account for any unexpected emergency.

Accounting Systems — The accounting is managed manually and information is still being inserted as data on an Excel spreadsheet. The organization fell slightly behind in producing monthly financial reports. The organization is working with Precision Power in computerizing their accounting system to QuickBooks Pro.

Tax Problems — They are current with their tax liabilities.

Personnel System — Precision Power will provide the technical assistance in computing the Power Cost Equalization (PCE) rate for the customers. The utility organization hired an alternate water operator, and he was sent to the OIT/Water Distribution training.

Organizational Management — The organization is very well organized in accordance with standard operating procedures.

Operation of Utility — The sanitation services are well organized and are meeting the sanitation requirements of the community. The organization has a preventative maintenance schedule and is still sending the required water samples on time to the regional health organization.

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

Monitor Precision Power when they install QuickBooks Pro.