

**ALASKA NATIVE TRIBAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND DETERMINATION
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

**WATER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT
AT
EMMONAK, ALASKA
WITH THE
STATE OF ALASKA, VILLAGE SAFE WATER PROGRAM
Project 19-N3P**

August 2019

Background

This project provides for the construction of water improvements in the City of Emmonak, Alaska, under the lead management of the State of Alaska, Village Safe Water (VSW) Program. The Proposed Action will:

- Replace the existing water treatment plant (WTP) with a new package filtration plant.

In an effort to upgrade community drinking water facilities to provide adequate potable water to residents, the City of Emmonak proposes to construct a new WTP. The new package filtration plant replaces the existing WTP with a modern version of the same treatment process.

The proposed project will provide a appropriate solution to the existing deficiencies. The Environmental Assessment (EA), submitted by VSW, analyzes 5 alternatives in detail: including the No Action and Proposed Action alternatives, representing an acceptable range of reasonable alternatives.

Federal and State Agencies

The VSW is the Lead Agency for the Proposed Action. The Proposed Action will be funded by the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Environmental Issues

The major resource issues identified through the Emmonak EA for water improvements are listed in Table 1. For each resource, the short- and long-term impacts, and required mitigation are identified.

Table 1. Identified Resource Issues for Emmonak Water Improvements	
Affected Environment	Mitigation Measures
Land Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ None required, there are no zoning or land use ordinances in effect for Emmonak. Generally the project is consistent with Emmonak land use objectives.
Floodplains	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ All structures would be constructed to a level consistent with the recommended finish floor elevation for anticipated flood levels where possible.▪ All components would be built to withstand a 100-year flood event, and would be designed to operate after a flood event with little maintenance or repair.

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Affected Environment	Mitigation Measures
Wetlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Authorization under U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit 39 (commercial and Institutional Developments) would be obtained prior to construction ▪ Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be used to minimize wetland impacts, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Vegetation clearing will be kept to a minimum, and natural vegetation will be retained wherever possible. ○ Temporary erosion control measures will be installed during construction. Disturbed areas will be seeded immediately following construction. ○ To minimize and prevent spills or leakage of hazardous materials during construction, standard spill-prevention measures will be implemented. To mitigate for potential hazardous materials spills, spill clean-up equipment will be available onsite during construction. ○ All equipment used at or adjacent to water bodies will be clean and free from contamination.
Water Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ During construction, erosion and sediment control BMPs would be implemented, and a spill clean-up kit would be maintained on site. ▪ Any equipment used at or adjacent to water bodies would be clean and free from contamination. ▪ Any potential contamination occurring within a drinking water protection area would be reported to the public water system contact for the area.
Biological Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No vegetation clearing would occur from May 5 to July 25. If nesting birds are encountered during construction, work would cease and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, VSW, and ANTHC would be contacted to determine a course of action. ▪ Ground disturbing activities would be minimized and disturbed areas would be revegetated with native species.
Historic and Cultural Properties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If historic resources are discovered during construction, all work would halt, and the State Historic Preservation Office, VSW, and ANTHC would be contacted
Aesthetics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New project components would be designed to be as low-profile as possible and painted with a low-impact color.
Socio-Economic Issues/ Environmental Justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ None required, the proposed project does not have disproportionately high or adverse impacts to minority or low-income populations.
Miscellaneous Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Heavy equipment operation during construction would be limited to daytime hours.
Human Health and Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Not required, project does not negatively impact human health and safety categories such as sanitation, electromagnetic fields, and contaminated sites.

The EA also analyzed additional environmental issues and short-term minor or no impacts would occur. Some minor, short-term impacts would occur and last the duration of construction.

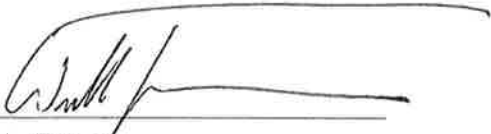
Consultation

The Proposed Action, as described in the EA, was presented to the local and federal agencies with direct interest and jurisdiction. The City of Emmonak was involved in the development of the alternatives, and the selection of the Proposed Action as the appropriate solution to the community's water concerns.

Finding

The conclusion presented in the EA was reviewed by project stakeholders. The ANTHC and VSW, acting with authority as the Lead Agency in the NEPA process, agree with the conclusion laid out in the EA. Therefore, ANTHC and VSW are issuing a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Proposed Action.

In the event of an unforeseen discovery, VSW through its oversight role as the project's lead manager agrees to stop construction activity in the area of the discovery and to immediately notify the appropriate authority and IHS and ANTHC. In addition, VSW has agreed to notify the appropriate authority, and ANTHC if a change in the project or its scope occurs and would change this environmental determination, require additional environmental review, or adversely impact the environment.



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Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

8-29-19

Date



Marty Brewer
Program Manager
Village Safe Water
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

8/29/19

Date