Erosion Information Paper – Northway, Alaska
Current as of March 3, 2008

Community Information
Northway, population 79, is on the east bank of Naberona 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 An erosion project was initially funded through the Corps in 2001, however funds were later withdrawn.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.
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 2: Skiffs were more efficient than the Northway area roads during 1998 high water, photo courtesy of Michael L. Bird, November 2, 1998.
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.

Date of Aerial Photo: 3 August 04

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