

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



Stanley Tom, Tribal Administrator
Newtok Traditional Council



Alaska

Newtok

Bering
Sea

Gulf of
Alaska

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**



June 10, 1983



July 4, 1996

Source: Newtok Background for Relocation Report

Loss of land to erosion 1983-1996



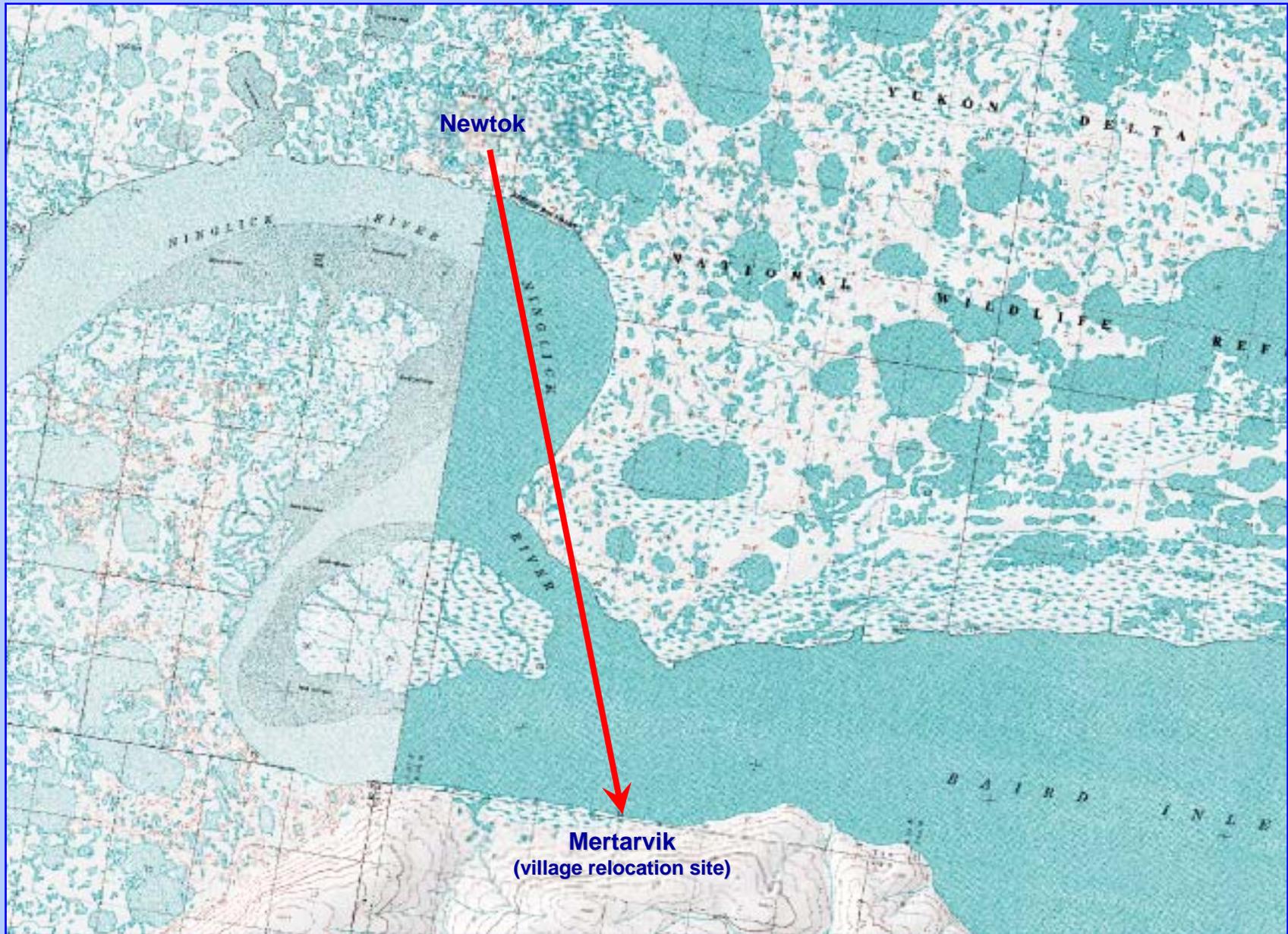
Erosion
over one
year:

