Report of Investigation 2024-5

# COASTAL FLOOD IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR KIPNUK, ALASKA

Keith C. Horen, Autumn C. Poisson, Zachary J. Siemsen, Jessica E. Christian, and Nora M. Nieminski



Aerial photograph of Kipnuk, Alaska, taken via drone in 2022. Photo: K.C. Horen, DGGS.



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State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys

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## COASTAL FLOOD IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR KIPNUK, ALASKA

Keith C. Horen<sup>1</sup>, Autumn C. Poisson<sup>1\*</sup>, Zachary J. Siemsen<sup>1\*\*</sup>, Jessica E. Christian<sup>2</sup>, and Nora M. Nieminski<sup>1</sup>

### **OVERVIEW**

This Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys (DGGS) report is an investigation of the historical flood record and provides an assessment of flood impacts for the community of Kipnuk, Alaska. This community-specific report has three sections: data description, flood impact categorization, and historical flood record. Methods used to evaluate historical floods and delineate flood impact categories (minor, moderate, major), as defined by the National Weather Service (NWS), are described in detail in Horen, Poisson, and others (2024), an update from the methods described by Buzard and others (2021). Flood and infrastructure heights are relative to the local mean higher high water (MHHW) datum in feet (ft).

#### SUMMARY

The community of Kipnuk, whose name in Yup'ik is Qipneq, meaning bend in the river, is located on a southern cutbank of the Kugkaktlik River in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta approximately four miles inland from the Bering Sea and 100 miles southwest of Bethel. The average ground height in Kipnuk is only a few feet above the local high tide height, leaving it subject to flooding during severe coastal storm events (AECOM, 2016) and high tides. The 2019 Denali Commission Statewide Threat Assessment stated that Kipnuk is considered vulnerable to flooding and expected to suffer damaging impacts to critical infrastructure in the short-term (University of Alaska Fairbanks Institute of Northern Engineering and others, 2019). Additional data collection will improve our understanding of the flooding threat to this community.



Six disaster declarations (1979, 1982, 2006, 2009, 2015, and 2022) have been reported for flooding in Kipnuk (Alaska Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management [DHS&EM], 2008; Federal Emergency Management Agency [FEMA], 2009; The Village of Kipnuk Hazard Mitigation Planning Team, 2013; LeMay Engineering and Consulting, Inc., 2018; State of Alaska [SOA], 2022). Based on research done for this report, Kipnuk experienced at least 30 flood events between 1979 and 2022 (26 from storm surges, two from ice jams, and two from snowmelt events). We estimated the peak still water heights for 11 of these flood events, categorizing six as minor, two as moderate, and three as major. The highest flood occurred on November 13, 2000, reaching an estimated still water height of 4.7 ft (1.43 m) MHHW.

#### DATA

DGGS used geospatial data to assess infrastructure impacts and estimate flood heights from various sources of evidence (e.g., personal accounts, photographs, official reports, etc.). We used ArcGIS Pro version 3.2.1 to process and map these geospatial data.

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# Digital Elevation Models and Orthoimagery

Accurate, high-resolution elevation models and orthoimagery are used to measure flood heights in the absence of high-water mark (HWM) data. Four digital elevation models (DEM; table 1) and three orthoimages (table 2) are available for Kipnuk. Orthoimagery was collected in 2004 for a Community Profile Map (CPM; Alaska Division of Community & Regional Affairs [DCRA], 2004). Aerial imagery was collected in 2015 and 2022, which was used to create digital surface models (DSM) and orthoimagery derived from photogrammetric structure from motion (SfM) processing (Overbeck and others, 2016; Horen, Buzard, and others, 2024). DGGS collected light detection and ranging (lidar) data in 2021, with a DSM and digital terrain model (DTM) created in 2022 (Zechmann and others, 2023). Where first-floor height data were unavailable (i.e., unoccupied buildings, some facility-attached infrastructure, and private property), heights were extracted from the 2021 DTM unless a first-floor height was discernable from the 2022 SfM model, orthoimagery, and DSM (e.g., decking at entrances to buildings, visible platforms extending from building edges, etc.). All DEM and orthoimagery will be referenced in this report by the names assigned in tables 1 and 2.

## First-Floor Height Survey

The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) completed a field survey of the first-

floor heights of occupied buildings in Kipnuk on January 10 and 11, 2023. These data were collected in the North American Vertical Datum 1988 with Geoid 12B applied (NAVD88 [GEOID12B]) in U.S. survey feet (usft) (app. A). The reported vertical accuracy achieved during this survey is  $\pm$  0.1 ft (0.04 m). This survey will be referenced within this report as the 2023 first-floor survey. DGGS spatially joined these first-floor heights to building footprints digitized from the 2022 orthoimagery, identifying 248 as occupied buildings (i.e. residential, public, or commercial structures in which people live or work), 177 of which are residential.

## **GNSS Survey**

DGGS performed a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) survey on June 21, 2022, during a visit to Kipnuk. The purpose of this survey was to collect community reports and photoidentified HWM data. These data were collected in the NAVD88 (GEOID12B) vertical datum in meters (m) and reported in feet (ft) (app. B). The vertical accuracy achieved during this survey is  $\pm$  0.3 ft (0.08 m). This survey will be referenced within this report as the 2022 survey.

## Water Level Sensor

DGGS installed a Stilltek iGage radar water level sensor in Kipnuk on June 21, 2022. This sensor was replaced on October 16, 2023, and is attached to the south side of the bridge connecting the central portion of the village to the northern portion of the village (figs. 1 and 2). Data collected

**Table 1.** Summary of digital elevation models available for Kipnuk, Alaska.

	2015 DSM	2021 DSM	2021 DTM	2022 DSM
Collection date	2015-AUG-23	2021-AUG-18	2021-AUG-18	2022-JUN-21
Elevation type	Photogrammetric SfM	Lidar Surface	Lidar Bare Earth	Photogrammetric SfM
Vertical datum	NAVD88 (GEOID12B)	NAVD88 (GEOID12B)	NAVD88 (GEOID12B)	NAVD88 (GEOID12B)
Ground sample distance	0.6 ft (0.19 m)	1.6 ft (0.50 m)	1.6 ft (0.50 m)	0.2 ft (0.06 m)
Accuracy	0.2 ft (0.05 m)	0.2 ft (0.06 m)	0.2 ft (0.06 m)	0.2 ft (0.06 m)

	2004 Orthoimagery	2015 Orthoimagery	2022 Orthoimagery
Collection date	2004-JUN-04	2015-AUG-23	2022-JUN-21
Ground sample distance	1.0 ft (0.30 m)	0.3 ft (0.10 m)	0.1 ft (0.02 m)

 Table 2. Summary of orthoimagery available for Kipnuk, Alaska.

by this sensor, updated hourly, are available from Alaska Water Level Watch at portal.aoos. org/#metadata/119627/station/data. The vertical accuracy of these data is ± 0.3 ft (0.08 m).

#### Vertical Datums

Local tidal datums (table 3) for Kipnuk are described by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Center for Operational Oceanographic Products (CO-OPS) tide station 946 5951 available from tidesandcurrents.noaa. gov/stationhome.html?id=9465951. Two additional vertical datums exist for Kipnuk, a local project datum associated with a CPM commissioned by the DCRA in 2004 and an Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT&PF) local project datum established in 2010 and described on Bethel recording district plat 2011-17, found at dnr.alaska. gov/ssd/recoff/search/docdisplay?District=402& SelectedDoc=20110012880. The ADOT&PF datum was created by adding 1,000.0 ft to the NAVD88 (GEOID99) datum. In 2015, during their site investigation, AECOM compared heights derived from the 2004 CPM with heights collected in the ADOT&PF datum to approximate the relationship between these two datums (AECOM, 2016). DGGS used NOAA's Vertical Datum Transformation software version 4.3 to convert NAVD88 (GEOID99) elevations to NAVD88 (GEOID12B) elevations. Vertical transformation values between relevant datums are listed in tables 4 and 5.

## FLOOD IMPACT CATEGORIES

Flood impact categories are used by the NWS to define and communicate flood risk to the public. These categories are designated as major, moderate, and minor (NWS, 2016). Definitions for these categories in the NWS guidance specific



Figure 1. Location of Stilltek iGage radar water level sensor in Kipnuk, Alaska.

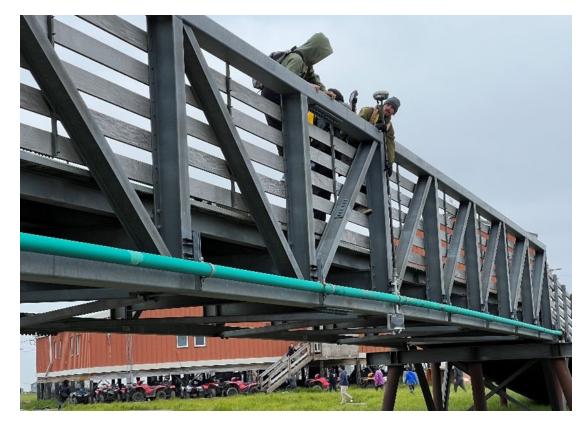


Figure 2. Stilltek iGage radar water level sensor installation in Kipnuk, Alaska, located on the south side of bridge.

Tidal Datum	Abbreviation	ft MHHW	m MHHW	ft NAVD88 (GEOID12B)	m NAVD88 (GEOID12B)
Mean Higher High Water	MHHW	0.0	0.00	7.8	2.36
Mean High Water	MHW	-1.4	-0.43	6.4	1.94
Mean Sea Level	MTL	-4.2	-1.28	3.5	1.08
Mean Tide Level	MSL	-4.4	-1.35	3.3	1.02
Mean Low Water	MLW	-7.4	-2.27	0.3	0.10
North American Vertical Datum 1988 (GEOID12B)	NAVD88 (GEOID12B)	-7.8	-2.36	0.0	0.00
Mean Lower Low Water	MLLW	-8.3	-2.53	-0.5	-0.16

 Table 3. Local tidal datums for Kipnuk, Alaska (NOAA CO-OPS tide station 946 5951).

to Alaska are provided in the form of statements regarding flood impacts, some of which are more qualitative than quantitative (NWS, 2016). To ensure impact assessments are consistent and repeatable, DGGS developed a set of quantitative criteria for each category (Horen, Poisson, and others, 2024). A fourth category, extreme flooding, as defined by DGGS, is included in this report to delineate critical infrastructure situated at heights above the anticipated maximum based on the specifics of the local historical flood record, though flooding is still possible above this height (Horen, Poisson, and others, 2024). **Table 4.** Vertical datum conversion chart for Kipnuk, Alaska, in feet. To convert from one datum to another, locate the row of the datum in which the data are currently projected and the column of the datum in which the data will be projected, then add the value in the cell where the row and column meet.

				To Datum		
	ft	NAVD88 (GEOID99)	СРМ (2004)	MHHW (946 5951)	NAVD88 (GEOID12B)	ADOT&PF (2010)
	NAVD88 (GEOID99)	0.0	+4.5	+12.0	+19.7	+1000.0
Datum	CPM (2004)	-4.5	0.0	+7.5	+15.2	+995.5
n Da	MHHW (946 5951)	-12.0	-7.5	0.0	+7.8	+988.0
From	NAVD88 (GEOID12B)	-19.7	-15.2	-7.8	0.0	+980.3
	ADOT&PF (2010)	-1000.0	-995.5	-988.0	-980.3	0.0

**Table 5.** Vertical datum conversion chart for Kipnuk, Alaska, in meters. To convert from one datum to another, locate the row of the datum in which the data are currently projected and the column of the datum in which the data will be projected, then add the value in the cell where the row and column meet.

				To Datum		
	m	NAVD88 (GEOID99)	СРМ (2004)	MHHW (946 5951)	NAVD88 (GEOID12B)	ADOT&PF (2010)
	NAVD88 (GEOID99)	0.00	+1.37	+3.65	+6.01	+304.80
Datum	CPM (2004)	-1.37	0.00	+2.28	+4.64	+303.43
n Da	MHHW (946 5951)	-3.65	-2.28	0.00	+2.36	+301.15
From	NAVD88 (GEOID12B)	-6.01	-4.64	-2.36	0.00	+298.79
	ADOT&PF (2010)	-304.80	-303.43	-301.15	-298.79	0.00

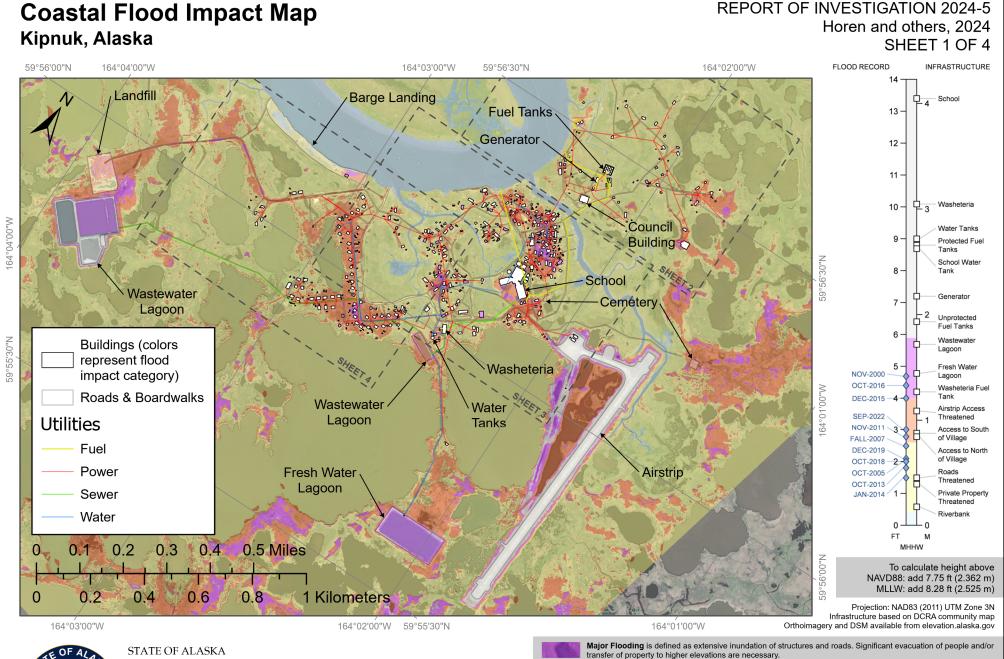
Short definitions for each flood impact category are listed below and are explained in greater detail by Horen, Poisson, and others (2024). Table 6 provides a list of key infrastructure heights and the risk categories they fall within. Additional information about each piece of key infrastructure is detailed in the category blocks that follow table 6. The map series that accompanies this report depicts the potential inundation extents for each flood impact category.

