

VILLAGE OF KONGIGANAK HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

Newsletter #1

January 2015

This newsletter is for the Village of Kongiganak Hazard Mitigation Planning project development processes. It explains the planning project to all interested agencies, stakeholders, and the public solicits comments. You can also view it on the State of Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Website at <http://www.ready.alaska.gov/plans/localhazmitplans.htm>.

The State of Alaska, Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM) was awarded a Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to prepare Hazard Mitigation Plans (HMP) for eleven Alaskan Communities. The Village of Kongiganak was selected for participation in this effort.

AECOM was contracted to assist the community with preparing a FEMA-approvable hazard mitigation plan and subsequent hazard mitigation grant program application during 2014 and 2015.

The Kongiganak Hazard Mitigation Plan will identify all natural hazards, such as earthquake, erosion, flood, severe weather, and wildland fire hazards, etc. The plan will also identify the people and facilities potentially at risk and ways to mitigate damage from future hazard impacts. The public participation and planning process is documented as part of these projects.

What is Hazard Mitigation?

Across the United States, natural and human-caused disasters have increasingly caused injury, death, property damage, and business and government service interruptions. The toll on individuals, families, and businesses can be very high. The time, money, and emotional effort required to respond to and recover from these disasters takes public resources and attention away from other important programs and problems.

The people and property in the State of Alaska are at risk from a variety of natural hazards that can potentially cause human injury, property damage, or environmental harm.

Hazard mitigation projects eliminate the risk or reduce the hazard impact severity to people and property. Projects may include short- or long-term activities to reduce exposure to or the effects of known hazards. Hazard mitigation activities include relocating or elevating buildings, replacing insufficiently sized culverts, using alternative construction techniques, or developing, implementing, or enforcing building codes, and education.

Why Do We Need A Hazard Mitigation Plan?

Communities must have a State, FEMA-approved, and community adopted mitigation plan to receive a project grant from FEMA's grant programs. The Village of Kongiganak plans to apply for mitigation funds after our plan is complete.

A FEMA-approved and community adopted HMP enables the local government to apply for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), a disaster related assistance program.

The Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) and the National Insurance Program's Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA), grant programs are nationally competitive funding programs. These grants use the same application process and eligibility requirements.

The Planning Process

There are very specific federal requirements that must be met when preparing a hazard mitigation plan. These requirements are commonly referred to as the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, or DMA2000 criteria. Information about the criteria and other applicable laws and regulations may be found at: <http://www.fema.gov/mitigation-planning-laws-regulations-guidance>.

The DMA2000 requires the plan to include and document the following topics:

- ❑ Plan development process
- ❑ Identify hazards specific to the community
- ❑ Identify the population's and structures' risks
- ❑ Define the jurisdiction's mitigation goals
- ❑ List the community's mitigation strategy, selected actions, and implemented projects
- ❑ Provide a copy of the community's HMP Adoption Resolution

FEMA has prepared a Local Planning Review Guide, available at:

<http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?fromSearch=fromsearch&id=4859>. It explains how the HMP meets each of the DMA2000 requirements. FEMA has also prepared a "Mitigation Planning Guidance" and "How to" Guides, available at: <http://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-planning-resources>. The Village's Hazard Mitigation Plan will follow those guidelines.

We are currently in the very beginning stages of preparing the plan. We will be conducting a public meeting to introduce the project and planning team, and to gather comments from community residents. Specifically we will complete the hazard identification task, and collect data to conduct the risk assessment.

DHS&EM has previously identified natural hazards that occur in the Lower Kuskokwim Regional Educational Attendance Area (REAA) that may also occur specifically in Kongiganak.

We Need Your Help

Please use the following table to identify any hazards you have observed in your area that DHS&EM is not aware of AND any additional natural hazards that may not be on the list.

Kongiganak Hazard Worksheet		
Hazard	Lower Kuskokwim REAA*	Village of Kongiganak
Earthquake	Yes (M)	Yes
Erosion	Yes (L)	Yes
Flood	Yes (H)	Yes
Ground Failure (Avalanche, Landslide, Permafrost)	No	Yes
Severe Weather	Yes (H)	Yes
Tsunami & Seiche	No	No
Volcano	No	Yes
Wildland Fire	Yes	Yes

*Hazard Matrix from the 2013 State of Alaska Hazard Mitigation Plan for the Lower Kuskokwim REAA. (Parentheses indicate threat level)

DHS&EM identified critical facilities within the Village of Kongiganak as part of the Alaska Critical Facilities Inventory, but the list of critical facilities needs to be updated and the estimated value and location (latitude/longitude) determined. In addition, the number and value of structures, and the number of people living in each structure will need to be documented. Once this

The Planning Team

The planning team is being led by Roderick Phillips with assistance from the Kongiganak Environmental Planning Committee. AECOM has been contracted by DHS&EM to provide assistance and guidance to the planning team throughout the planning process.

Public Participation

Public involvement will continue throughout the project. The goal is to receive comments, identify key issues or concerns, and improve ideas for mitigation. When the Draft Kongiganak Hazard Mitigation Plan is complete, the results will be presented to the community before DHS&EM and FEMA approval and community adoption.

information is collected we will determine which critical facilities, residences, and populations are vulnerable to specific hazards in Kongiganak. Please add additional facilities if needed.

Kongiganak Critical Facilities*	
Facility Type	Facility Name
Store	A&L Store
National Guard	Armory
Community Hall	Community Center
School	Dick R. Kiunya School
Fire Station	Fire Station
Hospital/Clinic/ER	Health Clinic
Landfill/Incinerator	Kongiganak Class III Muni Landfill
Reservoir/Water Supply	Kongiganak Water System
Reservoir/Water Supply	LKSD Kongiganak HS & Elem.
Church	Moravian Church
Airport	unnamed
Cemetery	unnamed
Fuel Storage Tanks (>500gal)	unnamed
Potable Water Production and Treatment Facility	unnamed
Reservoir/Water Supply	unnamed
Sewage Lagoon	unnamed
Teachers Quarters	unnamed
Telephone	unnamed
Washeteria	unnamed
Waste Water Treatment Facility	unnamed
Police Station	Police Station
Post Office	Post Office
Power Generation Facility	Puvurnaq Power Co
Store	Qemirtalek Movies
Store	Qemirtalek Store
Church	Russian Orthodox Church
Offices	Tribal Offices
Wind Turbines	Wind Turbines

* Alaska Critical Facilities Inventory 2009

Please email or fax updated hazard and critical facility information directly to AECOM or provide it to your community planning & project team leader.

We encourage you to take an active part in preparing the Village of Kongiganak's Hazard Mitigation Plan development effort. The purpose of this newsletter is to keep you informed and to allow you every opportunity to voice your opinion regarding these important projects. Please contact your community HMP Team Leader or Jessica Evans, AECOM, directly if you have any questions, comments, or requests for more information:

**Village of Kongiganak
Planning Team Leader**
Roderick Phillips
Kongiganak, AK 99545
Phone: 907.
email: kong.igap@gmail.com

AECOM
Jessica Evans, Environmental Planner/Public
Involvement Specialist
700 G Street, Suite 500
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
907.261.6764 or 907.562.3366
jessica.evans@aecom.com

**Division of Homeland Security &
Emergency Management**
Scott Nelsen, State Support
PO Box 5750
Anchorage, AK 99505-5750
428.7010 or 800.478.2337
scott.nelsen@alaska.gov