Drill rig that fell
into water --
2006



Drill rig in 2007





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

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



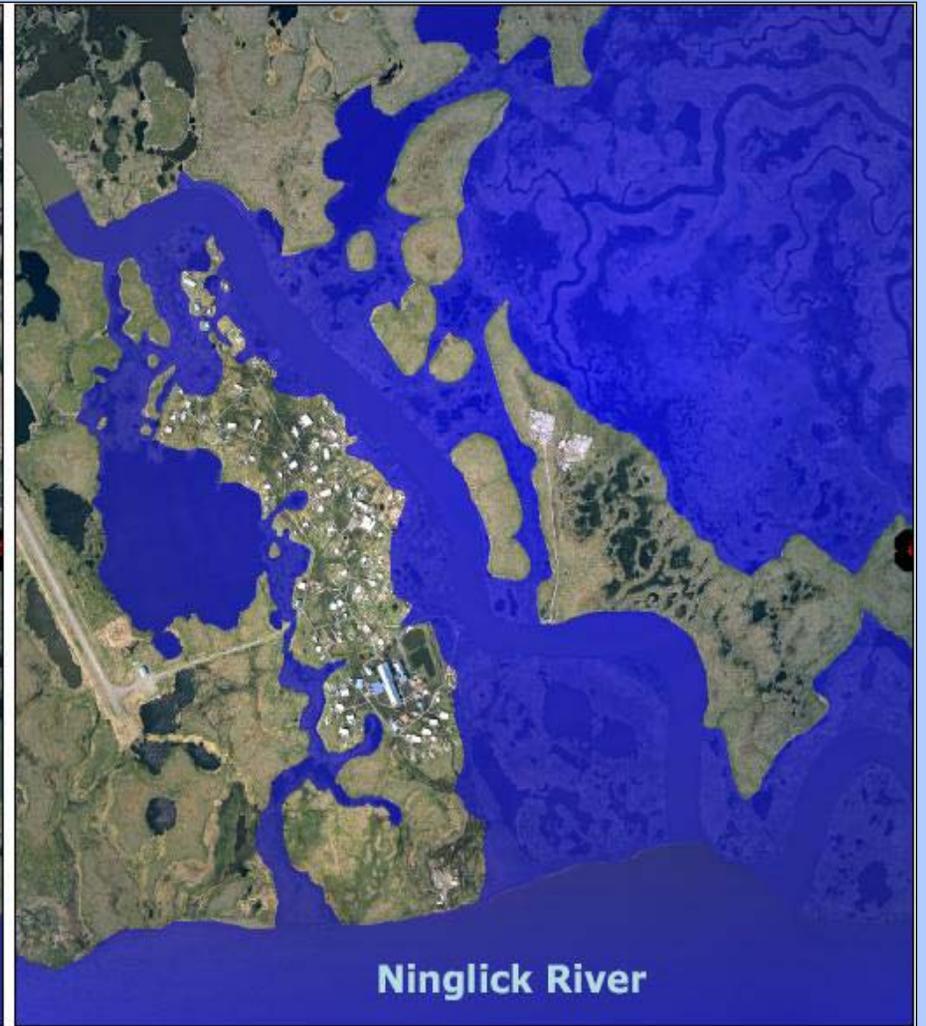
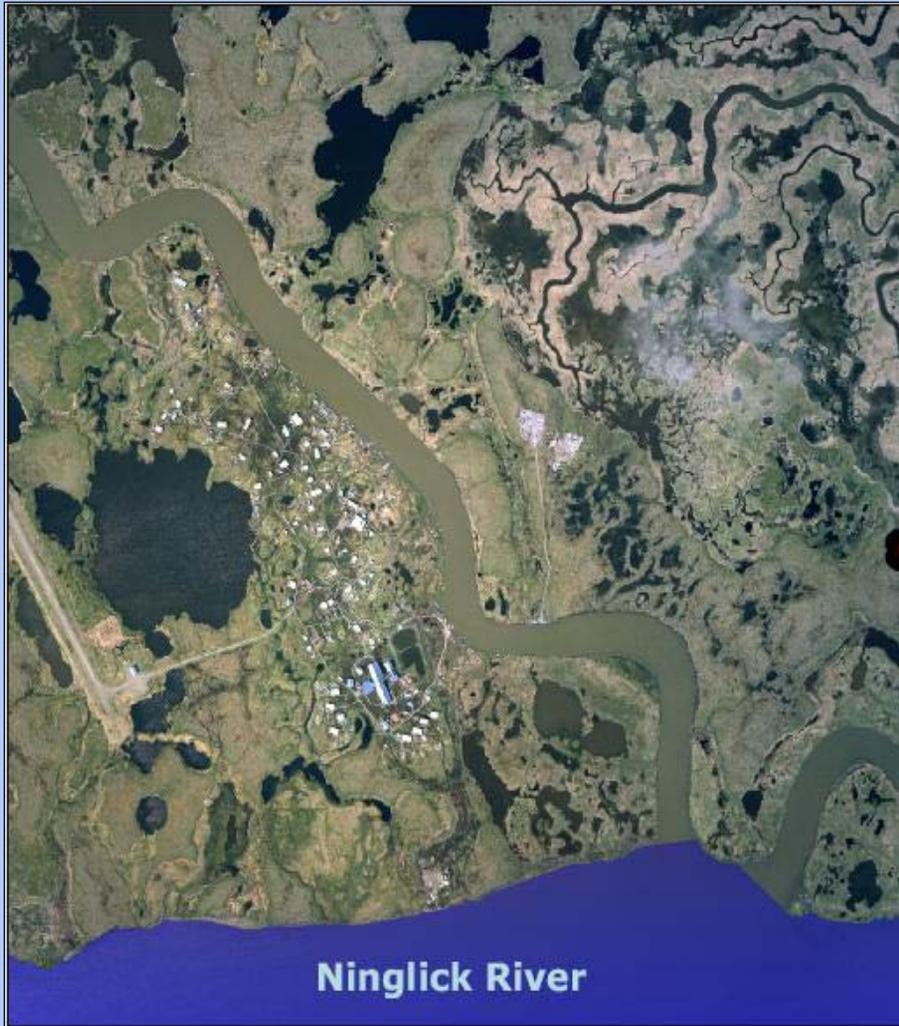
Secretary Norton speaks to the Newtok Native Corporation. (Source: Landye Bennett Blumstein LLP)