**Minor Flooding:** "Minimal or no property damage, but possibly some public threat" (NWS, 2016).

**Moderate Flooding:** "Some inundation of structures and roads... Some evacuations of people and/or transfer of property to higher elevations may be necessary" (NWS, 2016).

**Major Flooding:** "Extensive inundation of structures and roads. Significant evacuations of people and/or transfer of property to higher elevations are necessary" (NWS, 2016).

**Extreme Flooding:** Any flooding that reaches a height above the highest estimated flood height plus the confidence of that estimate. (Horen, Poisson, and others, 2024; NWS, 2018).





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Moderate Flooding is defined as some inundation of structures and roads at lower elevations. Some evacuation of people and/or transfer of property to higher elevations are necessary.
 Minor Flooding is defined as minimal or no property damage. Evacuation of people and/or transfer of property to

higher elevations are typically not necessary.

This work was made possible with National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's National Coastal Resilience Funding through a partnership with the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium.

#### **Coastal Flood Impact Map REPORT OF INVESTIGATION 2024-5** Horen and others, 2024 Kipnuk, Alaska SHEET 2 OF 4 164°02'30"W 164°02'00"W FLOOD RECORD INFRASTRUCTURE 14 250 500 1,000 Feet 750 - School 13 56'40"N 100 150 200 250 Meters 12 -59°56'40"N 50 59° 11 -中3 10 -Washeteria Water Tanks 9 Protected Fuel Tanks School Water ŋ 8 Tank 5] 8 Generator 7. 2 Unprotected Fuel Tanks 6 Wastewater Lagoon °56'30"N 5 Fresh Water NOV-2000 Lagoon 59°56'30"N 0 OCT-2016 Washeteria Fuel Tank DEC-2015 59° **Fuel Tanks** 40 Airstrip Access SEP-2022 Threatened NOV-2011 Access to South FALL-2007 of Village Generator DEC-2019 Access to North **Buildings** (colors of Village OCT-2018 -OCT-2005 Roads represent flood Threatened OCT-2013 impact category) Private Property JAN-2014 Threatened 0 Roads & Boardwalks Riverbank Utilities FT M MHHW Fuel To calculate height above

164°02'30"W

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Power

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164°02'00"W

Major Flooding is defined as extensive inundation of structures and roads. Significant evacuation of people and/or transfer of property to higher elevations are necessary

NAVD88: add 7.75 ft (2.362 m)

Projection: NAD83 (2011) UTM Zone 3N Infrastructure based on DCRA community map

Orthoimagery and DSM available from elevation.alaska.gov

MLLW: add 8.28 ft (2.525 m)



Council

Building

Moderate Flooding is defined as some inundation of structures and roads at lower elevations. Some evacuation



of people and/or transfer of property to higher elevations are necessary.



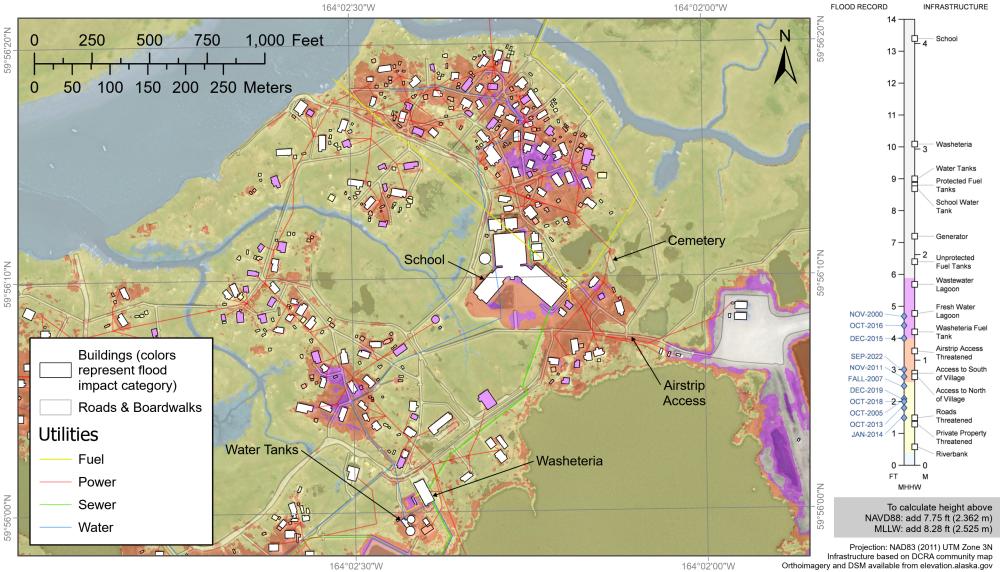
Minor Flooding is defined as minimal or no property damage. Evacuation of people and/or transfer of property to higher elevations are typically not necessary.

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## **Coastal Flood Impact Map**

Kipnuk, Alaska

#### REPORT OF INVESTIGATION 2024-5 Horen and others, 2024 SHEET 3 OF 4





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**Moderate Flooding** is defined as some inundation of structures and roads at lower elevations. Some evacuation of people and/or transfer of property to higher elevations are necessary.



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164°03'30"W

STATE OF ALASKA

164°03'00"W

0



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Major Flooding is defined as extensive inundation of structures and roads. Significant evacuation of people and/or transfer of property to higher elevations are necessary

MLLW: add 8.28 ft (2.525 m)

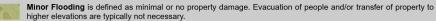
Projection: NAD83 (2011) UTM Zone 3N Infrastructure based on DCRA community map

Orthoimagery and DSM available from elevation.alaska.gov

50

100

Moderate Flooding is defined as some inundation of structures and roads at lower elevations. Some evacuation of people and/or transfer of property to higher elevations are necessary.



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150 200 250 Meters

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**Table 6.** Summary of infrastructure heights and flood categories for Kipnuk, Alaska. Gray = extreme, purple = major, red = moderate, and yellow = minor. The extreme category represents infrastructure situated at heights above the highest estimated flood height with confidence included. Categories are based on current infrastructure conditions.

Feature	Height (ft MHHW)	Confidence (ft)	Height (m MHHW)	Confidence (m)
School	13.4	0.1	4.07	0.04
Washeteria	10.1	0.1	3.08	0.04
Water tanks	9.0	0.1	2.73	0.04
Fuel tank containment wall	8.8	0.1	2.68	0.04
School water tank	8.7	0.1	2.64	0.04
Generator	7.2	0.1	2.20	0.04
Fuel tanks	6.4	0.1	1.96	0.04
Many buildings flooded	6.2	0.1	1.90	0.04
Extreme	5.9		1.79	
Several buildings flooded	5.7	0.1	1.74	0.04
Wastewater lagoon	5.7	0.2	1.72	0.06
Freshwater lagoon	4.8	0.2	1.48	0.06
Lowest residences flooded	4.6	0.1	1.40	0.04
Washeteria fuel tank	4.2	0.1	1.27	0.04
Major	4.0		1.23	
Airstrip access threatened	3.6	0.2	1.09	0.06
Important roads threatened	2.8	0.2	0.84	0.06
Moderate	2.6		0.78	
Low-lying roads threatened	1.5	0.2	0.46	0.06
Private property threatened	1.3	0.2	0.38	0.06
Riverbank	0.6	0.2	0.17	0.06
Minor	0.4		0.11	

#### Extreme Flooding: greater than 5.9 ft (1.79 m) MHHW

#### School: $13.4 \pm 0.1$ ft (4.07 $\pm 0.04$ m) MHHW

As the largest building, with the highest first-floor height, the school has been identified as the most suitable flood evacuation point.

#### Washeteria: $10.1 \pm 0.1$ ft ( $3.08 \pm 0.04$ m) MHHW

Washeterias provide resources such as laundry, showers, toilets, and treated drinking water.

#### Water tanks: 9.0 $\pm$ 0.1 ft (2.73 $\pm$ 0.04 m) MHHW

The primary water tanks are adjacent to the washeteria and contain most of the community's treated water supply. There are two tanks with first-floor heights of  $9.0 \pm 0.1$  ft (2.73  $\pm 0.04$  m) and  $9.2 \pm 0.1$  ft (2.80  $\pm 0.04$  m) MHHW.

#### Fuel tank containment wall: $8.8 \pm 0.1$ ft ( $2.68 \pm 0.04$ m) MHHW

A portion of the fuel tank farm (eight vertical, cylindrical tanks) is protected by a containment wall that is approximately 2.5 ft (0.75 m) above ground level.

#### School water tank: $8.7 \pm 0.7$ ft ( $2.64 \pm 0.21$ m) MHHW

The school water tank is the second largest reserve of treated water in the community and is the primary water source for the school.

#### Generator: 7.2 ± 0.1 ft (2.20 ± 0.04 m) MHHW

The generator facility provides power for the village.

#### Fuel tanks: $6.4 \pm 0.1$ ft ( $1.96 \pm 0.04$ m) MHHW

A portion of the fuel tank farm (six horizontal tanks) is elevated approximately 5.0 ft (1.54 m) above ground level but is unprotected by a containment wall.

#### Many buildings flooded 1.0 ft (0.30 m) or more: $6.2 \pm 0.1$ ft (1.90 $\pm 0.04$ m) MHHW

We consider "many" buildings to describe more than five occupied buildings. Occupied buildings are residential, public, or commercial structures in which people live or work.

#### Major Flooding: 4.0 to 5.9 ft (1.23 to 1.79 m) MHHW

#### Several buildings flooded less than 1.0 ft (0.30 m): $5.7 \pm 0.1$ ft (1.74 $\pm$ 0.04 m) MHHW

We consider "several" buildings to describe more than one but less than five occupied buildings.

#### Wastewater lagoon: 5.7 $\pm$ 0.2 ft (1.72 $\pm$ 0.06 m) MHHW

The wastewater lagoon, located southeast of the village, is surrounded by an earthen berm, this being the lowest height measured from the 2021 DTM. A breach of this lagoon could introduce sewage contamination into the surrounding environment.

#### Freshwater lagoon: $4.8 \pm 0.2$ ft ( $1.48 \pm 0.06$ m) MHHW

The freshwater lagoon, located west of the south end of the airstrip, is surrounded by an earthen berm, this being the lowest height measured from the 2021 DTM. A breach of this lagoon could result in contamination of the village's primary freshwater source.

#### Lowest residences flooded 1.0 ft (0.30 m) or more: $4.6 \pm 0.1$ ft (1.40 $\pm 0.04$ m) MHHW

This is the height at which the two lowest residential buildings would experience major flooding.

#### Washeteria fuel tank: $4.2 \pm 0.1$ ft ( $1.27 \pm 0.04$ ) MHHW

The washeteria fuel tank is considered key infrastructure because it is necessary for the operations of the washeteria facility. The height of the washeteria fuel tank forms the basis for the lower limit of the major flooding category.

#### Moderate Flooding: 2.6 to 4.0 ft (0.78 to 1.23 m) MHHW

#### Airstrip access: 3.6 $\pm$ 0.2 ft (1.09 $\pm$ 0.06 m) MHHW

Measured from the 2022 DSM, the ground height of the lowest section of the airstrip access road is 2.6  $\pm$  0.2 ft (0.79  $\pm$  0.06 m) MHHW. The NWS assumes a depth of 1.0 ft (0.30 m) to be the maximum for reasonably safe travel on flooded roads (NWS, 2023).

#### Access to southern portion of village: 2.9 $\pm$ 0.2 ft (0.89 $\pm$ 0.06 m) MHHW

Measured from the 2022 DSM, at this height a portion of the village south of the school would be cut off from the remainder of the village by water 1.0 ft (0.30 m) in depth.

#### Access to northern portion of village: $2.8 \pm 0.2$ ft ( $0.84 \pm 0.06$ m) MHHW

Measured from the 2022 DSM, at this height a portion of the village north of the bridge crossing near the council building would be cut off from the remainder of the village by water 1.0 ft (0.30 m) in depth. The height of this portion of boardwalk forms the basis for the lower limit of the moderate flooding category.

