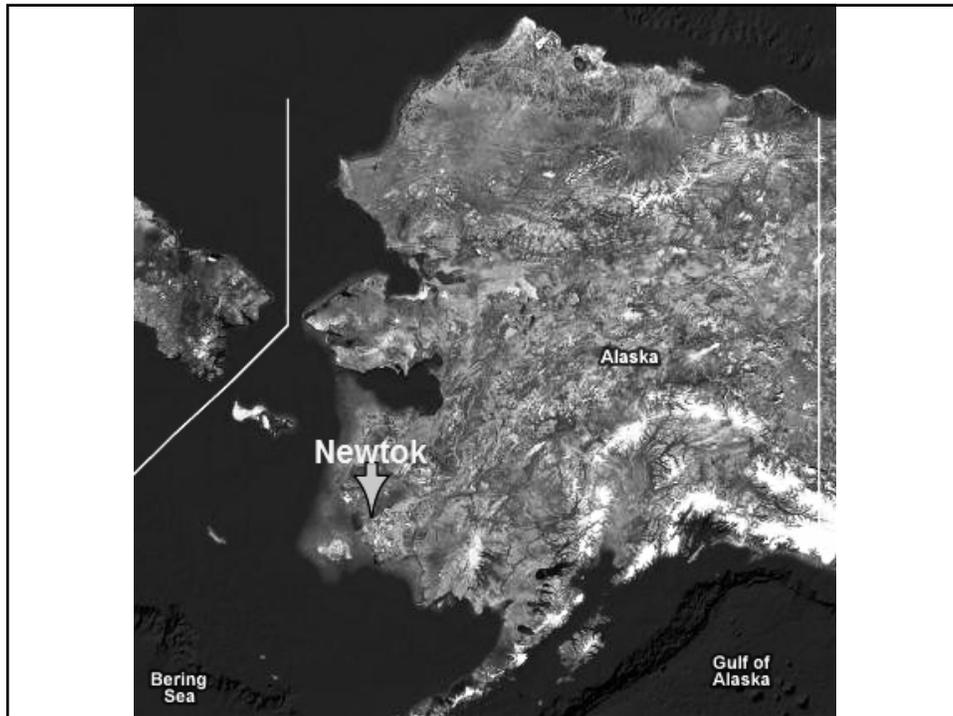


**Presentation to Immediate Action Workgroup  
November 6, 2007  
Stanley Tom of Newtok, Alaska**



**Stanley Tom, Tribal Administrator  
Newtok Traditional Council**

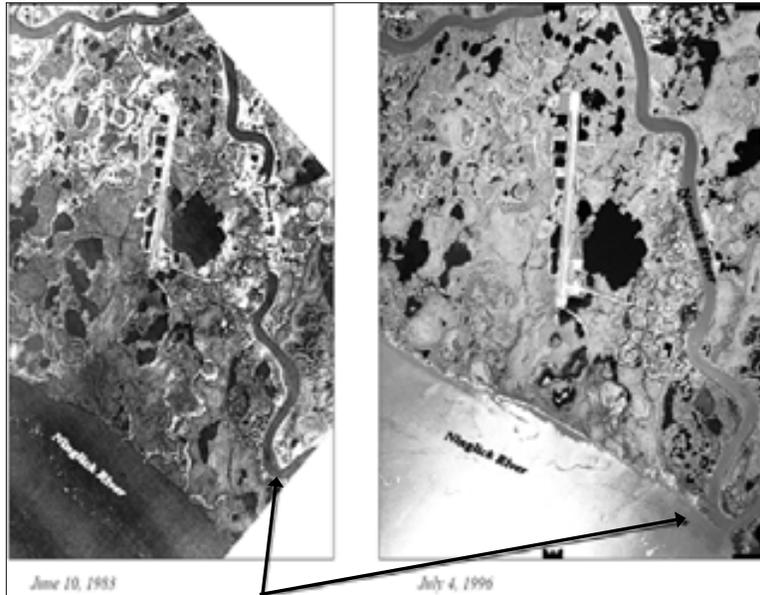


### **Newtok:**

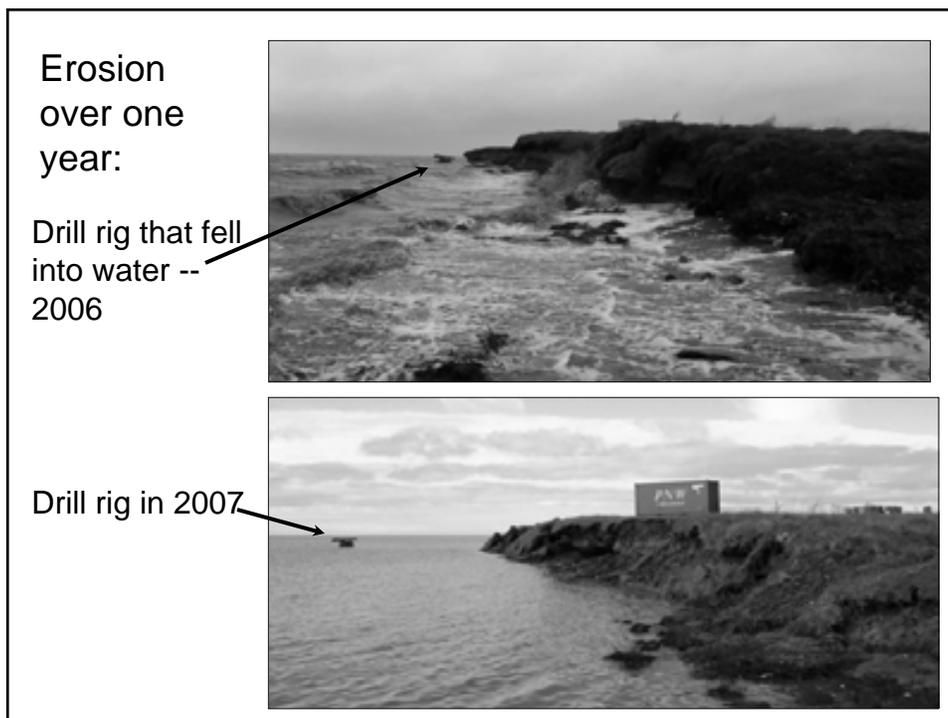
