

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND DETERMINATION**  
**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

**WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT**  
**AT**  
**UNALAKLEET, ALASKA**  
**WITH THE**  
**VILLAGE SAFE WATER**

**Project UNK0003**

*May 2025*

**Background**

This project proposes the complete water main replacement in Unalakleet, Alaska, under the management of Village Safe Water (VSW).

The Proposed Action:

- All water mains and service lines in Unalakleet will be replaced. Portions of the mains for each loop will be rerouted from their existing layout in order to lie within established rights-of-way.
- All water main valves and hydrants along the mains will be replaced, as will the flow meter, temperature and pressure gauges, and pressure booster pumps for each water loop.
- The proposed project will also repair or replace arctic boxes and install or replace circulation pumps in all homes.

To improve overall public health, the City of Unalakleet proposes a complete water main replacement project. The proposed project will provide an appropriate solution to the existing deficiencies with the water distribution system and reduce impacts on local health and safety caused by the deterioration of the existing system. The Environmental Assessment (EA), submitted by VSW, analyzes two alternatives in detail: No Action and Proposed Action alternatives, which represent an acceptable range of reasonable alternatives.

**Federal and State Agencies**

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is the Lead Federal Agency for the Proposed Action. The Proposed Action is funded by the EPA. Village Safe Water is the Lead State Agency for the Proposed Action.

**Environmental Issues**

The major resource issues identified through the Unalakleet EA for the Proposed Action 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 Unalakleet**

<b>Major Resource Issues</b>	<b>Impacts Noted</b>	<b>Required Mitigation</b>
Floodplains and Wetlands	It is likely that the whole community is within a 100-year floodplain, but most of the building elevations are above the 100-year floodplain. No significant impacts to floodplains or wetlands management expected.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Lines will be buried, so impacts are unlikely.</li><li>▪ NWP #58 for Utility Lines Services will be followed</li></ul>
Water Quality	Overall, the project will have beneficial impacts by improving the water distribution within the community. No significant long-term impacts expected.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Best management practices will be used to control stormwater during construction.</li><li>▪ Permanent stormwater management was included in the project design</li><li>▪ Project will require a SWPPP.</li><li>▪ Project will obtain ADEC APDES, CGP for construction</li></ul>
Wildlife	Project will result in the loss of 0.1 acre of wetlands. There is the potential for short term impacts on migratory birds, eagles and raptors. No significant impacts are anticipated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Observe timing windows for land disturbance and vegetation clearing</li><li>▪ Revegetate temporarily disturbed areas</li><li>▪ Sweep equipment tracks to prevent spread of invasive plants</li><li>▪ Do not disturb active eagle or raptor nests</li></ul>
Air Quality	Short-term air quality impacts associated with dust from construction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Watering or application of binding solutions for dust suppression</li><li>▪ Apply properly-graded gravel to driving surfaces</li><li>▪ Impose slower speed limits</li><li>▪ Revegetate disturbed areas immediately after construction</li></ul>
Construction	Short-term noise impacts associated with operation of construction equipment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Operate construction equipment during daytime hours.</li></ul>
Cultural Resources	SHPO concurred with a finding of No Historic Properties Affected.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Stop work and report any previously unknown cultural resources to VSW and SHPO immediately if discovered during construction</li></ul>
Socioeconomic Issues and Environmental Justice	Long-term positive impact to the sanitation and health of the community. Short-term positive impact on local economy during construction expected.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ No mitigation proposed.</li></ul>


## **Consultation**

The Proposed Action, as presented in the EA, was presented to the local and federal agencies with direct interest and jurisdiction. The City of Unalakleet was involved in the development of the alternatives and the selection of the Proposed Action as the appropriate solution to the sanitation and public health concerns.

## **Finding**

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

VSW has agreed to notify the appropriate authority if a change in the project or its scope occurs that would change this environmental determination, require additional environmental review, or adversely impact the environment.

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Carrie Bohan  
Environmental Program Manager  
DEC Village Safe Water

5/8/2025

Date