#### Minor Flooding: 0.4 to 2.6 ft (0.11 to 0.78 m) MHHW

#### Low-lying roads threatened: $1.5 \pm 0.2$ ft (0.46 $\pm$ 0.06 m) MHHW

Measured from the 2021 DTM, flood waters would reach but not overtop the lowest portions of boardwalks and roads at this height. The integrity of roads and boardwalks may be impacted by erosion and water damage, even if flood waters do not overtop these surfaces. Additionally, water on roads and boardwalks may make these surfaces difficult to traverse safely.

#### Private property threatened: $1.3 \pm 0.2$ ft (0.38 $\pm 0.06$ m) MHHW

Measured from the 2021 DTM, flood waters would reach the lowest private property at this height. Private property may include storage sheds, boats, fishing equipment, vehicles, and other property at ground level outside of occupied structures. From the 2022 orthoimagery, we identified 342 features meeting this description and extracted the average ground height beneath each from the 2021 DTM.

#### Riverbank: 0.6 ± 0.2 ft (0.17 ± 0.06 m) MHHW

Measured from the 2021 DTM, the upper edge of the riverbank, including the banks of tributaries within the boundary of the village, would be overtopped by flood waters at this height. The height of the riverbank forms the basis for the lower limit of the minor flooding category.

## HISTORICAL FLOOD RECORD

The historical flood record for Kipnuk is listed in chronological order below, with estimated floods identified by impact category. This record was compiled from local knowledge shared with DGGS staff during a June 2022 site visit and from information available to the public through open sources or upon request. It is possible that additional, undocumented flood events have impacted the community. Historical information was used in conjunction with the best available, temporally relevant geospatial data to estimate flood heights where possible.

All estimates and confidences were calculated following the methods developed by Horen, Poisson, and others (2024). As described by Horen, Poisson, and others (2024), each estimate is accompanied by two confidence metrics, an estimate confidence based on the combined known potential errors and a time-based confidence based on the temporal relevance of the data used to estimate a given event. Temporal confidence values are noted with an asterisk (\*) where the data used to estimate the flood event height were collected 20 years or more before or after the event: in these cases, the large temporal discontinuity may result in a value that could potentially exceed what the confidence model predicts (Horen, Poisson, and others, 2024).

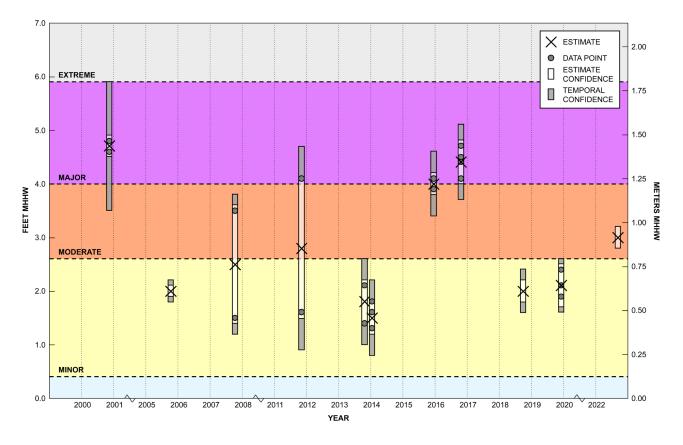
For each flood event, a list and summarization of sources is included, as well as an explanation of the data used and steps performed during estimation, where relevant. Each flood height estimate is classified into a single flood impact category, but estimate confidences may span more than one category. Table 7 provides a complete list of the flood events found during our research, with estimated floods categorized and listed in order from highest to lowest, and floods not estimated listed in chronological order. Figure 3 provides a timeline of the estimated flood events and a visual representation of the flood height estimates and confidences.

**Table 7.** Summary of historical floods in Kipnuk, Alaska. Flood categories are included for reference: purple = major, red = moderate, yellow = minor.

			Estin	nated Floods				
	Flood Date	Туре	Height (ft MHHW)	Estimate Confidence (ft)	Temporal Confidence (ft)	Height (m MHHW)	Estimate Confidence (m)	Temporal Confidence (m)
	2000-NOV-13	Storm surge	4.7	± 0.2	± 1.0*	1.43	± 0.05	± 0.31*
Major	2016-OCT-28	Storm surge	4.4	± 0.4	± 0.3	1.35	± 0.13	± 0.10
	2015-DEC-19	Storm surge	4.0	± 0.2	± 0.4	1.22	± 0.07	± 0.11
Moderate	2022-SEP-17	Storm surge	3.0	± 0.2	± 0.0	0.91	± 0.06	± 0.00
Mod	2011-NOV-09	Storm surge	2.8	± 1.3	± 0.6	0.86	± 0.39	± 0.18
	2007-FALL	Storm surge	2.5	± 1.1	± 0.2	0.76	± 0.34	± 0.05
	2019-DEC-10	Snow melt	2.1	± 0.4	± 0.1	0.64	± 0.12	± 0.03
Minor	2018-OCT-04	Storm surge	2.0	± 0.2	± 0.2	0.61	± 0.06	± 0.05
Μ	2005-OCT-17	Storm surge	2.0	± 0.1	± 0.1	0.61	± 0.04	± 0.02
	2013-OCT-25	Storm surge	1.8	± 0.4	± 0.4	0.54	± 0.12	± 0.13
	2014-JAN-22	Snow melt	1.5	± 0.3	± 0.4	0.45	± 0.11	± 0.11

#### **Floods Not Estimated**

Date	Туре	Туре		Туре
1973-FALL	Storm surge		2004-OCT-20	Storm surge
1979-NOV-09	Storm surge		2004-NOV-19	Storm surge
1980-AUG-17	Storm surge		2006-SEP-08	Storm surge
1982-SEP-20	Storm surge		2006-OCT-11	Storm surge
1982-WINTER	lce jam		2006-OCT-15	Storm surge
1987-OCT-17	Storm surge		2009-MAY-08	lce jam
2001-SEP-05	Storm surge		2012-OCT-05	Storm surge
2002-SEP-13	Storm surge		2013-NOV-09	Storm surge
2003-DEC-09	Storm surge		2021-DEC-06	Storm surge
2004-SEP-09	Storm surge			



**Figure 3.** Timeline of estimated flood events and visual representation of flood height estimates and confidences for Kipnuk, Alaska. Flood height estimates were calculated following the methods developed by Horen, Poisson, and others (2024). Estimates are denoted by black X symbols. Data points used during estimation are represented by dark-gray dots. Estimate confidences are displayed as vertical, light-gray boxes. Temporal confidences are displayed as vertical, dark-gray boxes. Each flood height estimate may only be classified into a single flood impact category, but total estimate confidences may exceed the upper and lower bounds of the data used during estimation and may span more than one flood impact category.

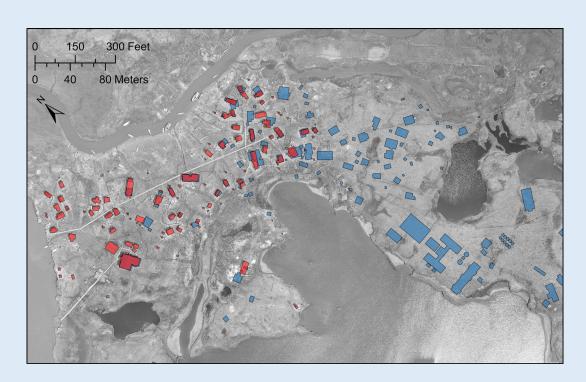
## **Flood Event Summaries**

Flood Date	Height (ft MHHW)	Estimate Confidence (ft)	Temporal Confidence (ft)	Height (m MHHW)	Estimate Confidence (m)	Temporal Confidence (m)	Category
1973-FALL	-	_	-	-	_	-	No flood height estimate

A United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE, 1973) historical flood data sheet, dated September 15, 1973, indicated Kipnuk experienced flooding during the months of November and December, with a maximum water depth of 0.5 ft (0.15 m) covering 10 percent of the village.

From visual comparison of historical aerial photographs (1965 and 1975), we noted that the size and location of the village has changed multiple times during the years between aerial observations (fig. 4).

The community is situated on the outer bank of a large meander and has experienced a maximum linear erosion rate of -9.8  $\pm$  0.7 ft/yr (-3.00  $\pm$  0.20 m/yr) between 1952 and 2015 (Overbeck and others, 2020), such that large portions of the pre-1973 village are no longer present in the available DEM datasets.



**Figure 4.** Comparison of building footprints in Kipnuk, Alaska, from 1965 (red) and 1975 (blue) overlaid on an aerial photograph from 1965.

Flood Date	Height (ft MHHW)	Estimate Confidence (ft)	Temporal Confidence (ft)	Height (m MHHW)	Estimate Confidence (m)	Temporal Confidence (m)	Category
1979-NOV-09	_	-	_	-	_	-	No flood height estimate

A 2008 State of Alaska (SOA) Department of Military and Veteran Affairs (DMVA) report prepared by the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM) listed a "major sea storm" impacting 14 villages along the west coast of Alaska in 1979. This storm led to a state declared disaster "from [Nunum Iqa] to Togiak" (DHS&EM, 2008). This event is identified in the NOAA Storm Data archives, with "coastal flooding from Togiak to Kinak Bay" (NOAA, 1979), the latter of which is located at the mouth of the Kugkaktlik River northeast of Kipnuk. Flooding on the coast of Kuskokwim Bay was described as "the worst in the memory of long-time residents" (NOAA, 1979).

A flood height could not be estimated for this event because no specific impacts to the village of Kipnuk were provided.

Flood Date	Height (ft MHHW)	Estimate Confidence (ft)	Temporal Confidence (ft)	Height (m MHHW)	Estimate Confidence (m)	Temporal Confidence (m)	Category
1980-AUG-17	_	-	-	-	-	-	No flood height estimate

A USACE flood data sheet, dated June 30, 2017, listed the flood of record for Kipnuk occurred in 1980. In the floodplain notes, USACE indicated that "the storm surge of record was from an October 1980 storm at Brisol [sic] Bay" (USACE, 2017). The 2008 DHS&EM report notes a disaster emergency was declared on September 2, 1980, for a storm impacting Bristol Bay. This storm also matches the description of a storm that occurred on August 17, 1980 (NOAA, 1980). According to NOAA, "An intense storm moved from the Central Aleutians to the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta coast... Southwest winds gusting to 65 knots to the south of the storm brought above normal tides and high seas to the coastal areas of Bristol Bay" (NOAA, 1980). Based on the evidence for this event, we believe the date reported by USACE is incorrect and have selected the NOAA reported date of August 17, 1980.

A flood height could not be estimated for this event because no specific impacts to the village of Kipnuk were provided.

Flood Date	Height (ft MHHW)	Estimate Confidence (ft)	Temporal Confidence (ft)	Height (m MHHW)	Estimate Confidence (m)	Temporal Confidence (m)	Category
1982-SEP-20	_	-	-	_	-	_	No flood height estimate

NOAA reported "an intense storm moved out of Bristol Bay and along the west coast of Alaska on the 19th and 20th... An oil rig platform under tow in the Bering Sea broke its tow and went aground off Nunivak Island" (NOAA, 1982), which is due west of Kipnuk.

A flood height could not be estimated for this event because no specific impacts to the village of Kipnuk were provided.

Flood Date	Height (ft MHHW)	Estimate Confidence (ft)	Temporal Confidence (ft)	Height (m MHHW)	Estimate Confidence (m)	Temporal Confidence (m)	Category
1982-WINTER	_	-	-	-	-	_	No flood height estimate

According to DHS&EM, "during the winter of 1982, the bridge connecting the village of Kipnuk with the community school was damaged by high water and ice flows…" (DHS&EM, 2008).

A flood height could not be estimated for this event because neither a flood height nor the height of the damaged bridge were available.

Flood Date	Height (ft MHHW)	Estimate Confidence (ft)	Temporal Confidence (ft)	Height (m MHHW)	Estimate Confidence (m)	Temporal Confidence (m)	Category
1987-OCT-14	-	-	-	_	-	_	No flood height estimate

NOAA reported "an intense Bering Sea storm brought winds... and minor flooding to the Yukon-Kuskokwim delta coast" (NOAA, 1987).

A flood height could not be estimated for this event because no specific impacts to the village of Kipnuk were provided.

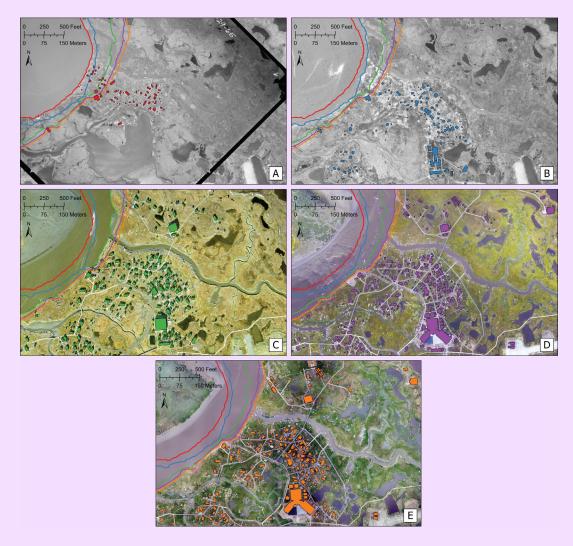
Flood Date	Height (ft MHHW)	Estimate Confidence (ft)	Temporal Confidence (ft)	Height (m MHHW)	Estimate Confidence (m)	Temporal Confidence (m)	Category
2000-NOV-13	4.7	± 0.2	± 1.0*	1.43	± 0.05	± 0.31*	Major

NOAA reported "Kipnuk has boardwalk damage especially to the sanitary system dump. Possible minor fuel spill at the tank farm. Personal property damage such as wet insulation in 6 homes, water damage in 2 homes and flooded freezers" (NOAA, 2000).

