



U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District

ALASKA BASELINE EROSION ASSESSMENT

Erosion Information Paper - Akiachak, Alaska

Current as of April 9, 2008

Community Information

Akiachak (ACK-ee-uh-chuck), population 628, is on the west bank of the Kuskokwim River in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta 18 miles northeast of Bethel. The community is in the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge. Akiachak is unincorporated in the unorganized borough. The topography of the lower Kuskokwim River is fairly flat tundra interspersed with rivers, sloughs, ponds and marshes. The riverbank is used for boat access, snowmachine and ATV access, barge access, boat storage, fishing and hunting, processing catch, and driftwood collecting.

Description of Erosion Problem

The community has periodic erosion along the Kuskokwim River. Periodic high river flow and water level fluctuations, flooding, ice jams, spring break up, and melting permafrost reportedly contribute to erosion. The riverbank has reportedly been eroding at an average rate of 10 feet per year, although there are no detailed measurements. The erosion area is along a 10 to 15-foot-high bank 500 to 2,000 feet from most of the community. There were major erosion events in May 2000, June 2005, and October 2007.

Potential Damages

Structures and facilities threatened by erosion include fuel tanks and pumps, drying racks, Smokehouses, road sections, power poles, telephone poles, cable poles, power generators, the sewage lagoon, sites of significant cultural and archeological value, and the airport runway and facilities. Many are less than 100 feet from the active erosion area.

Photos and Diagrams

No photos were provided by the community or other sources. A diagram depicting the linear extent of erosion in the community is attached and the erosion areas that are shown have been taken from the *Akiachak Airport Master Vicinity Map* in the *Akiachak Airport Relocation Final Environmental Assessment* (prepared by HDR Inc.) that depicts the general historic river movement.

References

Alaska DOT/PF. 2008. *Akiachak Airport Relocation Final Environmental Assessment with Finding Of No Significant Impact (FONSI) Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment*. Prepared by Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, Central Region for the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration.

USACE. 2008. *Alaska Community Erosion Survey*, OMB approved number 07100001, expires September 30, 2009 completed by Eric Phillip, environmental coordinator for the Akiachak native community on April 4, 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



Alaska District
Corps of Engineers
Civil Works Branch

--- Linear Extent of Erosion



Alaska Baseline Erosion
Akiachak, Alaska