



# ALASKA NATIVE TRIBAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM

*Division of Environmental  
Health and Engineering*

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## MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 8, 2004

FROM: Project Engineer

SUBJECT: Trip Report, Goodnews Bay - Projects AN 98-P14/AN 01-M75/AN 01-Q34/  
AN 02-N04/AN 03-N49 – January 6, 2004

TO: FOR THE RECORD

### OBJECTIVE:

To determine mechanical requirements for the Denali Commission funded washeteria improvements.

### CONTACTS:

Ms. Ester Fox, Administrator, City of Goodnews Bay/Utility Board (UB) Member  
Ms. Tia Martin, Manager, UB

### ACCOMPANIED BY:

Mr. Chet Crafts, Mechanical Engineer, Division of Environmental Health and Engineering (DEHE)

### FINDINGS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

We departed Anchorage on January 6 at 8:00 a.m. arriving in Dillingham at 10:30 a.m. then proceeded to Goodnews Bay via Tucker Aviation. We left Goodnews Bay the same day and returned to Anchorage at 9:45 p.m.

Goodnews Bay has received a Denali Commission grant for \$100,000 for washeteria improvements. These improvements are to replace washers and dryers that are in disrepair and are difficult to find replacement parts. Currently the washeteria has 4 forced air dryers and 10 washers that were installed in 1991.

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DEHE Mechanical Engineer Chet Crafts traveled to the site to evaluate the existing facility and to determine the requirements for retrofitting the washeteria with new dryers. The options that are being investigated are installing hydronic dryers or improving the forced air system that is already in place.

Hydronic dryers have been installed in other communities with good results and could be installed using and modifying the existing hydronic system that is used to heat the building. The only disadvantage is that the capital cost for this option is higher. This would mean being able to replace fewer washers.

The second option is to replace the dryers and use the existing forced air furnaces and duct work. This may be the lowest capital cost option that will allow for the replacement of more washers. But, the major disadvantage is that forced air dryers tend to have a lower efficiency than other methods of drying. Mr. Crafts is investigating the option of improving the forced air system efficiency by using waste heat to pre-heat the air that is going into the furnaces. Electric dryers are not considered an option, as electrical costs in the village are far too high.

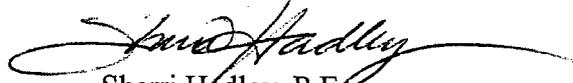
A final evaluation and cost estimate will be provided to the community for review. The community will be able to decide the best option considering the limited budget for the improvements.

I had the opportunity to meet with Utility Manager Tia Martin. Ms. Martin has worked to reconcile the utility checking account and is doing a good job of keeping track of the account status. The utility is still in arrears with the Internal Revenue Service for past due taxes in the amount of \$13,700. This amount is mainly for interest and penalties accrued over the past few years by the utility.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS AND/OR CONCLUSIONS:

1. The UB account balance and projected income is not sufficient to pay the overdue taxes in full. Therefore, it was recommended to Ms. Martin that she contact the IRS directly and discuss partial payment options.
2. The UB is still experiencing serious cash flow problems. They receive some funds from the city and tribe from gaming, but user fee collections are still very low. Consequently, it has been difficult for the UB to make payroll and to keep current with other expenses. Therefore, the UB must determine how to increase collections or increase contributions from the city and tribe or both.

3. It is recommended that the UB continue to work with the Rural Utility Business Advisor to assist with capacity development.



Sherri Hadley, P.E.

cc: Daniel Schouten, Mayor, Goodnews Bay  
James Smith, TVC President, Goodnews Bay  
Sally Martin, UB President, Goodnews Bay  
Tia Martin, UB Manager, Goodnews Bay  
Ken Collison, VSW, Juneau  
Michael Halko, Director, OEH, BBAHC, Dillingham  
Tim Troll, DCED, Dillingham  
Allan Paukan, RMW, Bethel  
Karl Powers, YKHC, Bethel  
Scott Ruby, DCED, Anchorage  
Gillian Smythe, RD, Palmer  
DEHE – David Beveridge/Steve Forthun/  
John Warren/Paul Gabbert/  
Chet Crafts