To estimate this flood, we gathered building footprints derived from the 2004 orthoimagery, building footprints derived from the 2022 orthoimagery, and first-floor heights from the 2023 survey. Comparing these three datasets, we identified residences that were present in both 2004 (nearest temporally to the flood event) and 2022 (nearest temporally to the first-floor elevation survey) for which a first-floor height was collected. The flood impact description indicates that, while at least six residences experienced flooding up to the subfloor insulation, no more than two were flooded sufficient to warrant further description of water damage. From this we can infer flood waters would likely have reached a height somewhere between the first-floor heights of the second and third lowest residences, 4.6 ft (1.40 m) and 4.8 ft (1.46 m) MHHW, respectively (table 8). An average of these two heights was calculated to estimate a flood height of 4.7 ft (1.43 m) MHHW. The upper limit of this estimate's confidence forms the basis for the threshold between the major and extreme impact categories.

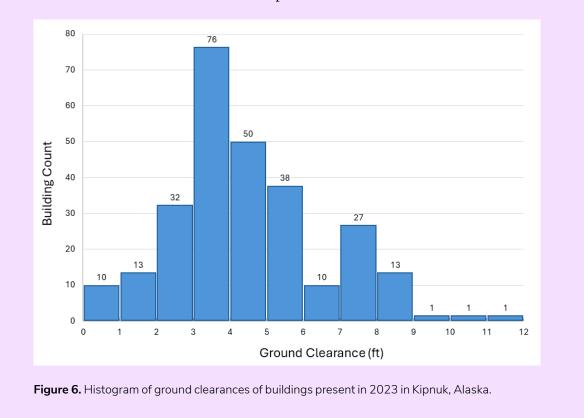
**Table 8.** First-floor heights of six lowest residences present in Kipnuk, Alaska, in both 2004 and 2023 (second and third lowest highlighted).

Due to the large gap in time between the 2004 and 2023 data, we investigated the likelihood that the heights of residential first floors may have changed between these observations. From a 2011 Hazard Impact Assessment (Golder Associates Inc., 2011) and a 2016 engineering study (AECOM, 2016), we are aware that differential movement (compressive sink and/or frost heave) is common for building foundations in Kipnuk, leading to frequent releveling. This information, along with a recommended minimum building height from the 2016 study (AECOM, 2016), would suggest that changes in first-floor heights should be expected over time in Kipnuk. From visual comparison of historical aerial photographs (1965 and 1975) and the three available orthoimages (2004, 2015, and 2022), we noted demolition, relocation, and new construction has been common in Kipnuk (fig. 5). Comparison of building footprints shows that four residences had been demolished between 2004 and 2022, with 40 residences built over this same timeframe, three of which had first-floor heights within the range of the six lowest residences surveyed in 2023. We were able to identify sufficient remnants of two of the demolished structures such that we were able to extract first-floor heights for these buildings from the 2022 DSM.



**Figure 5.** Aerial photographs and orthoimagery of Kipnuk, Alaska, comparing the riverbank and buildings from: (A) 1965, red; (B) 1975, blue; (C) 2004, green; (D) 2015, purple; (E) 2022, orange.

Using the 2021 DTM, we extracted the average ground heights beneath buildings and subtracted those results from the first-floor heights to calculate ground clearance information. The average building present in 2023 in Kipnuk was situated  $4.4 \pm 2.0$  ft  $(1.35 \pm 0.62 \text{ m})$  above the ground (fig. 6). Among residential buildings, 16 had a ground clearance more than one standard deviation below the average, with the three lowest residential first-floor heights that existed in both 2004 and 2023 falling within this category. Based on our investigation, it is likely that the first-floor heights of the residences used in this estimate are reasonable representations of the conditions in 2004.



Flood Date	Height (ft MHHW)	Estimate Confidence (ft)	Temporal Confidence (ft)	Height (m MHHW)	Estimate Confidence (m)	Temporal Confidence (m)	Category
2001-SEP-05	_	-	-	-	-	_	No flood height estimate

NOAA reported a strong low-pressure system impacted the Kuskokwim Delta and Bristol Bay with "gale force southwesterly winds... observed along the south side of the low" (NOAA, 2001). NOAA also noted "coastal flooding potential was highlighted during periods of high tide..." on September 4 and 5, 2001, when "water reached close to vegetation line along parts of the southwest Alaska Coast," characterizing damage from this event as "relatively minor" (NOAA, 2001).

A flood height could not be estimated for this event because no specific impacts to the village of Kipnuk were provided.

Flood Date	Height (ft MHHW)	Estimate Confidence (ft)	Temporal Confidence (ft)	Height (m MHHW)	Estimate Confidence (m)	Temporal Confidence (m)	Category
2002-SEP-13	_	-	-	_	-	-	No flood height estimate

NOAA reported a Bering Sea storm with "strong southerly winds preceded the associated front, while strong westerly winds were observed along the 'back side' of the low" (NOAA, 2002). The storm produced "strong onshore winds combined with maximum astronomical tides to produce the potential for coastal flooding..." (NOAA, 2002).

A flood height could not be estimated for this event because no specific impacts to the village of Kipnuk were provided.

Flood Date	Height (ft MHHW)	Estimate Confidence (ft)	Temporal Confidence (ft)	Height (m MHHW)	Estimate Confidence (m)	Temporal Confidence (m)	Category
2003-DEC-09	_	-	-	_	-	_	No flood height estimate

NOAA reported "...strong long southwest fetch across the Bering Sea resulted in a coastal storm surge along the Yukon and Kuskokwim Delta and northern Bristol Bay" (NOAA, 2003).

A flood height could not be estimated for this event because no specific impacts to the village of Kipnuk were provided.

Flood Date	Height (ft MHHW)	Estimate Confidence (ft)	Temporal Confidence (ft)	Height (m MHHW)	Estimate Confidence (m)	Temporal Confidence (m)	Category
2004-SEP-09	-	_	-	-	-	_	No flood height estimate

The National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) Storm Events Database notes "a strong storm in the Bering Sea created a long fetch with high wind. This produced a coastal storm surge resulting in minor coastal flooding along the Kuskokwim Delta" (NCEI, 2004).

A flood height could not be estimated for this event because no specific impacts to the village of Kipnuk were provided.

Flood Date	Height (ft MHHW)	Estimate Confidence (ft)	Temporal Confidence (ft)	Height (m MHHW)	Estimate Confidence (m)	Temporal Confidence (m)	Category
2004-OCT-20	_	-	_	-	-	-	No flood height estimate

NOAA reported "...[storm] surge coupled with high tides resulted in coastal flooding and beach erosion" on the Bering Sea coast along the Kuskokwim Delta (NOAA, 2004). The USACE flood data sheet states, "other flood events reported by residents are October 2004 and October 2005" (USACE, 2017).

A flood height could not be estimated for this event because no specific impacts to the village of Kipnuk were provided.

Flood Date	Height (ft MHHW)	Estimate Confidence (ft)	Temporal Confidence (ft)	Height (m MHHW)	Estimate Confidence (m)	Temporal Confidence (m)	Category
2004-NOV-19	_	-	-	_	-	_	No flood height estimate

NCEI reported "a west to southwest fetch across the Bering Sea, combined with high astronomical tide, resulted in coastal flooding across the west coast of the state" (NCEI, 2004).

A flood height could not be estimated for this event because no specific impacts to the village of Kipnuk were provided.

Flood Date	Height (ft MHHW)	Estimate Confidence (ft)	Temporal Confidence (ft)	Height (m MHHW)	Estimate Confidence (m)	Temporal Confidence (m)	Category
2005-OCT-17	2.0	± 0.1	± 0.1	0.61	± 0.04	± 0.02	Minor

NOAA reported "flooding occurred in Bristol Bay area north to Kipnuk along the Kuskokwim Delta" in reference to this event (NOAA, 2005). The USACE flood data sheet states, "other flood events reported by residents are October 2004 and October 2005" (USACE, 2017). AECOM "... interviewed elders and identified high water marks from the October 2005 storm surge" for their 2016 engineering study, noting "the 2005 event resulted in one of the largest storm surges in recent memory" (AECOM, 2016). According to the AECOM study, "the high-water mark elevations average 990 feet in the ADOT&PF datum; this elevation corresponds to approximately -5.5 feet in the datum developed by Aero-Metric in 2004 for the Kipnuk Community Map" (AECOM, 2016).

To estimate this flood, we applied the vertical datum transformation found in table 4 to the average height reported by AECOM to convert from the CMP (2004) datum to the MHHW (946 5951) datum.

Flood Date	Height (ft MHHW)	Estimate Confidence (ft)	Temporal Confidence (ft)	Height (m MHHW)	Estimate Confidence (m)	Temporal Confidence (m)	Category
2006-SEP-08	-	-	-	_	-	-	No flood height estimate

NOAA and NCEI reported that "...[storm] surge coincided with very high astronomical tides along the Bristol Bay coast and the coast of the Kuskokwim Delta. The combination of the storm surge and the very high tides produced minor coastal flooding along the Bristol Bay coast and the Kuskokwim Delta coast" (NOAA, 2006a; NCEI, 2006a).

A flood height could not be estimated for this event because no specific impacts to the village of Kipnuk were provided.

Flood Date	Height (ft MHHW)	Estimate Confidence (ft)	Temporal Confidence (ft)	Height (m MHHW)	Estimate Confidence (m)	Temporal Confidence (m)	Category
2006-OCT-11	_	_	_	-	-	_	No flood height estimate

NOAA reported coastal flooding for the Kuskokwim Delta and Bristol Bay (NOAA, 2006b).

A flood height could not be estimated for this event because no specific impacts to the village of Kipnuk were provided.

Flood Date	Height (ft MHHW)	Estimate Confidence (ft)	Temporal Confidence (ft)	Height (m MHHW)	Estimate Confidence (m)	Temporal Confidence (m)	Category
2006-OCT-15	-	_	_	-	_	-	No flood height estimate

NOAA reported coastal flooding for the Kuskokwim Delta (NOAA, 2006b). NCEI described "...strong south to southwest wind associated with this storm produce a surge along the coast of the Kuskokwim Delta..." (NCEI, 2006b; LeMay Engineering and Consulting Inc., 2018).

A flood height could not be estimated for this event because no specific impacts to the village of Kipnuk were provided.

Flood Date	Height (ft MHHW)	Estimate Confidence (ft)	Temporal Confidence (ft)	Height (m MHHW)	Estimate Confidence (m)	Temporal Confidence (m)	Category
2007-FALL	2.5	± 1.1	± 0.2	0.76	± 0.34	± 0.05	Minor

Kipnuk residents most-commonly reported fall 2007 as the worst flood event they could remember according to a Hazard Impact Assessment prepared by Golder Associates Inc. (2011). When asked to identify the impacts, details were provided regarding "areas that did and did not flood during this event" (Golder Associates Inc., 2011). Golder Associates Inc. compared the identified locations to the CPM topographic contours, stating "the 2007 flood level may correspond [sic] fall between -6 and -4 foot contours" (Golder Associates Inc., 2011).

To estimate this flood, we took the average of Golder Associates's reported estimate,  $-5.0 \pm 1.0$  ft (1.52 ± 0.30m) and applied the vertical datum transformation provided in table 6 to convert this value from the CPM (2004) datum to the MHHW (946 5951) datum.

Though this flood estimate is categorized as minor based on the average, the relatively large confidence range associated with this estimate could also potentially place this flood event within the moderate impact category.

Flood Date	Height (ft MHHW)	Estimate Confidence (ft)	Temporal Confidence (ft)	Height (m MHHW)	Estimate Confidence (m)	Temporal Confidence (m)	Category
2009-MAY-08	_	-	_	_	-	-	No flood height estimate

Late April warming and snowmelt created river ice jams that lead to extensive widespread flooding along 3,000 miles of Interior Alaska rivers and the lower Kuskokwim River (NOAA, 2009). The event led to a federal disaster declaration (FEMA, 2009).

A flood height could not be estimated for this event because no specific impacts to the village of Kipnuk were provided.

Flood Date	Height (ft MHHW)	Estimate Confidence (ft)	Temporal Confidence (ft)	Height (m MHHW)	Estimate Confidence (m)	Temporal Confidence (m)	Category
2011-NOV-09	2.8	± 1.3	± 0.6	0.86	± 0.39	± 0.18	Moderate

NCEI reported "...strong wind and long fetch resulted in a coast storm surge that produced minor coastal flooding in the Kuskokwim Delta region," with a "report from the public in Kipnuk of water reaching homes" (NCEI, 2011).

