



U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District

ALASKA BASELINE EROSION ASSESSMENT

Erosion Information Paper - Russian Mission, Alaska

Current as of March 5, 2008

Community Information

Russian Mission (a.k.a. Iqurmiut), population 333, is in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta on the west bank of the Yukon River, 25 miles southeast of Marshall, 70 miles northeast of Bethel and 376 miles west of Anchorage. The community is incorporated as a 2nd class city in the unorganized borough. The riverbank is used by the community for boat access, snowmachine access, ATV access, barge access, boat storage, fishing, hunting, processing catch, cultural and social events, and driftwood collecting.

Description of Erosion Problem

The Yukon River is eroding at the community. Seasonal fluctuations in river flow and levels, ice jams, and increased runoff during spring break up are reported to contribute to and cause erosion. Low-lying areas, including the airport, are susceptible to periodic flooding and ice scour during spring break up. Flood waters can cause erosion damages as the recede, and runoff from precipitation also can cause local erosion damage.

Potential Damages

The 2006 *Russian Mission Community Plan* reports that the main road through the community and the road to the school are at risk from erosion. The community is working with the traditional council's road specialist to address the problem. Some dwellings, outbuildings, sheds, water tanks, fuel tanks, drying racks, smoke houses, utility poles, power lines, sewage lagoons, and several public buildings are threatened by erosion.

Protective measures used to slow or stop erosion damage have included sandbags and culverts constructed by the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium. The protective measures have been maintained yearly, but the spring run-off and subsequent erosion often causes them to fail. The community has spent approximately \$5,000 on maintenance, but report they cannot cover the costs of the recurring failures.

Photos and Diagrams

No photos were provided by the community or other sources. The attached diagram depicts the linear extent of erosion along the Yukon River and approximate areas of surface runoff erosion that occur annually during spring break up.

References

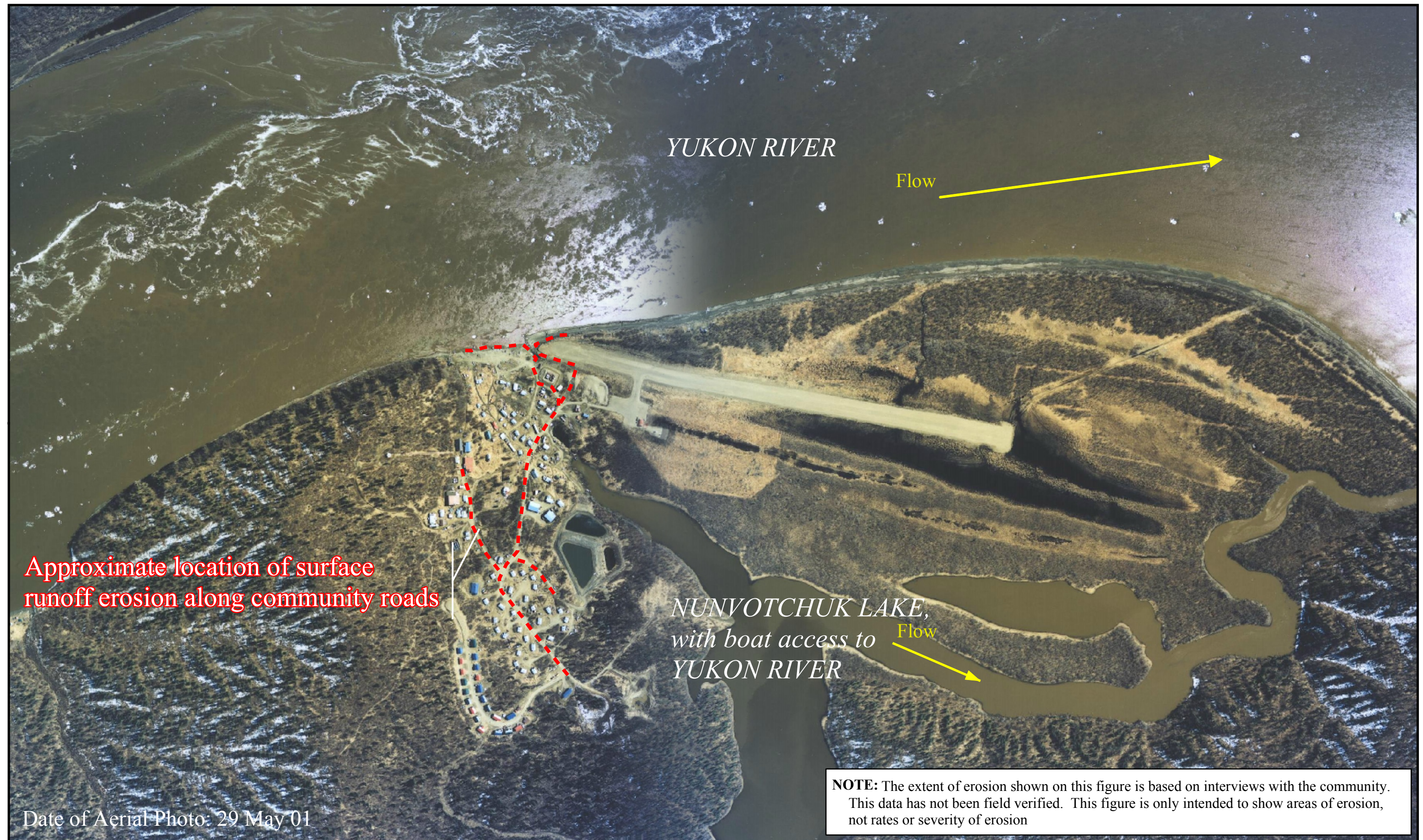
Rural CAP. 2006. *Russian Mission Community Plan*, prepared by Rural Alaska Community Action Program with support from the Denali Commission.

USACE. 1990. *Trip Report: High Water Elevation Identification*, Alaska District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

USACE. 2008. *Alaska Community Erosion Survey*, OMB approved number 07100001, expires September 30, 2009 submitted via facsimile by Agnes Housler, Russian Mission city administrator, on March 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



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Civil Works Branch

--- Linear Extent of Erosion



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