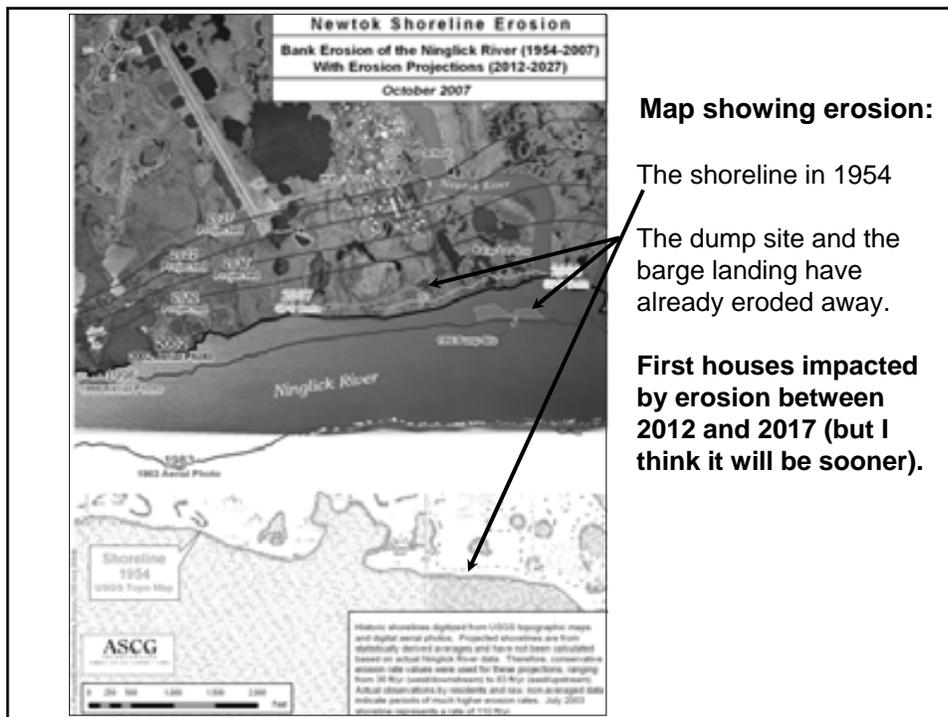
- One of four Alaskan villages in imminent danger from flooding and erosion
- Making plans to relocate
- Shoreline protection measures not an option
- No permanent, cost-effective way to remain at the current village site