By 2004, the erosion was much worse

Flooding was worse too



The land barrier between the Ninglick and the village is gone. Floodwaters from the Ninglick now reach our village.



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

Newtok Planning Group

State of Alaska > Commerce > DCRA Home > Newtok Planning Group

The Newtok Planning Group was formed in May 2006 when representatives from State and Federal agencies began meeting to coordinate assistance to the village of Newtok in its relocation to the new village site of Mertarvik on Nelson Island.

A Brief History of the Settlement of Newtok and Village Relocation Efforts

Meeting Minutes/Agendas
Menu

Newtok Planning Group Documents
Menu

Reports, Studies, Maps, and Aerial Photos
Newtok Integrated Solid Waste Plan

Field Trip Photos
August 15, 2006 Field Trip



Mertarvik Spring. In the Yupik language, Mertarvik means "getting water from the spring"



Barge delivery of BIA Housing Improvement Program packages to Mertarvik



Flying over Mertarvik near the spring and the temporary barge ramp

For more information, please contact:
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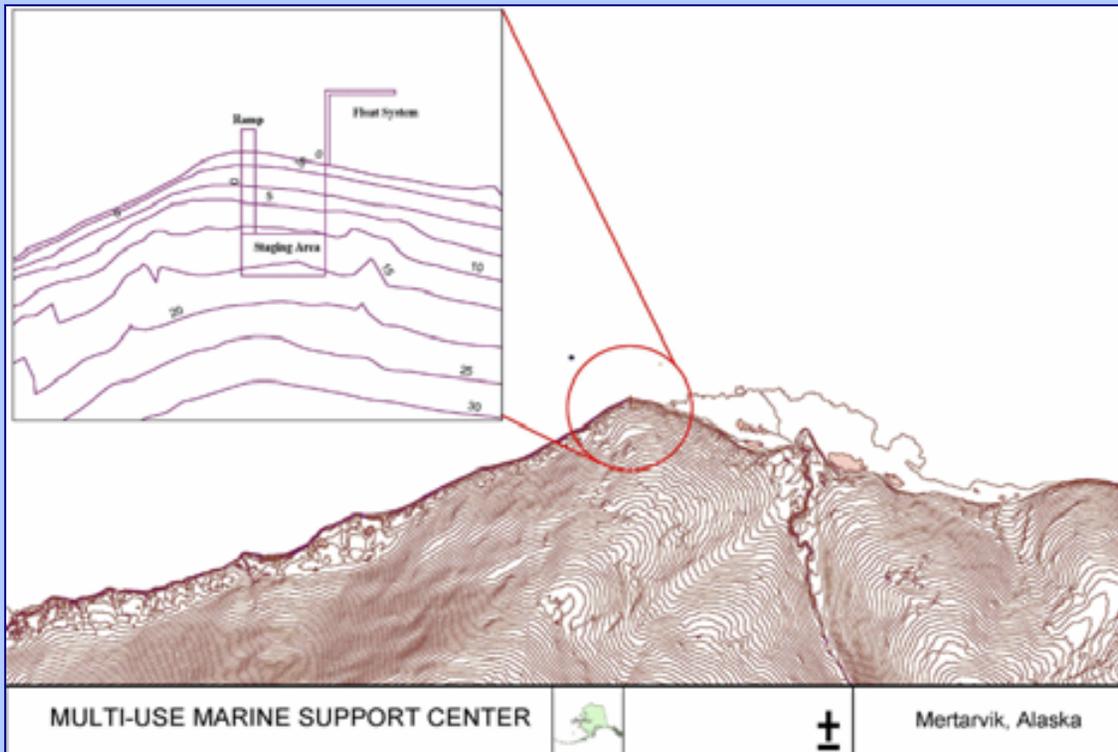


Quick Links...

- Alaska Coastal Management
- Grants Section
- Financial Assistance to Communities
- Floodplain Management
- Land Management and Mapping
- Local Boundary Commission
- Local Government Assistance
- Planning and Land Management Section
- Rural Utility Business Advisor
- State Assessor/Property Tax Info

Of Interest...

- Alaska Community Database
- Alaska Economic Information System
- Business Plans Resources
- Calendar of Events
- Capital Project Database
- Community Funding Database
- Community Maps
- Community Photo Library
- Economic Development Resource Guide
- Local Government Online (LOGON)
- MOD Online System
- Plans Library
- Publications
- Related Links



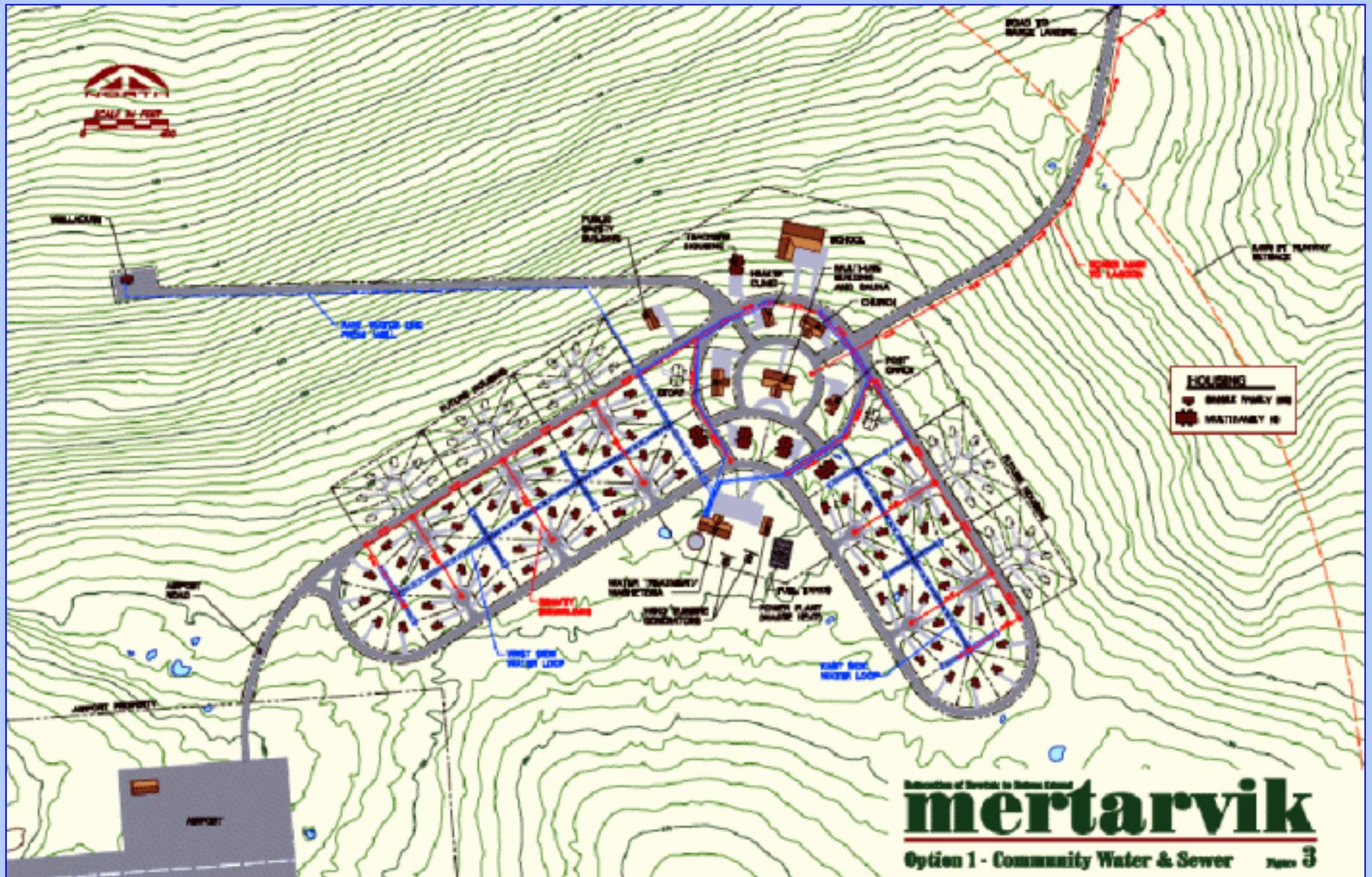
Economic
Development
Administration
(EDA) grant for
barge landing

