



Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) Solid Waste Program (Doug Huntman and Jacob Timmons) conducted a Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP), Waste Erosion Assessment and Review (WEAR) site visit for Mekoryuk on July 11th, 2013. The following narrative is a brief description of our findings during the July inspection.

WEAR Sites

- **Landfill, 60.383878/-166.221079 (Active)** – This unpermitted landfill is roughly 6.3 acres in size and is located 3/4 miles west of the village within a tidally influenced wetland. The site is managed on an “as needed” basis by the City of Mekoryuk. There is a waste collection program available, but residents are still allowed to self-haul waste to the site. Access is not restricted at the landfill, and waste is not screened for hazardous and prohibited waste prior to disposal. There is a Shorty’s burn unit designed for burning household waste which appeared functional at the time of inspection. The unit, however, did not appear to have been used for some time and was full of waste. Open burning on the ground was observed throughout much of the site. Electronics, lead-acid batteries, unlabeled barrels, and other household hazardous wastes were observed in the landfill. Refrigerators and freezers were disposed of in the metals pile that did not have Freon removed. There was a large volume of water mixed with waste in the landfill creating leachate. Staining from leachate was observed in the culverts and low lying areas within the landfill. There were several areas throughout the landfill with smaller ponds mixed with waste. It is 190 feet from the Bering Sea.



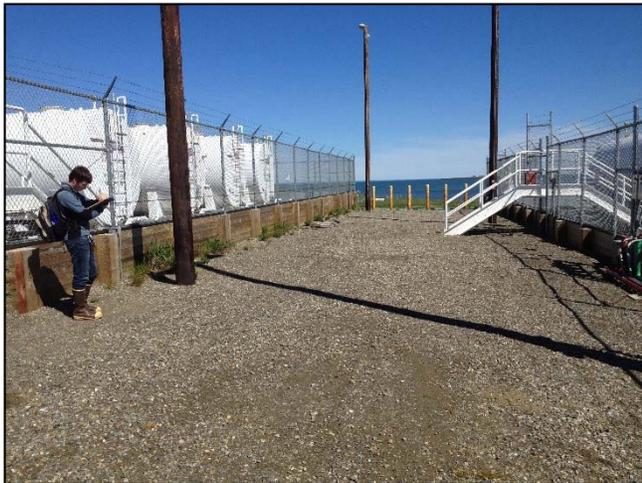
- **Former Sewage Lagoon, 60.388252/-166.192834 (Closed)** – This closed sewage lagoon had signs noting its location. Based on available imagery review, it was closed around 2004 and had been in operations since at least the early 1980s. Although it was not closed through the Solid Waste Program, it appears to be well covered and re-vegetated. However, unused fuel tanks have been relocated to this site and have disturbed some of the vegetated cover. The site is located west of the school and approximately 300 feet south of an eroding shore on the Bering Sea. The *Baseline Erosion Assessment* (BEA) performed by the Army Corps of Engineers in 2009 states the shore is eroding 1-2 feet per year.



- **NIMA Old Lagoon Tanks, 60.388397/-166.192057 (Abandoned)** – These tanks are owned by the Nunivak Island Mekoryuk Alaska (NIMA) Corporation and were reported empty at the time of the inspection. They were moved to this location in 2009, which is on top of the Former Sewage Lagoon, when the consolidated tank farm was constructed in their previous location. The site consists of six vertical tanks and multiple horizontal tanks of various sizes from the 1970's. Five of the six vertical tanks are on a wooden foundation, and the remainder are simply placed on the ground. This site is not fenced. The site is located west of the school and approximately 620 feet south of an eroding shore on the Bering Sea.



- **Consolidated Tank Farm, 60.388446/-166.188105 (Active)** – This 317,000 gallon tank farm was constructed in 2009 and consists of 14 fuel tanks containing diesel and gasoline. It is shared through a cooperative agreement with AVEC, NIMA Corporation, the City of Mekoryuk, and the Lower Kuskokwim School District (LKSD). However the LKSD tanks are located off-site, and their fuel capacity is not included in the above total. It consolidated numerous tank farms (42 total tanks) throughout the community, including two tank farms previously located at this same site. The site is fully fenced with a locked gate and has secondary containment of steel diked walls. All tanks are single-walled construction. It was constructed through a Denali Commission project, and the primary operator is NIMA Corporation. It is approximately 550 feet from Shoal Bay.



- **City Tank Farm, 60.386012/-166.192796 (Abandoned)** – This tank farm consists of four horizontal tanks of approximately 8500 gallon capacity located in front of the tribal office. The tanks are owned by the City of Mekoryuk with the tanks of 1980s vintage. The site is not fenced, but it is contained within a black plastic lined berm. They were reported empty at the time of the inspection and had been abandoned since the consolidated tank farm construction in 2009. The tanks are located less than 960 feet from Shoal Bay.



- **IRA Tanks, 60.387988/-166.185789 (Abandoned)** – These three tanks are owned by the Mekoryuk IRA Council. The site consists of three tanks total with in a fenced area. The two vertical tanks on a wooden foundation; and the one horizontal tank is on top of black plastic sheeting for secondary containment. The tanks were reported empty at the time of the inspection and had been abandoned since the consolidated tank farm construction in 2009. The site is located 215 feet north of the small boat harbor on Shoal Bay. The boat harbor is surrounded on two sides by a rubble mound breakwater that was constructed by the Army Corps of Engineers in 1986.



- **NIMA Store Tanks, 60.388216/-166.185388 (Abandoned)** – These three tanks are owned by the Nunivak Island Mekoryuk Alaska (NIMA) Corporation. The site consists of three tanks total and was the fueling point for the village. The tanks were reported empty at the time of the inspection and had been abandoned since the consolidated tank farm construction in 2009. There was no visible secondary containment for the tanks. The site is located just north of the small boat harbor and approximately 140 feet from Shoal Bay.



- **NIMA Tanks, 60.387624/-166.185888 (Abandoned)** – These three tanks are owned by the Nunivak Island Mekoryuk Alaska (NIMA) Corporation and are located on the east edge of town by the boat harbor. The site consists of three tanks total: two vertical tanks on a wooden foundation and one horizontal tank also on a wooden foundation. The tanks were reported empty at the time of the inspection and had been abandoned since the consolidated tank farm construction in 2009. The site is located approximately 135 feet from the banks of the boat harbor. The boat harbor is surrounded on two sides by a rubble mound breakwater that was constructed by the Army Corps of Engineers in 1986.





View from the rubble mound breakwater installed on the small boat harbor.
Three sites from left: NIMA Tanks, IRA Tanks and NIMA Store Tanks.