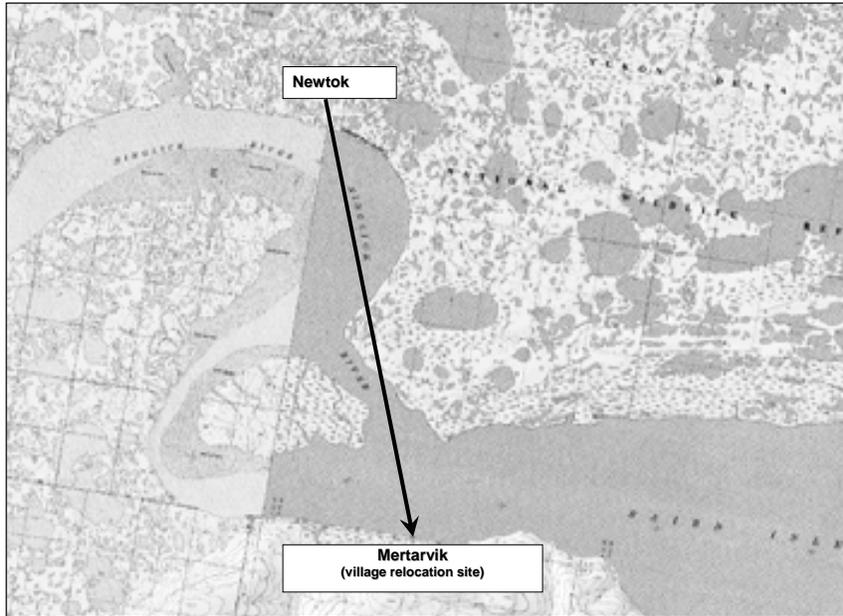
## **My points today:**

- **The problems severe erosion has caused my village**
- **What my village has accomplished**
- **What we are doing with the Newtok Planning Group**
- **The challenges we are facing in our work**



Loss of land to erosion 1983-1996





Newtok selected village relocation site on Nelson Island (Mertarvik)



Secretary of the Interior Gale A. Norton signs the land exchange legislation as members of Newtok Native Corporation look on. (Source: Landye Bennett Blumstein LLP)

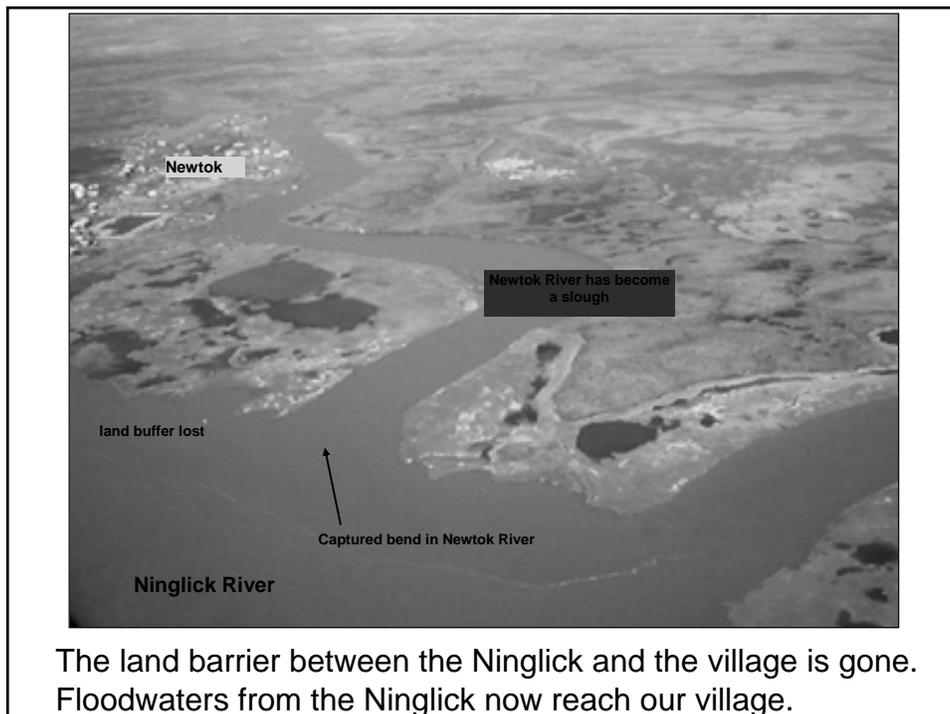
In 1996, we started working to get the land on Nelson Island

