



**U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers**
Alaska District

ALASKA BASELINE EROSION ASSESSMENT

Erosion Information Paper – Clark’s Point, Alaska

Current as of October 12, 2007

Community Information

Clark's Point, population 69, is on a spit on the northeastern shore of Nushagak Bay, 15 miles south of Dillingham and 337 miles southwest of Anchorage. The community is a 2nd class city in the unorganized borough. The riverbank and shoreline are used for numerous community activities, including access ramps for boats, snow machines and ATV's; fishing and hunting; and driftwood collection.

Description of Erosion Problem

Per the community survey, coastal and riverine processes along Nushagak Bay and Nushagak River are the cause of erosion problems in Clark's Point. Conditions causing or contributing to erosion include flooding, spring-breakup, high tides, and wind and wave action. Waves can approach Clark's Point from the north, west, and south. South-southwest waves can reach approximately 14 feet. The older portion of Clark's Point on a gravel spit is particularly vulnerable to storms with intense southwest winds.

According to a Department of Transportation and Public Facilities report, long-term residents indicated that in 1943 the bank line was about 100 to 150 feet farther outward. This indicates long-term erosion averaging 2.5 to 3.8 feet per year. The report indicated an erosion loss of 0.2 acres per year.

Potential Damages

At the rate of erosion discussed above, the potential exists for the community clinic, community generator, 2 sheds, 1 warehouse, 13 homes, and a utility pipe to be lost to erosion within 25 years (see linear extent of erosion on map). The community began moving to higher ground in the early 1980s to reduce this risk. Many community structures have been relocated south to a high bluff area, protecting them from future erosion damage. The new airport, which opened in 2006, is also on this bluff. Other community facilities now on the bluff include the city office, electric plant, post office, school, and health clinic. Residential structures are on both the bluff and the lower area. A cemetery, the tribal office, and a fish processing plant were not relocated and are still at risk. The city's bulk fuel facility is also in the lower area, but at a fair distance from the beach.

Photos and Diagrams

Photos of erosion provided by Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, Division of Community Advocacy are attached. A diagram showing the linear extent of erosion in the community is also attached.

References

DOT/PF. 1984. *Final Task Force Report on Erosion.* Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT/PF).

USACE. June 1985. *Dillingham, Ekuk, and Clark's Point Trip Report.* Alaska District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

USACE. October 1987. *Clark's Point Environmental Assessment.* Alaska District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

USACE. 2007. *Alaska Community Erosion Survey, OMB approved number 07100001,* expires September 30, 2009 submitted by the community on September 6, 2007 (author unknown).

Additional Information

This information paper, as well as those for other communities, can be accessed on the internet at www.alaskaerosion.com. For more information please contact the Corps of Engineers project manager at (907) 753-5694 or email Alaska.Erosion.POA@usace.army.mil



Photo 1: Clark's Point from the North, October 2005.



Photo 2: Looking towards fish plant, September 2005.

NUSHAGAK RIVER AND
NUSHAGAK BAY

Flow



Old Airstrip

Old Clark's Point
floodprone area

Clark's Point
high bluff area

New Airport

NOTE: The extent of erosion shown on this figure is based on interviews with the community. This data has not been field verified. This figure is only intended to show areas of erosion, not rates or severity of erosion

Date of Aerial Photo: 22 September 01



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----- Linear Extent of Erosion



Alaska Baseline Erosion
Clarks Point, Alaska