To estimate this flood, we interpreted the report of water reaching homes as water being under homes or reaching the lowest home. To do this we gathered building footprints derived from the 2015 orthoimagery, building footprints derived from the 2022 orthoimagery, and first-floor heights from the 2023 first-floor survey. Comparing these three datasets, we identified residences that were present in both 2015 (nearest temporally to the flood event) and 2022 (nearest temporally to the first-floor elevation survey) for which a first-floor height was collected. Ground heights beneath the identified residential buildings were then extracted from the 2021 DTM. The lowest first-floor height among homes that existed in 2015, 4.1 ft (1.25 m) MHHW, was selected as the upper limit of potential flooding. The lowest ground height beneath a residence that was present in 2015, 1.6 ft (0.47 m) MHHW, was selected as the lower limit of potential flooding. An average of these two heights was calculated to estimate a flood height of 2.8 ft (0.86 m) MHHW.

Though this flood estimate is categorized as moderate based on the average, the relatively large confidence range associated with this estimate could potentially place this flood event within the minor, moderate, or major impact category.

Flood Date	Height (ft MHHW)	Estimate Confidence (ft)	Temporal Confidence (ft)	Height (m MHHW)	Estimate Confidence (m)	Temporal Confidence (m)	Category
2012-OCT-05	_	-	-	_	-	_	No flood height estimate

Photographic evidence of this flood event was provided by a local resident. A lack of permanent reference points prevented the identification of the approximate location in the image on the left (fig. 7). The intersection depicted in the image on the right (fig. 7) was altered prior to the collection of the available DEM datasets.

Due to these limitations, a flood height could not be estimated for this event.



Figure 7. Photographic evidence of the flood event on October 5, 2012, in Kipnuk, Alaska.

Flood Date	Height (ft MHHW)	Estimate Confidence (ft)	Temporal Confidence (ft)	Height (m MHHW)	Estimate Confidence (m)	Temporal Confidence (m)	Category
2013-OCT-25	1.8	± 0.4	± 0.4	0.54	± 0.12	± 0.13	Minor

Two pieces of photographic evidence of this flood event were provided by a local resident. The presence of permanent infrastructure as reference points allowed us to identify the approximate location in both images.

To estimate this flood, we identified the buildings and boardwalks in the images, located these within the 2022 orthoimagery, and overlayed this orthoimagery with a simple bathtub model applied to the 2021 DTM to approximate the flood height depicted in the photographs (fig. 8). The images matched flood heights of 1.4 ft (0.44 m) and 2.1 ft (0.64 m) MHHW. An average of these two heights was calculated to estimate a flood height of 1.8 ft (0.54 m) MHHW.



**Figure 8.** Photographic evidence of the flood event on October 25, 2013, in Kipnuk, Alaska. Water levels reached 1.4 ft (0.44 m) (**A**) and 2.1 ft (0.64 m) MHHW (**B**).

Flood Date	Height (ft MHHW)	Estimate Confidence (ft)	Temporal Confidence (ft)	Height (m MHHW)	Estimate Confidence (m)	Temporal Confidence (m)	Category
2013-NOV-09	_	_	-	-	_	-	No flood height estimate

NCEI reported "an intense and large storm in the Bering Sea produced a long fetch of strong wind across the Bering Sea aligned with the Kuskokwim Delta coast... This produced a surge of up to 5 feet along the Kuskokwim Delta Coast" (NCEI, 2013).

A flood height could not be estimated for this event because no specific impacts to the village of Kipnuk were provided.

Flood Date	Height (ft MHHW)	Estimate Confidence (ft)	Temporal Confidence (ft)	Height (m MHHW)	Estimate Confidence (m)	Temporal Confidence (m)	Category
2014-JAN-22	1.5	± 0.3	± 0.4	0.45	± 0.11	± 0.11	Minor

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Indian General Assistance Program (IGAP) coordinator for Kipnuk at the time of this event, Nick Slim, provided photographic evidence of this flood event. Slim and the current EPA/IGAP coordinator, Rayna Paul, attributed the flooding to warm temperatures and snow melt (Nick Slim and Rayna Paul, personal commun., 2022). A January 22, 2014, NWS forecast discussion noted, "EXPECT CONTINUED ABOVE NORMAL TEMPERA-TURES FOR MUCH OF THE MAINLAND AND PERIODS OF PRECIPITATION ESPE-CIALLY ALONG THE COASTAL AREAS..." (Iowa Environmental Mesonet, 2014).

To estimate this flood, we identified the buildings and infrastructure in the images, located them within the 2022 orthoimagery, and overlayed this orthoimagery with a simple bathtub model applied to the 2021 DTM to approximate the flood height depicted in the photographs. The images matched flood heights of 1.3 ft (0.39 m), 1.8 ft (0.54 m), and 1.6 ft (0.49 m) MHHW (fig. 9). An average of these heights was calculated to estimate a flood height of 1.5 ft (0.45 m) MHHW.



Figure 9. Photographic evidence of the flood event on January 22, 2014, in Kipnuk, Alaska. Water levels reached 1.3 ft (0.39 m) (A), 1.8 ft (0.54 m) (B), 1.3 ft (0.39 m) (C), and 1.6 ft (0.49 m) MHHW (D).

Flood Date	Height (ft MHHW)	Estimate Confidence (ft)	Temporal Confidence (ft)	Height (m MHHW)	Estimate Confidence (m)	Temporal Confidence (m)	Category
2015-DEC-19	4.0	± 0.2	± 0.4	1.22	± 0.07	± 0.11	Major

Details of this event were documented in the Kipnuk Hazard Mitigation Plan (LeMay Engineering and Consulting Inc., 2018), which reported "the State Emergency Operations Center was contacted by the President of the Kipnuk Native Village about storm damage to their community-wide boardwalk system and a few surrounding homes." During a visit to Kipnuk in June 2022, DGGS gathered reports of observed high-water related to this flood event from local community members.

To estimate this flood, we collected 2 GNSS observations during the 2022 survey (table 9; app. B) based on community reports (fig. 10). An average of these heights was calculated to estimate a flood height of 4.0 ft (1.22 m) MHHW.

Though this flood estimate is categorized as major based on the average, the confidence range associated with this estimate could also potentially place this flood event within the moderate impact category.



**Figure 10.** GNSS observations of reported heights of the flood event on December 14, 2015, in Kipnuk, Alaska. Water levels reached 3.9 ft (1.18 m) MHHW at the bottom stair of the council building (**A**) and 4.1 ft (1.25 m) MHHW at the second stair of Tim Swanson's home (**B**).

 Table 9. Observed flood heights associated with the flood event on December 19, 2015, in Kipnuk, Alaska.

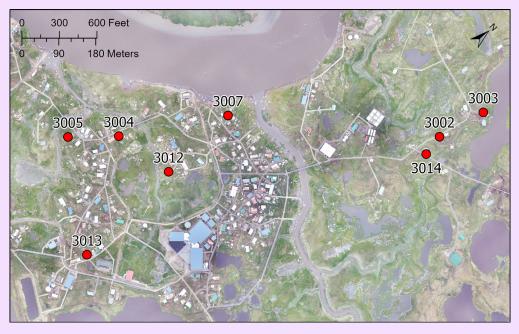
Point ID	Height (MHHW)
3001	3.9 ft (1.18 m)
3006	4.1 ft (1.25 m)

Flood Date	Height (ft MHHW)	Estimate Confidence (ft)	Temporal Confidence (ft)	Height (m MHHW)	Estimate Confidence (m)	Temporal Confidence (m)	Category
2016-OCT-28	4.4	± 0.4	± 0.3	1.35	± 0.13	± 0.10	Major

During the DGGS visit to Kipnuk in June 2022, the EPA/IGAP coordinator, Rayna Paul, provided a detailed account of the impacts of this event, stating that it was the worst flood she had experienced in her lifetime (Rayna Paul, personal commun., 2022). NCEI reported "strong low pressure in the western Bering Sea coupled with high pressure over the Arctic produced strong winds along the west coast of Alaska" (NCEI, 2016).

To estimate this flood, we collected 8 GNSS observations (fig. 11; table 10; app. B) during the 2022 survey based on community reports (fig. 12). Two of these observations were not used during estimation as they were deemed to be outliers, diverging from the average by greater than one standard deviation. An average of these heights was calculated to estimate a flood height of 4.4 ft (1.35 m) MHHW.

Though this flood estimate is categorized as major based on the average, the confidence range associated with this estimate could also potentially place this flood event within the moderate impact category.



**Figure 11.** Map of GNSS observations collected for the flood event on October 28, 2016, in Kipnuk, Alaska.



**Figure 12.** Examples of community members reporting the height of the flood event on October 28, 2016, in Kipnuk, Alaska.

Point ID	Height (MHHW)
3002	4.4 ft (1.35 m)
3003	3.7 ft (1.14 m)
3004	4.5 ft (1.38 m)
3005	4.4 ft (1.33 m)
3007	4.7 ft (1.44 m)
3012	5.5 ft (1.69 m)
3013	4.5 ft (1.38 m)
3014	4.1 ft (1.24 m)

Table 10. Observed flood heights associated with the flood event on October 28, 2016, in Kipnuk, Alaska

Flood Date	Height (ft MHHW)	Estimate Confidence (ft)	Temporal Confidence (ft)	Height (m MHHW)	Estimate Confidence (m)	Temporal Confidence (m)	Category
2018-OCT-04	2.0	± 0.2	± 0.2	0.61	± 0.06	± 0.05	Minor

An aerial photograph of flooding was posted to social media on October 4, 2018, showing flood water throughout Kipnuk (fig. 13).

To estimate this flood, we overlayed the 2022 orthoimagery with a simple bathtub model applied to the 2021 DTM to approximate the flood height depicted in the photograph.



Figure 13. Photographic evidence of the flood event on October 4, 2018, in Kipnuk, Alaska.

Flood Date	Height (ft MHHW)	Estimate Confidence (ft)	Temporal Confidence (ft)	Height (m MHHW)	Estimate Confidence (m)	Temporal Confidence (m)	Category
2019-DEC-10	2.1	± 0.4	± 0.1	0.64	± 0.12	± 0.03	Minor

An Alaska Public Media article stated, "High winds and warm temperatures caused flooding in Kipnuk this week" (Shallenberger, 2019). Photographs from social media showed flood waters in various parts of the village.

To estimate this flood, we identified the buildings and infrastructure in the photographs shared on social media, located them within the 2022 orthoimagery, and overlayed this orthoimagery with a simple bathtub model applied to the 2021 DTM to approximate the flood height depicted. The images matched flood heights of 2.4 ft (0.74 m), 2.1ft (0.64 m), and 1.9 ft (0.59 m) MHHW (fig. 14). An average of these heights was calculated to estimate a flood height of 2.1 ft (0.64 m) MHHW.



**Figure 14.** Photographic evidence of the flood event on December 10, 2019, in Kipnuk, Alaska. Water levels reached 2.4 ft (0.74 m) (**A**), 2.1 ft (0.64 m) (**B**), 1.9 ft (0.59 m) (**C**), and 1.9 ft (0.59 m) (**D**) MHHW.

Flood Date	Height (ft MHHW)	Estimate Confidence (ft)	Temporal Confidence (ft)	Height (m MHHW)	Estimate Confidence (m)	Temporal Confidence (m)	Category
2021-DEC-06	_	_	-	-	_	-	No flood height estimate

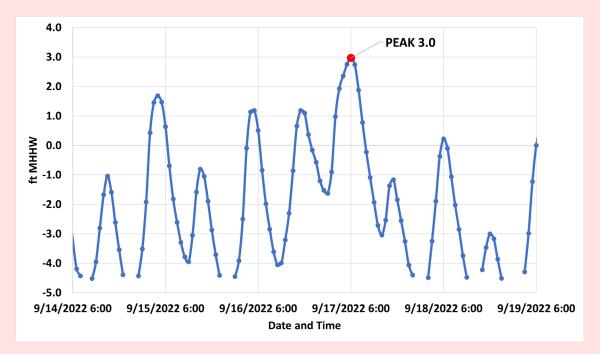
NCEI reported a coastal flood event occurred December 4–6, 2021, noting "Kipnuk PD reports flooding in airport overflow area and one road covered in water" (NCEI, 2021).

A flood height could not be estimated for this event because there was not enough detail provided to identify the locations listed in the description of this flood event.

Flood Date	Height (ft MHHW)	Estimate Confidence (ft)	Temporal Confidence (ft)	Height (m MHHW)	Estimate Confidence (m)	Temporal Confidence (m)	Category
2022-SEP-17	3.0	± 0.2	± 0.0	0.91	± 0.06	± 0.00	Moderate

NCEI reported the remnants of Typhoon Merbok reached the Kuskokwim Delta coast in the early evening on September 16, 2022, noting that "impacts, including damaging wind gusts and storm surge, were observed from the Kuskokwim Delta to the Yukon Delta…" (NCEI, 2022).

To estimate this flood, we gathered water level data from the Stilltek iGage located in Kipnuk (figs. 1 and 2) for the time period relevant to this flood event (fig. 15). The peak recorded water level during this event was 3.0 ft (0.91 m) MHHW.



**Figure 15.** Water level data collected in Kipnuk, Alaska, from 6:00 AM AKDT on September 14, 2022, to 6:00 AM AKDT on September 19, 2022.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank the Native Village of Kipnuk for supporting this work, made possible with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's National Coastal Resilience Funding through DGGS partners at the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium. Sincere thanks to Raya Paul, of Kipnuk, for reviewing this report before publication. The authors also thank Richard Buzard and Jacquelyn Overbeck for their contribution to the data collection that was instrumental to this work. The views and conclusions contained in this document are those of the authors and should not be interpreted as representing the opinions or policies of the Alaska Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys, the U.S. Government, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, or the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's funding sources. Mention of trade names or commercial products does not constitute endorsement by the Alaska Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys, the U.S. Government, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, or the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's funding sources.

