

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY  
Preliminary Costs of Alternatives  
Shishmaref Relocation  
December 2004

**BACKGROUND:** This report was prepared as part of the Corps effort in developing a programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for relocating Shishmaref, Alaska in response to several pieces of congressional legislation.

The information used for these estimates were gathered from agencies and groups who have significant experience in construction and operation in rural Alaska. These groups included HUD, Alaska DCED – Community Advocacy Division, Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority/Alaska Energy Authority (AIDEA/AEA), City of Nome, AVEC, Denali Commission, Manilaq, TRC Construction, City of Kotzebue, Northwest Artic Borough, NANA Regional Corporation, KIC, Kotzebue Elders Council, KWERAK, Kotzebue Electric Association, Nome Joint Utility, Shishmaref Erosion and Relocation Coalition, plus input from many members of the Shishmaref community.

Tetra Tech, Inc prepared the report. Working with the Corps study team, Tetra Tech gathered, refined, and developed cost estimates that reflect the collective knowledge of the many agencies and stakeholders that are involved in community development in this region of Alaska.

**RELOCATION COSTS:** The costs below reflect a five-year plan for relocation, co-location, or staying on Sarichef Island. Nome and Kotzebue were chosen as the two closest regional hub communities. Co-locating Shishmaref with other local communities (i.e. Wales, Deering, or Espenberg) would likely cost the same as relocating the community to Shishmaref lagoon. All options assume similar levels of upgrades installed. If community stays on Sarichef it is assumed improvements similar to the other options, would also occur.

Comparative Financial Costs for Various Options

Option	Cost
Relocate to site near Shishmaref Lagoon	\$ 180,000,000
Co-locate to Nome	\$ 95,000,000
Co-Locate to Kotzebue	\$ 140,000,000
Stay on Sarichef Island	\$ 110,000,000

These numbers do not reflect social or cultural impacts or costs to the environment. These and other costs and impacts will be documented in the EIS due out in late 2005.

**POINT OF CONTACT:** Bruce Sexauer, Study Manager  
Office Phone: (907) 753-5619  
Email: [Bruce.R.Sexauer@usace.army.mil](mailto:Bruce.R.Sexauer@usace.army.mil)

The Detailed Report is available for download at  
<http://www.poa.usace.army.mil/en/cw/shishmaref/relocation.pdf>