Erosion Information Paper - Ekwok, Alaska
Current as of March 11, 2008

Community Information
Ekwok (ECK-wock), population 108, is along the Nushagak River, 43 miles northeast of Dillingham, and 285 miles southwest of Anchorage. The community is incorporated as a 2nd class city in the unorganized borough. Many of the earliest homes in Ekwok were in a low, flat area near the riverbank. Villagers moved to higher ground after a severe flood in the early 1960s. Community uses of the Nushagak River banks include barge access in spring and fall, boat storage in the summer, and the processing of fishing catch. The river is also used for floatplane landing and takeoff. The bulk fuel storage and generator, a number of private dwellings, and a skiff dock are along the riverfront.

Description of Erosion Problem
Ekwok has occasional major flooding and bank erosion associated with the Nushagak River, primarily caused by seasonal ice jams. Erosion has been gradual, and is not considered a serious problem by some community members, however erosion is listed as an environmental issue of concern to the community in the 2005 Ekwok Community Comprehensive Plan. The 1981 and 2003 Ekwok Community Profile Maps have a note stating: “much of the riverbank is subject to erosion, according to local sources.”

Potential Damages
No structures or facilities were reported threatened or at risk from erosion. The community’s list of goals and implementation actions in the Comprehensive Plan does not include protecting against riverbank erosion. Erosion protective measures have not been implemented and none are planned.

Photos and Diagrams
Photos are attached of the community following an ice jam flood. Also, attached is a diagram depicting the linear extent of erosion in the community, based on information provided in the community survey by the city administrator and not from other sources (the community profile maps from 1981 and 2003 showed more extensive erosion areas).
References


Additional Information
This information paper, as well as those for other communities, can be accessed on the internet at [www.alaskaerosion.com](http://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](mailto:Alaska.Erosion.POA@usace.army.mil)
Photo 1: Ice jam flooding around the Ekwok power plant, May 2002.

Photo 2: Fence around the power plant and fuel tanks damaged by ice jam in May 2002.

Photo 3: Ice jam pushed up around power plant, May 2002.

Photo 4: Ice jam flooding at the power plant, May 2002.
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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