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## APPENDIX A: KIPNUK, ALASKA, FIRST-FLOOR HEIGHT SURVEY



January 20, 2023

#### Kipnuk, Alaska Finish Floor Elevation Study ANTHC Project No. 10-0189-01-01

The data provided is from a field survey completed by ANTHC on January 10, 2023 through January 11, 2023. Project elevations are NAVD88 Orthometric heights (U.S. Feet), computed using GEIOD12B, and were measured utilizing Trimble R10 GPS Receivers using RTK GPS.

#### **BASIS OF HORIZONTAL CONTROL:**

The Basis of Horizontal Control is the Primary Airport Control Station IIK A (ANTHC Control Point 552), NGS Datasheet PID: DQ2643, as retrieved on December 30, 2022, a 9/16" stainless steel drive rod incased in a 6" PVC pipe with an aluminum logo cover stamped IIK-A 2015. Said station has the following record coordinates:

NAD83(2011)(EPOCH2010.00) Geodetic Coordinates: Latitude = 59° 56' 06.00744" N Longitude = 164° 01' 52.76037" W

NAD83(2011)(EPOCH2010.00) Alaska State Plane Zone 8, U.S. Feet: Northing = 2,173,505.9328' Easting = 2,001,458.7392'

#### **BASIS OF VERTICAL CONTROL:**

The Basis of Vertical Control is the Primary Airport Control Station IIK A (ANTHC Control Point 552), NGS Datasheet PID: DQ2643, as retrieved on December 30, a 9/16" stainless steel drive rod incased in a 6" PVC pipe with an aluminum logo cover stamped IIK-A 2015. Said station has a computed record NAVD88 Orthometric height of 4.483m/14.71' (Ellip. Ht. – Geiod Ht. = Ortho. Ht.). Elevations were verified by checking into NOAA Benchmark 5951 C 2021, the northwest bolt on a bridge on the north side of Kipnuk. The elevation error was +0.13'.

Sincerely,

Paul Russell, PLS Survey Manager

Enclosures:

- Kipnuk-FF\_AKSPZ8.csv
- Kipnuk-FF\_NAD83(2011).csv
- IIK A Datasheet.pdf

 Published Bench Mark Sheet for 9465951 KIPNUK, KUGUKLIK RIVER AK.pdf

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium//Division of Environmental Health & Engineering 4500 Diplomacy Drive, Suite 454, Anchorage, Alaska 99508//Main: (907) 729-3600 //Fax: (907) 729-4090//anthc.org

FF = Finish Floor			
	2173504.93		
			15.92 5951 C 2021
			14.81 FF HOME
			14.8 FF HOME
4003	2172395.43	1998057.79	14.6 FF HOME
			15.78 FF DUPLEX HOME
4005	2172340.83	1998085.19	16.03 FF HOME
4006	2172248.22	1998042.37	15.85 FF DUPLEX HOME
4007	2172180.69	1998126.14	17.68 FF HOME
4008	2172196.08	1998206.08	17.88 FF HOME
4009	2172362.81	1998151.49	16.66 FF HOME
4010	2172288.01	1998336.04	16.88 FF HOME
4011	2172340.19	1998396.93	18.44 FF HOME
4012	2172303.3	1998476.05	17.79 FF HOME
4013	2172336.54	1998517.59	17.25 FF HOME
4014	2172392.04	1998457.73	17.35 FF HOME
4015	2172453.03	1998530.64	17.04 FF HOME
4016	2172380.13	1998641.87	17.54 FF HOME
4017	2172502.3	1998588.37	16.97 FF HOME
4018	2172657.69	1998750.55	18.9 FF HOME
4019	2172719.05	1998699.1	18.27 FF HOME
4020	2172751.61	1998648.57	18.68 FF HOME
4021	2172753.04	1998539.46	13.81 FF HOME
4022	2172851.18	1998588.81	18.57 FF HOME
4023	2172918.67	1998532.54	18.81 FF HOME
4024	2172988	1998474.87	18.99 FF HOME
4025	2173055.04	1998425.56	18.61 FF HOME
4026	2173122.58	1998359.1	19.22 FF HOME
4027	2173212.8	1998271.31	19.62 FF HOME
4028	2173143.64	1998197.91	18.26 FF HOME
4029	2173235.95	1998091.15	18.17 FF UNOCCUPIED HOME
4030	2173288.84	1998089.56	16.81 FF HOME
4031	2173370.35	1998141.44	16.97 FF HOME
4032	2173327.13	1998297.2	15.49 FF HOME
4033	2173436.08	1998169.14	16.77 FF UNOCCUPIED HOME
4034	2173536.59	1998203.62	16.56 FF HOME
4035	2173579.77	1998239.32	16.47 FF HOME
4036	2173655.87	1998159.6	15.78 FF UNOCCUPIED BLDG
4037	2173053.01	1997844.13	16.19 FF UUI COMM BLDG
4038	2172736.38	1997293.72	14.36 FF HOME
4039	2172693.29	1997253.85	14.42 FF HOME
4040	2172752.86	1997191.49	13.87 FF HOME
4041	2172878.44	1997192.31	13.78 FF HOME
4042	2173271.96	1997484.2	15.69 FF HOME
4043	2173250.38		15.58 FF HOME

4045 2173683.98 1998539.9 14.98 FF HOME 4046 2173600 1998710.24 11.89 FF HOME 4047 2173463.67 1998872.19 14.25 FF HOME 4048 2172650.87 1998848.82 14.75 FF HOME 4049 2172556.99 1998828.8 19.06 FF HOME 4050 2172511.77 1998871.98 19.85 FF HOME 4051 2172450.3 1998923.34 20.03 FF HOME 4052 2172356.02 1998793.7 13.53 FF HOME 4053 2172262.25 1998793.32 12.89 FF UNOCCUPIED HOME 4054 2172324.51 1998879.51 13.72 FF UNOCCUPIED HOME 4055 2172370.19 1998982.77 19.3 FF HOME 4056 2172361.89 1999011.46 19.43 FF HOME 4057 2172632.6 1999017.22 14.65 FF HOME 4058 2172527.09 1999041.78 19.08 FF HOME 4059 2172437.27 1999089.91 19.63 FF HOME 4060 2172495.17 1999158.63 19.56 FF HOME 4061 2172584.59 1999110.69 19.49 FF HOME 4062 2172642.44 1999180.09 19.33 FF HOME 4063 2172552.66 1999228.32 19.51 FF HOME 4064 2172610.41 1999297.57 19.33 FF HOME 4065 2172671.31 1999249.97 19.1 FF HOME 4066 2172668.16 1999365.89 19.14 FF HOME 4067 2172757.64 1999318 19.9 FF HOME 4068 2172823.89 1999349.04 13.68 FF HOME 4069 2172925.4 1999329.99 13.8 FF HOME 4070 2172821.93 1999304.21 14.63 FF HOME 4071 2172805.89 1999268.34 14.42 FF HOME 4079 2172809.96 1999780.97 16.64 FF WATER TANK BLDG 4080 2172769.29 1999798.36 16.95 FF WATER TANK 4081 2172820.23 1999840.92 16.71 FF WATER TANK 4082 2172969.47 1999832.13 17.84 FF WASHETERIA 4083 2172893.21 1999829.93 11.91 FF FUEL CONTAINMENT BOTTOM 4084 2172917.64 1999818.14 12.29 FF FUEL CONTAINMENT TOP 4085 2173039.55 1999573.44 17.04 FF SERVICE CENTER 4086 2173225.59 1999645.1 13.99 FF HOME 4087 2173239.44 1999615.8 13.87 FF HOME 4088 2173254.15 1999499.9 16.07 FF HOME 4089 2173277.67 1999459.39 15.6 FF HOME 4090 2173278.18 1999385.6 16.79 FF UNOCCUPIED HOME 4091 2173422.59 1999445.18 15.02 FF HOME 4092 2173470.43 1999417.99 15.27 FF HOME 4093 2173496.1 1999390.17 12.57 FF HOME 4094 2173534.15 1999504.17 15.41 FF HOME 4095 2173542.74 1999584.06 14.83 FF HOME 4096 2173560.38 1999638.14 15.22 FF HOME 4097 2173525.04 1999748.26 12.89 FF HOME 4098 2173386.12 1999642.68 15.01 FF HOME

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4099 2173371.88 1999581.17 16.67 FF HOME
4100 2173328.41 1999597.13 14.33 FF HOME
4101 2173048.44 1999756.95 13.46 FF POLICE BLDG
4102 2173106.43 1999807.39 15.34 FF POLICE BLDG
4103 2173191.64 1999842.84 14.83 FF OLD STORE
4104 2173246.18 1999839.12 12.88 FF UNOCCUPIED HOME
4105 2173284.75 1999835.08 14.25 FF CORPORATION BLDG
4106 2173184.53 1999915.41 15.5 FF YK HEALTH CO BLDG
4107 2173025.51 2000068.68 15.46 FF POST OFFICE
4108 2173065.29 2000212.19 16.39 FF ARMY NATIONAL GUARD BLDG
4109 2173157.42 2000138.97 15.76 FF ARMY NATIONAL GUARD BLDG
4110 2173174.4 2000185.51 14.75 FF ARMY NATIONAL GUARD BLDG
4111 2173355.15 2000107.11 13.2 FF STORE
4112 2173674.22 1999898.52 12.47 FF UNKNOWN BLDG
4113 2173683.89 1999393.58 14.98 FF HOME
4114 2173748.07 1999342.12 15.39 FF HOME
4115 2173742.71 1999309.56 15.24 FF HOME
4116 2173699.77 1999277.33 13.85 FF HOME
4117 2173639.48 1999217.11 14.09 FF HOME
4118 2173692.91 1999143.81 12.82 FF UNOCCUPIED HOME
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4123 2173751.23 1999218.86 12.85 FF HOME
4124 2173830.94 1999195.95 14.31 FF HOME
4125 2173862.81 1999143.9 13.21 FF HOME
4126 2173940.36 1999202.98 13.81 FF HOME
4127 2173965.93 1999149.26 13.06 FF HOME
4128 2173979.04 1999221.68 12.91 FF HOME
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4130 2174392.17 1999279.43 15.09 FF HOME
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4134 2174408.21 1999409.49 14.85 FF HOME
4135 2174264.88 1999524.72 14.71 FF HOME
       2174171 1999597.42 14.05 FF HOME
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4137 2174082.09 1999694.75 13.37 FF HOME
4138 2174219.37 1999777.98 14.43 FF HOME
4139 2174354.87 1999830.83 12.34 FF HOME
4140 2174236.81 1999685.76 13.52 FF UNOCCUPIED HOME
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4142 2174478.37 1999840.77 12.07 FF ABANDONED KTC JAIL HOUSE
4143 2174499.59 1999871.5 14.51 FF UNOCCUPIED HOME
4144 2174538.79 1999764.67 14.48 FF HOME
4145 2174617.95 1999766.48 13.53 FF HOME
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4150 2174654.29 1999929.53 14 FF HOME
4151 2174727.51 1999962.21 14.03 FF HOME
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4153 2174587.74 2000027.97 13.58 FF HOME
4154 2174598.86 2000087.13 15.75 FF HOME
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4161 2174478.37 2000180.82 14.91 FF HOME
4162 2174464.31 2000139.52 14.19 FF HOME
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4166 2174700.63 2000250.06 15.97 FF HOME
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4175 2174505.48 2000376.68 13.49 FF HOME
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4185 2174263.34 2000559.36 16.35 FF HOME
4186 2174203.65 2000548.04 14.28 FF HOME
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                  2000362 14.95 FF HOME
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4192 2174205.53 2000229.79 13.78 FF HOME
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42412175408.321999887.1614.36 FF STORAGE BLDG42422175407.41999914.9311.79 FF STORAGE BLDG42432175363.661999953.7812.27 FF STORAGE BLDG42442175351.17199926.2613.88 FF HARDWARE STORE42452175434.132000135.6713.63 FF HOME