DCCED: project
manager

EDA: \$800,000

DOT/PF: \$200,000

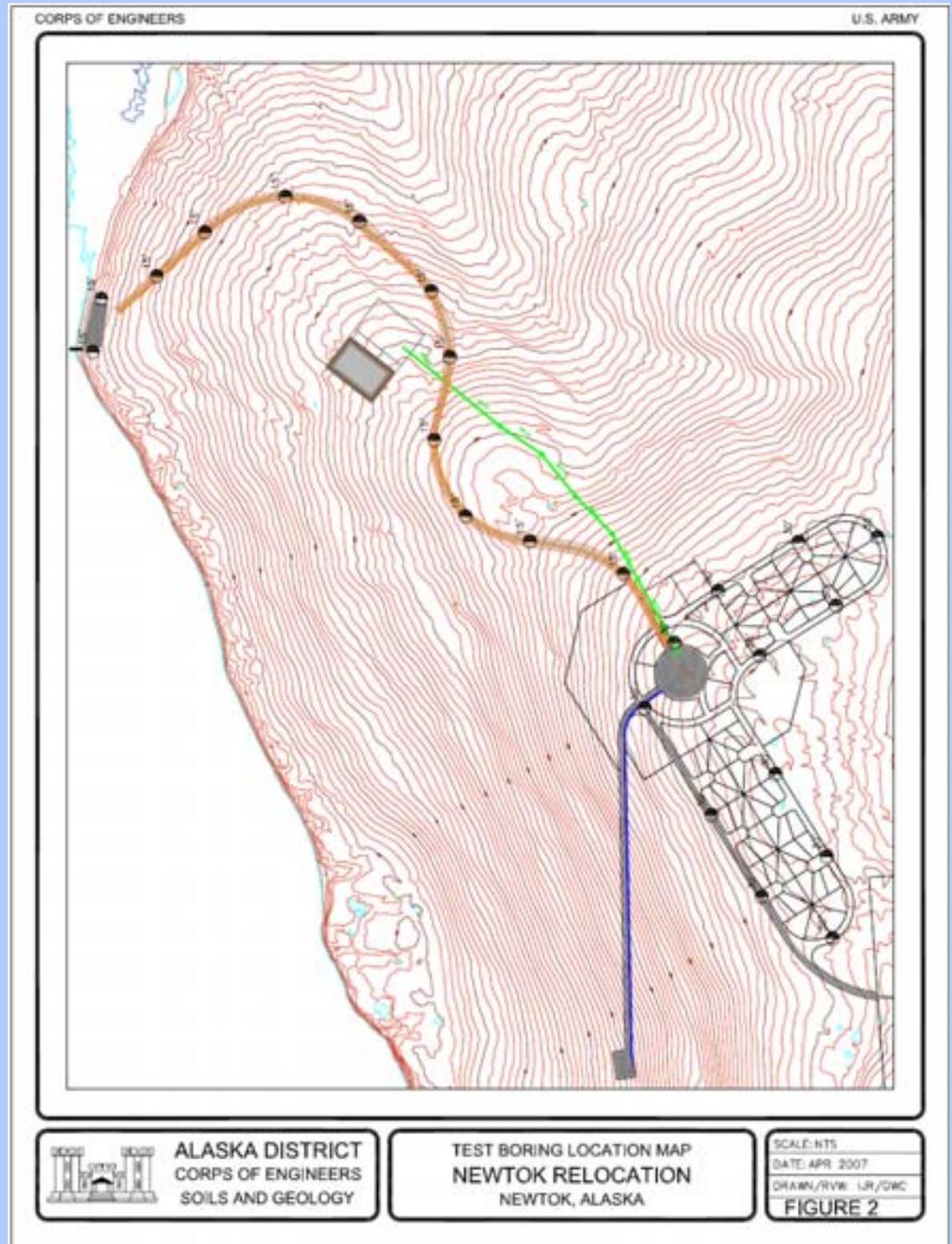




Village Safe Water prepared layout for water/sewer.

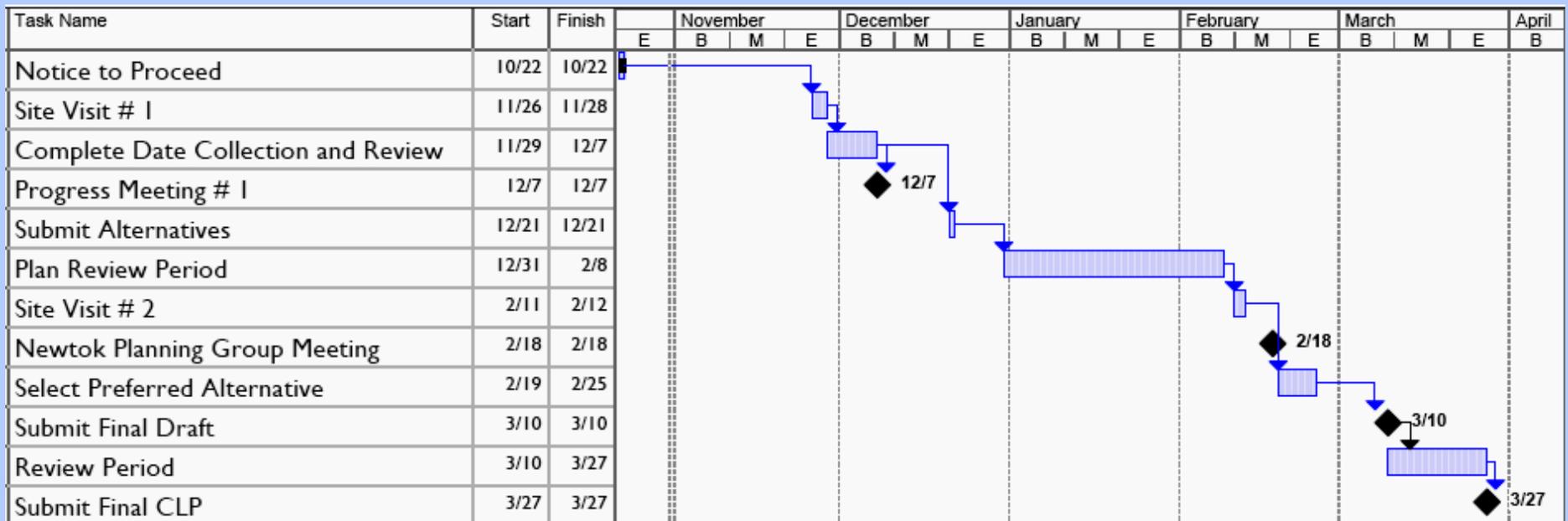
Work at Mertarvik

Corps of
Engineers
geotechnical
investigations –
Summer 2007



Mertarvik Community Layout Plan

Funded by Mini-Grant administered by DCRA/funded by DC
 (to be completed March 2008)



