



U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District

ALASKA BASELINE EROSION ASSESSMENT

Erosion Information Paper - Tazlina, Alaska

Current as of February 29, 2008

Community Information

Tazlina (taz-LEE-nuh), population 188, is 5 miles south of Glennallen along the Richardson Highway at mile 110.5. It is unincorporated in the unorganized borough.

Description of Erosion Problem

Tazlina is on the north and south banks of the Tazlina River, near its junction with the Copper River. The Tazlina River is about 46 miles long and flows east from Tazlina Lake into the Copper River. The 25-mile long Tazlina Glacier is the primary source of silty glacial water in the river. The meandering river channel causes erosion at Tazlina. Steep, unvegetated slopes along road cuts also are slumping and sliding. The erosion associated with the seasonal flooding and river channel migration has impacted 4 riverbank areas. The south bank of the river channel is reported to have eroded 20 to 50 feet upstream of the Richardson Highway Bridge in the past 20 years. An ice jam that formed along the river channel on February 12, 2007 piled up to within 3 feet of the bottom of the Richardson Highway Bridge. No specific erosion damage was reported from this ice jam event, but ice jams are reported to contribute to erosion in the community.

Potential Damages

Residences, private wells, fuel tanks, smoke houses, outbuildings, a power pole, and a pathway by the old Catholic School are threatened by erosion. Erosion prevents use of a boat launch area east of the Richardson Highway and south of the bridge, and a picnic area at the launch has lost several feet of riverbank to erosion. A dike on the upstream north side of the river that deflects river flow to the south side has been effective in protecting the bridge, but the south bank of the river is now eroding. The cost for the dike is unknown and other erosion protection measures were not reported.

There is concern that the Tazlina River may erode into an old gravel pit downstream from the Richardson Highway Bridge on the north (outside) bend of the river and adversely impact School Road, Tazlina Loop Road, and residences. The Tazlina Trailer Court, a campground, a watering point, and the Bradley Subdivision on the upstream side of the Richardson Highway Bridge, also are reported as areas and facilities at risk from continued erosion.

Photos and Diagrams

Photos of erosion provided by Michael L. Bird are attached. Also, attached is a diagram depicting the linear extent of erosion in the community.

References

Alaska DCRA. 1977. *Tazlina Community Information*, July 1977.

USACE. 2008. *Alaska Community Erosion Survey*, OMB approved number 07100001, expires September 30, 2009 administered to Dana Becker, president of the Association of Tazlina residents in February 2008.

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: Tazlina River at the Richardson Highway Bridge, photo courtesy of Michael L. Bird, November 14, 1998.



Photo 2: Tazlina River during November 14, 1998 high water, photo courtesy of Michael L. Bird.



Photo 3: Home in foreground is upstream and on the south side of the Tazlina River Bridge, photo courtesy of Michael L. Bird, November 14, 1998.



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--- Linear Extent of Erosion



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