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


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)
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.

**NOTE:**

Date of Aerial Photo: 29 May 01

Approximate location of surface runoff erosion along community roads.

NUNVOTCHUK LAKE, with boat access to YUKON RIVER.