



U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District

ALASKA BASELINE EROSION ASSESSMENT

Erosion Information Paper - Allakaket, Alaska

Current as of December 11, 2007

Community Information

Allakaket (al-uh-KACK-ut), population 94, is on the south bank of the Koyukuk River, southwest of its junction with the Alatna River, approximately 190 miles northwest of Fairbanks and 57 miles upriver from Hughes. Outside the city limits of Allakaket is New Allakaket, with a population of about 34. Allakaket is incorporated as a 2nd class city in the unorganized borough.

Description of Erosion Problem

Based on the community survey, seasonal river flow fluctuations, flooding, ice jams, and spring breakup are causes and factors contributing to erosion. Erosion is along the Koyukuk River at the ballpark and picnic area near the old airstrip, where a steep bank drops off to the river. The erosion area is about 200 yards long, with a 12-14 foot vertical bank. It was reported that New Allakaket on higher ground does not have erosion problems.

Flooding and associated erosion caused by ice jams is a common occurrence in Allakaket. Major flood events occurred in 1937, 1938, 1939, 1964, 1966, 1968, 1989, and 1994. The Allakaket part of the community is on a low, flat area along the river that can easily flood. New Allakaket is on higher ground, above the floodplain.

Potential Damages

A 30-day rain event in August 1994 created serious flooding along the Koyukuk River, causing extensive damage to Allakaket. All residents were evacuated by U.S. Army helicopter. As a result of the flood, 17 homes were destroyed, 24 suffered major damage, and an additional 16 suffered minor damage. All public facilities were extensively damaged. A portion of the community was forced to relocate and rebuild at New Allakaket.

The community survey reports that the ballpark picnic area along the Koyukuk River near the old airstrip is the primary area of the community threatened by erosion. Some outbuildings, sheds and smokehouses are reported to be threatened.

Photos and Diagrams

Attached is a photo of Allakaket from the air provided courtesy of Steve Hillebrand, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Also, attached is a diagram depicting the linear extent of erosion.

References

Unknown. 1995. *Allakaket: The Comprehensive Plan.*

Johnson. 1998. *E-mail from Gerald Johnson to General Interest Bulletins.*

USACE. 1990. *High Water Elevation Identification: Allakaket.*

USACE. 2007. *Alaska Community Erosion Survey, OMB approved number 07100001, expires September 30, 2009 administered to Gilbert Vent, Allakaket village EPA coordinator on December 11, 2007*

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: Alatna River, center, and Koyukuk River confluence near Allakaket. Photo by Steve Hillebrand, USFWS. No photo date.



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



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--- Linear Extent of Erosion



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