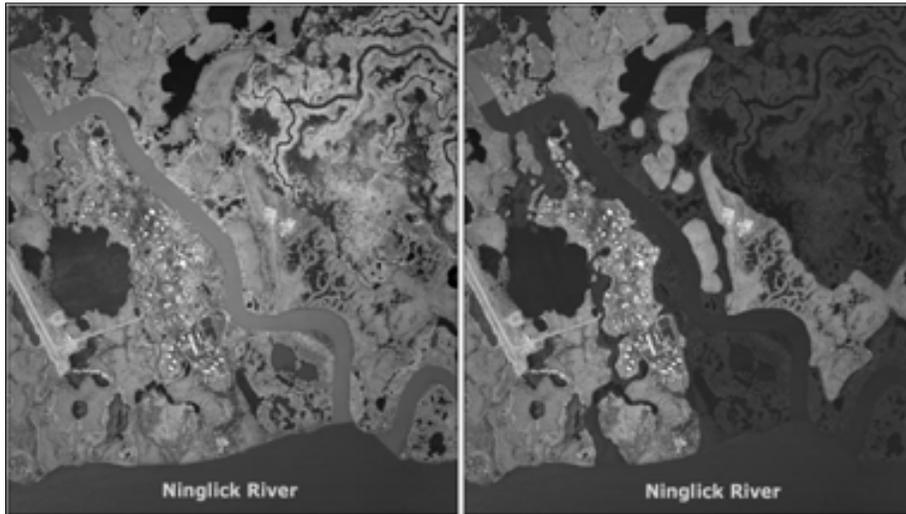
In 2003, the land exchange was signed into law (PL 108-129)



Secretary Norton speaks to the Newtok Native Corporation. (Source: Landye Bennett Blumstein LLP)

By 2004, the erosion was much worse  
Flooding was worse too





In 2005, a fall storm sent floodwaters the surrounded the village. The village was an island for days.



Some houses were only connected to the village by boardwalks floating in the water.

## Public Health Problems

**Environmental Public Health Assessment: Newtok, Alaska (2006)** found ***“sanitation conditions in Newtok to be grossly inadequate for public health protection.”***

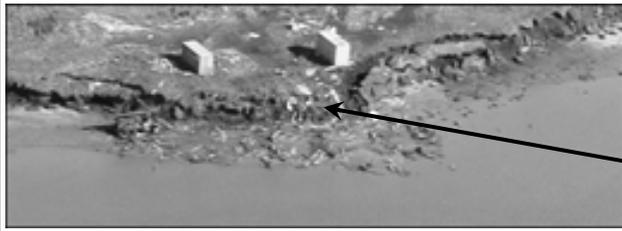
- high levels of community contamination
- little potable water for drinking and hygiene/sanitation practices
- household crowding
- **29 %** of Newtok infants hospitalized with Lower Respiratory Tract Infections (LRTI) between 1994 to 2004, including:
  - 20% for pneumonia
  - 18% for respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)
  - 11% percent for pneumonia RSV.

