



U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District

ALASKA BASELINE EROSION ASSESSMENT

Erosion Information Paper – Northway, Alaska

Current as of March 3, 2008

Community Information

Northway, population 79, is on the east bank of Nabesna Slough, 50 miles southeast of Tok. It is off the Alaska Highway and adjacent to the Northway Airport at about mile 7.5 of the 9-mile Northway Road. Northway is unincorporated in the unorganized borough.

Description of Erosion Problem

Erosion is reported at approximately Mile 2.5 to 2.6 of Northway Road where it crosses Fish Creek. The Northway Airport runway and surrounding area was inundated by a flood in the late 1940's. One end of the runway has been occasionally flooded in more recent years.

Potential Damages

The Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT/PF) re-routed Mark Creek between 1994 and 1996 when they created a new flow channel into Fish Creek. The re-routed creek has eroded into 2 lakes, adding silt, mud and contributing to downstream flooding and erosion. The re-routed Mark Creek flow into Fish Creek is currently placing homes at risk between Mile 2.5 to 2.6 along Northway Road. DOT/PF installed some armoring at the point of erosion in 2006 and added additional riprap in the fall of 2007. Attempts by local residents to re-establish the old Mark Creek channel have reportedly failed. An erosion project was initially funded through the Corps in 2001, however funds were later withdrawn. The community has continued to apply for assistance through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Five homes in the Fish Creek area are currently threatened. The Northway community is concerned they may be adversely affected in the future as the erosion moves downstream.

Photos and Diagrams

Photos of erosion provided by the community are attached. A diagram of the Northway community area is also attached.

References

Alaska DCRA. *Community Database Online*, Northway. *State of Alaska, Division of Community and Regional Affairs.*

Fuis and Wald. 2003. *Rupture in Southcentral Alaska – The Denali Fault Earthquake 2002.* U. S. Geologic Survey, Alaska Earthquake Information Center, Geophysical Institute, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Alyeska Pipeline Service Company and others.

USACE. 2008. *Alaska Community Erosion Survey, OMB approved number 07100001*, expires September 30, 2009 administered to Daisy Northway, Northway village administrator on March 3, 2008; Gary Thomas, DOT/PF employee on February 26, 2008; and Paula Bears, Northway school principal on February 22, 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: Northway area roads during 1998 flooding, photo courtesy of Michael L. Bird, November 2, 1998.



Photo 2: Skiffs were more efficient than the Northway area roads during 1998 high water, photo courtesy of Michael L. Bird, November 2, 1998.



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Civil Works Branch

--- Linear Extent of Erosion



Alaska Baseline Erosion
Northway, Alaska