Work at Mertarvik:

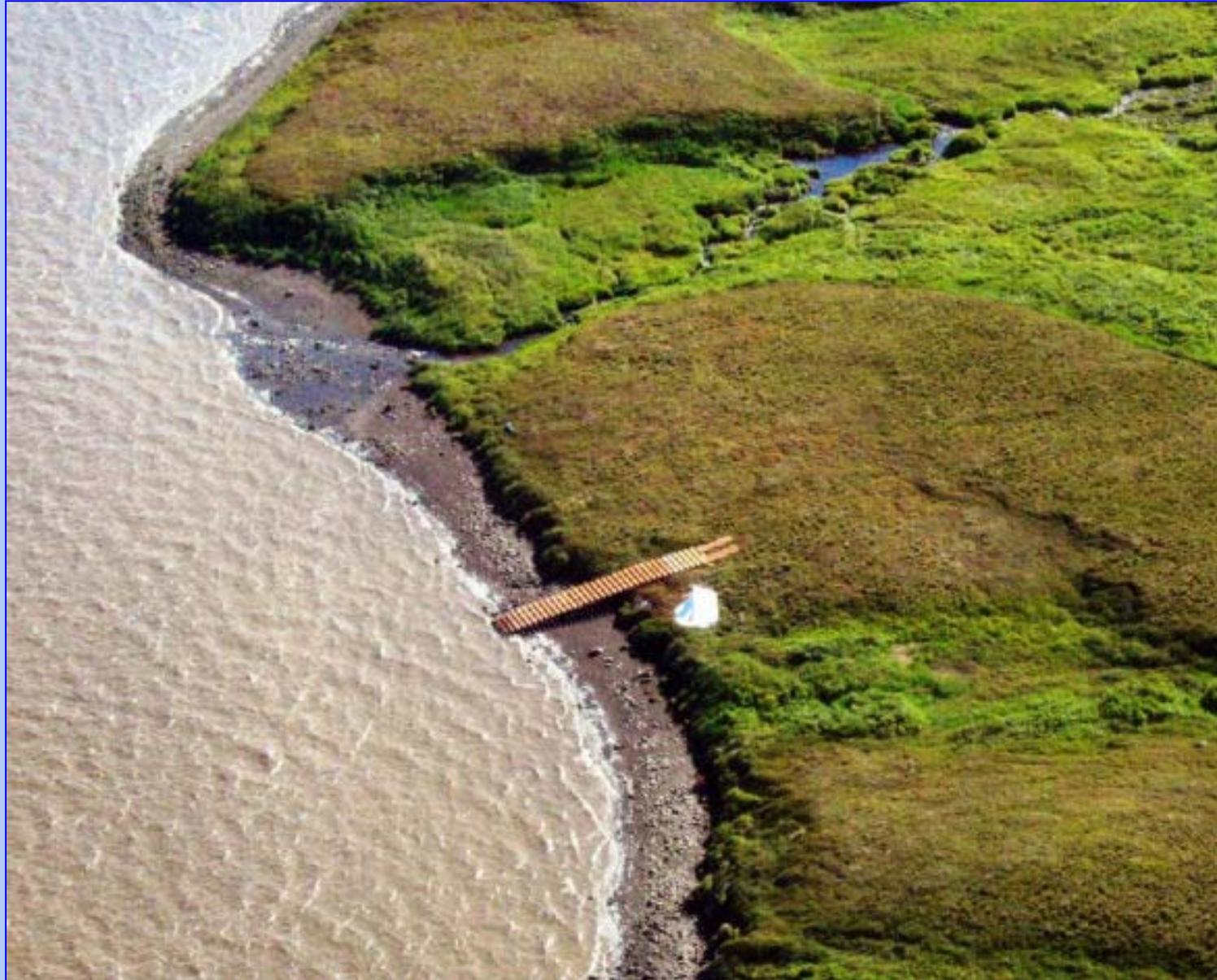
- VSW test drilling for water well
- DOT/PF wind studies and geotechnical studies

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