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FF = Finish Floor
           551 59° 56' 06.00744" N 164° 01' 52.76037" W 14.71 IIK A
           552 59° 56' 21.01542" N 164° 02' 13.25402" W 15.92 5951 C 2021
          4001 59° 55' 49.48748" N 164° 02' 08.89809" W 14.81 FF HOME
          4002 59° 55' 56.41481" N 164° 02' 58.45115" W 14.8 FF HOME
          4003 59° 55' 56.07654" N 164° 03' 00.11685" W 14.6 FF HOME
          4004 59° 55' 55.38263" N 164° 03' 00.59439" W 15.78 FF DUPLEX HOME
          4005 59° 55' 55.53111" N 164° 02' 59.61098" W 16.03 FF HOME
          4006 59° 55' 54.63184" N 164° 03' 00.50447" W 15.85 FF DUPLEX HOME
          4007 59° 55' 53.94275" N 164° 02' 58.90030" W 17.68 FF HOME
          4008 59° 55' 54.07103" N 164° 02' 57.32342" W 17.88 FF HOME
          4009 59° 55' 55.72818" N 164° 02' 58.29776" W 16.66 FF HOME
          4010 59° 55' 54.93834" N 164° 02' 54.72116" W 16.88 FF HOME
          4011 59° 55' 55.43436" N 164° 02' 53.49663" W 18.44 FF HOME
          4012 59° 55' 55.04821" N 164° 02' 51.96592" W 17.79 FF HOME
          4013 59° 55' 55.36336" N 164° 02' 51.13196" W 17.25 FF HOME
          4014 59° 55' 55.92712" N 164° 02' 52.27405" W 17.35 FF HOME
          4015 59° 55' 56.50635" N 164° 02' 50.80858" W 17.04 FF HOME
          4016 59° 55' 55.75633" N 164° 02' 48.66896" W 17.54 FF HOME
          4017 59° 55' 56.97455" N 164° 02' 49.64767" W 16.97 FF HOME
          4018 59° 55' 58.45718" N 164° 02' 46.37644" W 18.9 FF HOME
          4019 59° 55' 59.07608" N 164° 02' 47.35026" W 18.27 FF HOME
          4020 59° 55' 59.41136" N 164° 02' 48.32248" W 18.68 FF HOME
          4021 59° 55' 59.45711" N 164° 02' 50.46199" W 13.81 FF HOME
          4022 59° 56' 00.40886" N 164° 02' 49.43701" W 18.57 FF HOME
          4023 59° 56' 01.08965" N 164° 02' 50.50174" W 18.81 FF HOME
          4024 59° 56' 01.78890" N 164° 02' 51.59294" W 18.99 FF HOME
          4025 59° 56' 02.46314" N 164° 02' 52.52133" W 18.61 FF HOME
          4026 59° 56' 03.14732" N 164° 02' 53.78600" W 19.22 FF HOME
          4027 59° 56' 04.06099" N 164° 02' 55.45596" W 19.62 FF HOME
          4028 59° 56' 03.40146" N 164° 02' 56.93570" W 18.26 FF HOME
          4029 59° 56' 04.34108" N 164° 02' 58.97669" W 18.17 FF UNOCCUPIED HOME
          4030 59° 56' 04.86224" N 164° 02' 58.97722" W 16.81 FF HOME
          4031 59° 56' 05.64956" N 164° 02' 57.91251" W 16.97 FF HOME
          4032 59° 56' 05.17895" N 164° 02' 54.88203" W 15.49 FF HOME
          4033 59° 56' 06.28862" N 164° 02' 57.33102" W 16.77 FF UNOCCUPIED HOME
          4034 59° 56' 07.26801" N 164° 02' 56.59649" W 16.56 FF HOME
          4035 59° 56' 07.68272" N 164° 02' 55.87126" W 16.47 FF HOME
          4036 59° 56' 08.45503" N 164° 02' 57.39100" W 15.78 FF UNOCCUPIED BLDG
          4037 59° 56' 02.61185" N 164° 03' 03.92798" W 16.19 FF UUI COMM BLDG
          4038 59° 55' 59.65432" N 164° 03' 14.90744" W 14.36 FF HOME
          4039 59° 55' 59.24168" N 164° 03' 15.71442" W 14.42 FF HOME
          4040 59° 55' 59.84612" N 164° 03' 16.90327" W 13.87 FF HOME
          4041 59° 56' 01.08213" N 164° 03' 16.81484" W 13.78 FF HOME
          4042 59° 56' 04.87157" N 164° 03' 10.86206" W 15.69 FF HOME
          4043 59° 56' 04.66583" N 164° 03' 11.32960" W 15.58 FF HOME
          4044 59° 56' 09.31502" N 164° 02' 49.45372" W 15.21 FF HOME
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4045 59° 56' 08.62130" N 164° 02' 49.91437" W 14.98 FF HOME 4046 59° 56' 07.74518" N 164° 02' 46.62142" W 11.89 FF HOME 4047 59° 56' 06.35601" N 164° 02' 43.52364" W 14.25 FF HOME 4048 59° 55' 58.36144" N 164° 02' 44.45291" W 14.75 FF HOME 4049 59° 55' 57.44305" N 164° 02' 44.89992" W 19.06 FF HOME 4050 59° 55' 56.98539" N 164° 02' 44.07922" W 19.85 FF HOME 4051 59° 55' 56.36531" N 164° 02' 43.10736" W 20.03 FF HOME 4052 59° 55' 55.47491" N 164° 02' 45.70474" W 13.53 FF HOME 4053 59° 55' 54.55195" N 164° 02' 45.76658" W 12.89 FF UNOCCUPIED HOME 4054 59° 55' 55.13979" N 164° 02' 44.03991" W 13.72 FF UNOCCUPIED HOME 4055 59° 55' 55.55937" N 164° 02' 41.98799" W 19.3 FF HOME 4056 59° 55' 55.46940" N 164° 02' 41.43009" W 19.43 FF HOME 4057 59° 55' 58.13264" N 164° 02' 41.16012" W 14.65 FF HOME 4058 59° 55' 57.08680" N 164° 02' 40.73967" W 19.08 FF HOME 4059 59° 55' 56.18859" N 164° 02' 39.84770" W 19.63 FF HOME 4060 59° 55' 56.73859" N 164° 02' 38.46609" W 19.56 FF HOME 4061 59° 55' 57.63285" N 164° 02' 39.35452" W 19.49 FF HOME 4062 59° 55' 58.18209" N 164° 02' 37.95968" W 19.33 FF HOME 4063 59° 55' 57.28423" N 164° 02' 37.06573" W 19.51 FF HOME 4064 59° 55' 57.83261" N 164° 02' 35.67386" W 19.33 FF HOME 4065 59° 55' 58.44594" N 164° 02' 36.57223" W 19.1 FF HOME 4066 59° 55' 58.38125" N 164° 02' 34.30024" W 19.14 FF HOME 4067 59° 55' 59.27597" N 164° 02' 35.18784" W 19.9 FF HOME 4068 59° 55' 59.91919" N 164° 02' 34.54048" W 13.68 FF HOME 4069 59° 56' 00.92395" N 164° 02' 34.85523" W 13.8 FF HOME 4070 59° 55' 59.91295" N 164° 02' 35.42098" W 14.63 FF HOME 4071 59° 55' 59.76548" N 164° 02' 36.13398" W 14.42 FF HOME 4079 59° 55' 59.65618" N 164° 02' 26.07609" W 16.64 FF WATER TANK BLDG 4080 59° 55' 59.25076" N 164° 02' 25.75861" W 16.95 FF WATER TANK 4081 59° 55' 59.73981" N 164° 02' 24.89417" W 16.71 FF WATER TANK 4082 59° 56' 01.21154" N 164° 02' 24.97983" W 17.84 FF WASHETERIA 4083 59° 56' 00.46147" N 164° 02' 25.06737" W 11.91 FF FUEL CONTAINMENT BOTTOM 4084 59° 56' 00.70541" N 164° 02' 25.28431" W 12.29 FF FUEL CONTAINMENT TOP 4085 59° 56' 01.97683" N 164° 02' 30.01358" W 17.04 FF SERVICE CENTER 4086 59° 56' 03.78730" N 164° 02' 28.49988" W 13.99 FF HOME 4087 59° 56' 03.93223" N 164° 02' 29.06671" W 13.87 FF HOME 4088 59° 56' 04.11075" N 164° 02' 31.33168" W 16.07 FF HOME 4089 59° 56' 04.35410" N 164° 02' 32.11259" W 15.6 FF HOME 4090 59° 56' 04.38064" N 164° 02' 33.55983" W 16.79 FF UNOCCUPIED HOME 4091 59° 56' 05.78491" N 164° 02' 32.30732" W 15.02 FF HOME 4092 59° 56' 06.26372" N 164° 02' 32.81283" W 15.27 FF HOME 4093 59° 56' 06.52458" N 164° 02' 33.34369" W 12.57 FF HOME 4094 59° 56' 06.86586" N 164° 02' 31.08543" W 15.41 FF HOME 4095 59° 56' 06.92724" N 164° 02' 29.51323" W 14.83 FF HOME 4096 59° 56' 07.08511" N 164° 02' 28.44211" W 15.22 FF HOME 4097 59° 56' 06.70512" N 164° 02' 26.30238" W 12.89 FF HOME 4098 59° 56' 05.36833" N 164° 02' 28.45421" W 15.01 FF HOME

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4099 59° 56' 05.24605" N 164° 02' 29.66914" W 16.67 FF HOME 4100 59° 56' 04.81350" N 164° 02' 29.38124" W 14.33 FF HOME 4101 59° 56' 02.01088" N 164° 02' 26.40872" W 13.46 FF POLICE BLDG 4102 59° 56' 02.56705" N 164° 02' 25.38559" W 15.34 FF POLICE BLDG 4103 59° 56' 03.39551" N 164° 02' 24.64072" W 14.83 FF OLD STORE 4104 59° 56' 03.93347" N 164° 02' 24.68193" W 12.88 FF UNOCCUPIED HOME 4105 59° 56' 04.31439" N 164° 02' 24.73887" W 14.25 FF CORPORATION BLDG 4106 59° 56' 03.30433" N 164° 02' 23.22137" W 15.5 FF YK HEALTH CO BLDG 4107 59° 56' 01.69423" N 164° 02' 20.30728" W 15.46 FF POST OFFICE 4108 59° 56' 02.04399" N 164° 02' 17.46905" W 16.39 FF ARMY NATIONAL GUARD BLDG 4109 59° 56' 02.97223" N 164° 02' 18.85161" W 15.76 FF ARMY NATIONAL GUARD BLDG 4110 59° 56' 03.12580" N 164° 02' 17.92886" W 14.75 FF ARMY NATIONAL GUARD BLDG 4111 59° 56' 04.92800" N 164° 02' 19.36172" W 13.2 FF STORE 4112 59° 56' 08.12987" N 164° 02' 23.26807" W 12.47 FF UNKNOWN BLDG 4113 59° 56' 08.37214" N 164° 02' 33.16780" W 14.98 FF HOME 4114 59° 56' 09.01897" N 164° 02' 34.14010" W 15.39 FF HOME 4115 59° 56' 08.97570" N 164° 02' 34.78196" W 15.24 FF HOME 4116 59° 56' 08.56237" N 164° 02' 35.43919" W 13.85 FF HOME 4117 59° 56' 07.98639" N 164° 02' 36.65533" W 14.09 FF HOME 4118 59° 56' 08.53363" N 164° 02' 38.06244" W 12.82 FF UNOCCUPIED HOME 4119 59° 56' 08.70876" N 164° 02' 39.84408" W 12.99 FF HOME 4120 59° 56' 08.57922" N 164° 02' 41.21160" W 11.86 FF HOME 4121 59° 56' 09.28723" N 164° 02' 40.06728" W 14.98 FF HOME 4122 59° 56' 09.52605" N 164° 02' 39.20913" W 12.54 FF HOME 4123 59° 56' 09.08599" N 164° 02' 36.55633" W 12.85 FF HOME 4124 59° 56' 09.87725" N 164° 02' 36.95943" W 14.31 FF HOME 4125 59° 56' 10.20622" N 164° 02' 37.96204" W 13.21 FF HOME 4126 59° 56' 10.95236" N 164° 02' 36.75815" W 13.81 FF HOME 4127 59° 56' 11.21970" N 164° 02' 37.79709" W 13.06 FF HOME 4128 59° 56' 11.32770" N 164° 02' 36.36878" W 12.91 FF HOME 4129 59° 56' 13.99682" N 164° 02' 35.99865" W 12.71 FF HOME 4130 59° 56' 15.37784" N 164° 02' 34.99626" W 15.09 FF HOME 4131 59° 56' 17.00986" N 164° 02' 34.23269" W 14.21 FF ABANDONED KTC LODGE & GARAGE 4132 59° 56' 16.35819" N 164° 02' 31.05107" W 14.24 FF HOME 4133 59° 56' 15.64895" N 164° 02' 30.52355" W 13.53 FF HOME 4134 59° 56' 15.49791" N 164° 02' 32.43543" W 14.85 FF HOME 4135 59° 56' 14.05337" N 164° 02' 30.25798" W 14.71 FF HOME 4136 59° 56' 13.10795" N 164° 02' 28.88629" W 14.05 FF HOME 4137 59° 56' 12.20442" N 164° 02' 27.02854" W 13.37 FF HOME 4138 59° 56' 13.53149" N 164° 02' 25.31601" W 14.43 FF HOME 4139 59° 56' 14.85005" N 164° 02' 24.20054" W 12.34 FF HOME 4140 59° 56' 13.73014" N 164° 02' 27.11512" W 13.52 FF UNOCCUPIED HOME 4141 59° 56' 17.34157" N 164° 02' 28.09540" W 14.01 FF HOME 4142 59° 56' 16.06289" N 164° 02' 23.93384" W 12.07 FF ABANDONED KTC JAIL HOUSE 4143 59° 56' 16.26285" N 164° 02' 23.31864" W 14.51 FF UNOCCUPIED HOME 4144 59° 56' 16.67983" N 164° 02' 25.39150" W 14.48 FF HOME 4145 59° 56' 17.45856" N 164° 02' 25.31010" W 13.53 FF HOME

