



Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) Solid Waste Program (Doug Huntman and Rebecca Colvin) conducted a Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP), Waste Erosion Assessment and Review (WEAR) site visit for Kwethluk on August 31st, 2012. Ruel McDalton, IGAP Coordinator for the Village of Kwethluk, participated on the site visit. The following narrative is a brief description of our findings during the August inspection.

WEAR Sites

- **Landfill, 60.80414/-161.431632 (Active)** – The landfill is a 1.4 acre self-haul landfill located 1,500 feet from the nearest structure. The landfill is owned by the Organized Village of Kwethluk and operated by the City of Kwethluk. The landfill is located on semi-discontinuous permafrost and has a silty soil. The landfill was very wet during the time of the inspection, indicating an impact to the permafrost underneath the site. The site is adjacent to the honey bucket lagoon. The landfill accepts municipal wastes, but does not prohibit any special wastes or hazardous wastes. The landfill's operations are very basic: there is no cover material, no heavy equipment for consolidation/compaction, and they open burn. There was a large amount of contractor waste in the landfill at the time of the inspection. The site is located 2,650 feet from the Kwethluk River and 3,675 feet from the Kuskokuok Slough.



- **Former Joseph Guy Community Center, 60.810074/-161.423644 (Active)** – This community center burned down in April 2006. It is a Brownfield site under the Contaminated Sites Program (File ID 2424.57.001). The material from the burned building was removed and shipped to Bethel in 2012. Only ash was found during the WEAR visit. In 2013 soil samples of the site contained elevated levels of metals. This polluted soil was removed from the site and disposed at the Kwethluk Landfill with Solid Waste Program approval. The site is 418 feet from the Kwethluk River. This section of riverbank is eroding at 2.5 feet a year according to the Army Corps of Engineers 2009 study Alaska Baseline Erosion Assessment (BEA).



- **AKARNG FSA, 60.810871/-161.435189 (Active)** – This Alaska National Guard Armory is a Contaminated Site (File ID 2424.38.001) due to petroleum contamination dating back to the 1990s. A total of 25 cubic yards of contaminated soil was removed from the site and transported to Bethel for treatment in 2000. Work is ongoing by the Contaminated Sites Program for this site. It is located approximately 360 feet from the Kwethluk River, which is eroding at 2.3 feet in this area per the BEA study.



- **Transformer Cache, 60.810902/-161.418393 (Abandoned)** – This site is located across the road from the Bulk Tank Farm. It contained more than 27 used transformers with stressed vegetation in the area. There was also various old equipment scattered throughout the field and several 55 gallon drums with soil open and spilling onto the ground. It is approximately 300 feet from the Kwethluk River, which the BEA study reports as eroding at 2.5 feet a year.



- **Bulk Tank Farm, 60.810192/-161.418826 (Active)** – This tank farm is in a locked, fenced area and has a total storage capacity of 439,500 gallons of fuel. It consists of 17 vertical 23,000 gallon tanks, one 3,500 gallon dual product dispensing tank, and 600 feet of new dual product 4-inch header pipeline. It was completed in 2006 by the Denali Commission. It is located 585 feet from the Kwethluk River, which is eroding at 2.5 feet in this area per the BEA study.



- **School Tank Farm, 60.810747/-161.422583 (Abandoned)** – This tank farm consists of three horizontal fuel tanks on wooden pilings that were marked ‘Permanently Closed 7/06’. It was closed when the Bulk Tank Farm was completed in 2006. The tanks were surrounded by fencing which was falling down and in poor condition. The site was on an earthen berm several feet above ground level with vegetation growing inside the berm. This easily accessible site is 60 feet from the school and next to a main road. It is 170 feet from the Kwethluk River, which is eroding at 2.5 feet in this area per the BEA study.



- **School Sewage Lagoon, 60.81067/-161.421682 (Inactive)** – This inactive sewage lagoon is located within the same fence as the Tank Farm at School. It is adjacent to the road as well. It has not been de-watered or covered as required by the Solid Waste Program to close a sewage lagoon. There were no visible signs to notify the public it is a sewage lagoon to stay away. It is 170 feet from the Kwethluk River, which is eroding at 2.5 feet in this area per the BEA study.



- **Kwethluk Inc. Old Retail Tanks, 60.811047/-161.418319 (Abandoned)** – This former tank farm is owned by Kwethluk Inc. It was closed when the Bulk Tank Farm was completed in 2006. It consists of two vertical and two horizontal fuel tanks in a fenced area. Some of the tanks were marked ‘Permanently Closed 7/06’. The Kwethluk River is eroding at 2.5 feet a year at this section per the BEA study and is 200 feet to the north.



- **Old Tank Farms, 60.811312/-161.434092 (Abandoned)** – These are two small tank farms 50 feet apart. The western tank farm consisted of six vertical tanks and one horizontal tank in a fenced area. The eastern tank farm consisted of three vertical fuel tanks in a fenced area. All 10 tanks were marked ‘Permanently Closed 7/06’. The fences at both sites were in poor condition and falling down in places. Tanks were disconnected and vegetation was growing around them. The Kwethluk River is 130 feet at the closest location. It is eroding at a rate of 2.3 feet a year per the BEA study.