***Percentages indicate water-washed disease (disease caused by lack of water, poor personal hygiene and lack of proper human waste disposal)***

Threats to public health during coastal storms:

*Floodwaters wash honey bucket waste from Newtok River back into village*





Barge ramp on Ninglick River lost to erosion in 2005

Fuel and supplies must be delivered on Newtok River (siltation from erosion has turned it into slough)

Last year, fuel barge was grounded for 3 days



Because of erosion and flooding, funding agencies are reluctant to invest in new infrastructure



Aging and deteriorating fuel tanks

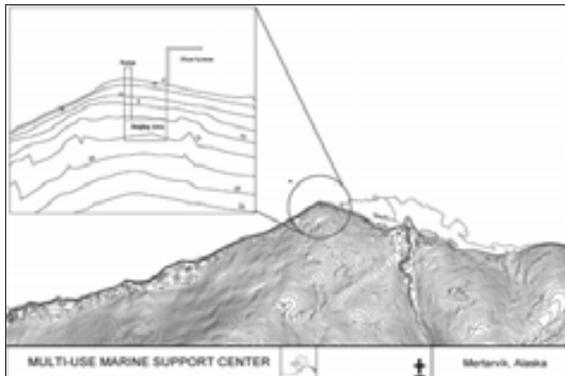


The remains of our barge landing on the Ninglick



The old landfill eroded away in 1996. The new landfill is accessible by boat at high tide only.

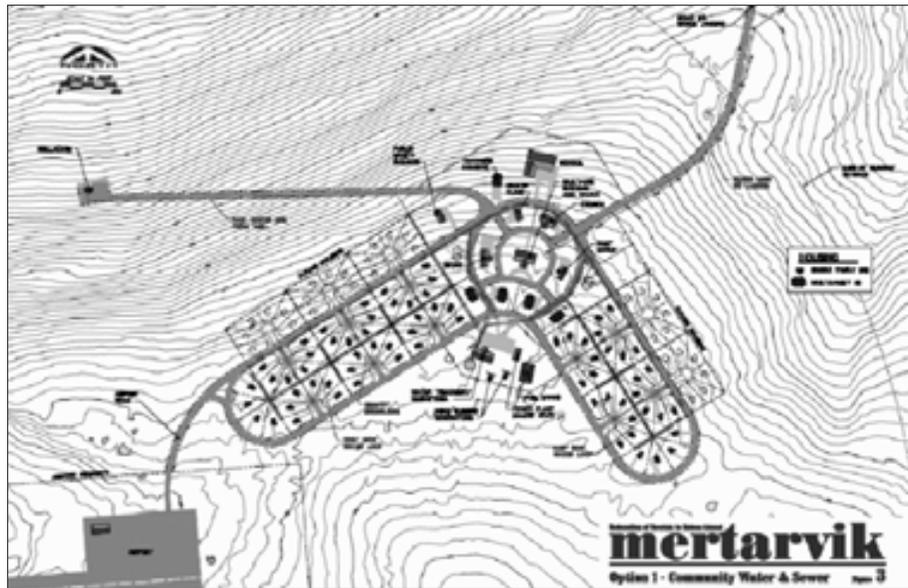
The Newtok Planning Group has been helping us with the relocation since 2006



Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant for barge landing

**DCCED:** project manager  
**EDA:** \$800,000  
**DOT/PF:** \$200,000





Village Safe Water prepared layout for water/sewer.

Work at Mertarvik



### **Work at Mertarvik:**

- VSW test drilling for water well
- DOT/PF wind studies and geotechnical studies

### **The challenges:**

- No agency has authority to lead relocation efforts
- No funding specifically for relocation
- “Patchwork” funding from agencies and grants
- Getting funding takes time that we don't have. ***We can't keep up with the erosion.***



Our future -- Mertarvik  
“getting water from the spring”



The barge ramp we built to deliver housing packages to Mertarvik



The barge delivering 3 BIA HIP Homes



Taking the housing packages off the barge



Building 3 homes on Mertarvik