4146 59° 56' 18.46247" N 164° 02' 28.47824" W 14.6 FF HOME 4147 59° 56' 18.84717" N 164° 02' 27.49131" W 13.72 FF HOME 4148 59° 56' 18.34570" N 164° 02' 24.88414" W 14.65 FF HOME 4149 59° 56' 18.89056" N 164° 02' 23.01288" W 13.55 FF HOME 4150 59° 56' 17.76878" N 164° 02' 22.09013" W 14 FF HOME 4151 59° 56' 18.48004" N 164° 02' 21.40643" W 14.03 FF HOME 4152 59° 56' 17.45600" N 164° 02' 20.54087" W 15.2 FF HOME 4153 59° 56' 17.08496" N 164° 02' 20.19765" W 13.58 FF HOME 4154 59° 56' 17.17717" N 164° 02' 19.03059" W 15.75 FF HOME 4155 59° 56' 18.00291" N 164° 02' 19.23058" W 15.03 FF HOME 4156 59° 56' 18.35026" N 164° 02' 19.46806" W 13.44 FF HOME 4157 59° 56' 18.97912" N 164° 02' 18.84479" W 14.89 FF HOME 4158 59° 56' 19.23310" N 164° 02' 17.32346" W 15.61 FF HOME 4159 59° 56' 18.79249" N 164° 02' 17.04501" W 15.12 FF HOME 4160 59° 56' 18.46792" N 164° 02' 17.18929" W 14.82 FF HOME 4161 59° 56' 15.96364" N 164° 02' 17.26257" W 14.91 FF HOME 4162 59° 56' 15.83728" N 164° 02' 18.08095" W 14.19 FF HOME 4163 59° 56' 16.30225" N 164° 02' 18.03669" W 13.59 FF HOME 4164 59° 56' 17.02272" N 164° 02' 16.80261" W 14.87 FF HOME 4165 59° 56' 16.81113" N 164° 02' 16.74930" W 15.28 FF HOME 4166 59° 56' 18.13138" N 164° 02' 15.77490" W 15.97 FF HOME 4167 59° 56' 17.94094" N 164° 02' 14.81060" W 15.16 FF STORE 4168 59° 56' 17.72870" N 164° 02' 15.14724" W 13.53 FF STORAGE 4169 59° 56' 17.44389" N 164° 02' 15.51542" W 14.37 FF HOME 4170 59° 56' 17.07169" N 164° 02' 15.42524" W 13.92 FF UNOCCUPIED HOME 4171 59° 56' 16.77468" N 164° 02' 14.02839" W 14.3 FF HOME 4172 59° 56' 16.52662" N 164° 02' 15.23894" W 15.65 FF HOME 4173 59° 56' 16.28114" N 164° 02' 15.67958" W 14.87 FF HOME 4174 59° 56' 16.11395" N 164° 02' 15.18712" W 13.72 FF HOME 4175 59° 56' 16.17334" N 164° 02' 13.40447" W 13.49 FF HOME 4176 59° 56' 15.42361" N 164° 02' 14.16869" W 16.3 FF HOME 4177 59° 56' 15.46680" N 164° 02' 15.28446" W 15.53 FF HOME 4178 59° 56' 14.67176" N 164° 02' 16.30225" W 16.6 FF HOME 4179 59° 56' 14.75250" N 164° 02' 17.76395" W 14.22 FF KIPNUK TRADING COMPANY 4180 59° 56' 13.91884" N 164° 02' 15.06087" W 14.31 FF HOME 4181 59° 56' 14.71219" N 164° 02' 15.03197" W 16.4 FF HOME 4182 59° 56' 14.94525" N 164° 02' 12.63749" W 15.13 FF HOME 4183 59° 56' 15.18783" N 164° 02' 11.48293" W 14.74 FF HOME 4184 59° 56' 14.95580" N 164° 02' 10.29272" W 13.49 FF HOME 4185 59° 56' 13.73638" N 164° 02' 09.96159" W 16.35 FF HOME 4186 59° 56' 13.15205" N 164° 02' 10.21835" W 14.28 FF HOME 4187 59° 56' 12.25082" N 164° 02' 11.70899" W 14.63 FF HOME 4188 59° 56' 13.00393" N 164° 02' 13.88009" W 14.95 FF HOME 4189 59° 56' 13.71114" N 164° 02' 14.06539" W 14.74 FF UNOCCUPIED HOME 4190 59° 56' 13.82536" N 164° 02' 12.27592" W 16 FF HOME 4191 59° 56' 14.43376" N 164° 02' 11.76485" W 15.74 FF HOME 4192 59° 56' 13.26353" N 164° 02' 16.46056" W 13.78 FF HOME

4193 59° 56' 12.91999" N 164° 02' 16.08752" W 14.76 FF HOME 4194 59° 56' 12.64625" N 164° 02' 15.30748" W 13.9 FF HOME 4195 59° 56' 12.50127" N 164° 02' 17.77856" W 18.27 FF TEACHER HOUSING 4196 59° 56' 12.55162" N 164° 02' 16.39095" W 18.42 FF TEACHER HOUSING 4197 59° 56' 11.95264" N 164° 02' 14.38920" W 17.33 FF TEACHER HOUSING 4198 59° 56' 11.15261" N 164° 02' 13.72318" W 17.24 FF TEACHER HOUSING 4199 59° 56' 10.75860" N 164° 02' 14.59699" W 17.03 FF TEACHER HOUSING 4200 59° 56' 09.37089" N 164° 02' 11.68917" W 21.11 FF SCHOOL 4201 59° 56' 09.51141" N 164° 02' 09.77032" W 13.76 FF HOME 4202 59° 56' 09.78208" N 164° 02' 16.28603" W 21.1 FF SCHOOL 4203 59° 56' 06.41239" N 164° 02' 13.43026" W 15.53 FF HOME 4204 59° 56' 06.66745" N 164° 02' 11.27014" W 13.65 FF HOME 4205 59° 56' 06.37473" N 164° 02' 11.04687" W 12.68 FF HOME 4206 59° 56' 06.42374" N 164° 02' 10.29777" W 14.42 FF HOME 4207 59° 56' 06.88340" N 164° 02' 09.35003" W 14.66 FF HOME 4208 59° 56' 08.30532" N 164° 02' 07.12100" W 15.22 FF HOME 4209 59° 56' 06.91352" N 164° 02' 03.68384" W 15.31 FF COMM HUT 4210 59° 56' 08.14243" N 164° 01' 56.32052" W 19.36 FF DOT BLDG 4211 59° 56' 08.75468" N 164° 01' 56.25369" W 18.61 FF DOT BLDG 4213 59° 56' 22.52233" N 164° 02' 13.91652" W 17.88 FF TRIBAL OFFICE 4214 59° 56' 23.81531" N 164° 02' 02.67351" W 15.59 FF HOME 4215 59° 56' 24.98231" N 164° 01' 48.16024" W 17.66 FF CHURCH 4216 59° 56' 26.52782" N 164° 01' 49.62224" W 15.95 FF HOME 4217 59° 56' 29.67296" N 164° 01' 50.51235" W 16.4 FF HOME 4218 59° 56' 31.23459" N 164° 01' 51.98288" W 15.16 FF HOME 4219 59° 56' 32.46593" N 164° 01' 51.21311" W 14.5 FF HOME 4220 59° 56' 31.85290" N 164° 01' 48.85399" W 16.81 FF HOME 4221 59° 56' 28.73091" N 164° 01' 58.95692" W 14.12 FF HOME 4222 59° 56' 29.14884" N 164° 02' 00.70557" W 14.31 FF HOME 4223 59° 56' 28.70787" N 164° 02' 02.53356" W 13.6 FF HOME 4224 59° 56' 25.49980" N 164° 02' 13.25931" W 14.96 FF GENERATOR BLDG 4225 59° 56' 24.67504" N 164° 02' 13.00611" W 18.19 FF OLD GENERATOR BLDG 4226 59° 56' 27.00440" N 164° 02' 11.94195" W 16.54 FF FUEL CONTAINMENT TOP 4227 59° 56' 27.23172" N 164° 02' 11.97082" W 14.07 FF FUEL CONTAINMENT BOTTOM 4228 59° 56' 25.67285" N 164° 02' 09.94934" W 14.18 FF APPROX BOTTOM OF FUEL TANKS 4229 59° 56' 30.75048" N 164° 02' 00.76064" W 12.17 FF HOME 4230 59° 56' 33.85447" N 164° 02' 00.77319" W 13.88 FF HOME 4231 59° 56' 34.25743" N 164° 02' 01.64898" W 12.46 FF HOME 4232 59° 56' 33.25053" N 164° 02' 03.66489" W 14.5 FF HOME 4233 59° 56' 34.53091" N 164° 02' 05.53834" W 14.53 FF ABANDONDED DOPLAR RADAR BLDG 4234 59° 56' 35.02098" N 164° 02' 08.73753" W 13.61 FF HOME 4235 59° 56' 38.36369" N 164° 02' 07.50773" W 13.82 FF HOME 4236 59° 56' 34.93862" N 164° 02' 12.30306" W 14.02 FF HOME 4237 59° 56' 35.26649" N 164° 02' 17.05098" W 13.65 FF HOME 4238 59° 56' 31.27629" N 164° 02' 15.78699" W 14.62 FF HOME 4239 59° 56' 26.24679" N 164° 02' 21.56562" W 13.23 FF GAS PUMP 4240 59° 56' 25.79259" N 164° 02' 22.63624" W 13.23 FF GAS STATION

4241 59° 56' 25.20387" N164° 02' 22.48325" W14.36 FF STORAGE BLDG4242 59° 56' 25.18672" N164° 02' 21.93889" W11.79 FF STORAGE BLDG4243 59° 56' 24.74481" N164° 02' 21.20211" W12.27 FF STORAGE BLDG4244 59° 56' 24.62996" N164° 02' 21.74924" W13.88 FF HARDWARE STORE4245 59° 56' 25.38545" N164° 02' 17.59251" W13.63 FF HOME

# APPENDIX B: FIELD INVESTIGATION FLOOD HEIGHT DATA COLLECTION

#### **Ground Survey Details**

DGGS visited Kipnuk on June 21, 2022, to collect historical high-water mark (HWM) and flood elevation data. A Trimble R10 receiver was temporarily installed as a GNSS base station over an existing stainless-steel rod in a lidded case stamped "AIRPORT GEODETIC CONTROL MARK LS11797 2015 IIK-A" (table B1). Points were surveyed with a Trimble R8s receiver as a GNSS rover, between 8:01 AM and 8:09 PM AKDT. DGGS measured 10 flood elevation points (table B2) identified through local accounts or from photographic evidence.

## **Data Processing**

The base station position was corrected using an Online Positioning User Service (OPUS) solution and NOAA's Vertical Datum Transformation (VDatum) software. The corrected base station position was used to update the ground rover positions through post-processed kinematic (PPK) adjustments in Trimble Business Center (Version 5.51) software with default settings applied.

## **Coordinate System and Datum**

All data were processed and are delivered in meters in the NAD83 (2011) UTM Zone 3N horizontal coordinate system and NAVD88 (Geoid 12B) vertical datum.

## Horizontal Accuracy

DGGS quantified the horizontal accuracy of the base station GNSS position data using the latitudinal and longitudinal peak-to-peak errors provided by OPUS (table B1). The horizontal accuracy of the rover GNSS position data was quantified using Trimble Business Center and reflects the root-mean-square (RMS) of latitudinal and longitudinal errors, which does not include propagated error from the corrected base station position (table B2). Consistent with OPUS shared solution requirements (https://geodesy. noaa.gov/OPUS/about.jsp), DGGS considers high-quality GNSS solutions to have latitudinal and longitudinal errors less than or equal to 0.040 m.

#### Vertical Accuracy

DGGS quantified the vertical accuracy of the base station GNSS position data using the combined NAD83 (2011) ellipsoidal height peak-to-peak error provided by OPUS and orthometric height (RMS) error provided by VDatum (table B1). The vertical accuracy of the rover GNSS position data was quantified using Trimble Business Center, which does not include propagated error from the corrected base station position (table B2). Consistent with OPUS shared solutions requirements, DGGS considers high-quality GNSS solutions to have vertical errors less than or equal to 0.080 m.

Table B1. Base station coordinates and GNSS errors.

Northing	Easting	Elevation	Northing Error	Easting Error	Vertical Error
6644568.574	554135.137	4.451	0.011	0.008	0.077

 Table B2. Rover coordinates and GNSS errors.

Point ID	Northing	Easting	Elevation	Horizontal Error	Vertical Error	Description
3001	6645074.998	553809.828	3.540	0.011	0.012	Reported height of 2015 flooding at first step of council building.
3002	6645319.556	553961.471	2.710	0.008	0.010	Estimated location of re- ported boardwalk floating 1.0 m above ground during 2016 flooding.
3003	6645439.449	553984.589	3.498	0.009	0.011	Reported height of 2016 flooding at fourth step of home.
3004	6644721.651	553458.099	3.745	0.006	0.008	Reported height of 2016 flooding reaching top of porch of home.
3005	6644625.405	553379.642	2.695	0.005	0.007	Estimated location of re- ported ATV submerged by water 1.0 m above ground during 2016 flooding.
3006	6644958.493	553589.033	3.245	0.006	0.008	Reported location of water 0.37 m above ground during 2015 flooding.
3007	6644957.784	553590.225	3.254	0.006	0.008	Reported location of water 0.55 m above ground during 2016 flooding.
3012	6644758.807	553602.525	4.049	0.007	0.009	Reported height of 2016 flooding at top step of home.
3013	6644476.251	553629.524	2.839	0.013	0.020	Estimated location depicted in photographic evidence of 2016 flooding.
3014	6645267.702	553972.962	3.406	0.008	0.011	Reported height of 2016 flooding 0.18 m above second step of home.