

North Slope Borough

Atqasuk Village Profile



Prepared for:
The North Slope Borough

Prepared by:
URS Corporation



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Abbreviations

ADEC	Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
ANCSA.....	Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act
CIP	Capital Improvement Program
DMS	Department of Municipal Services (now Public Works Department)
kW	kilowatt
NPRA	National Petroleum Reserve – Alaska
NSB.....	North Slope Borough
PWD.....	Public Works Department
SPCC	Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure
SKW	Subsidiary of Arctic Slope Regional Corporation
UIC.....	Ukpeagvik Inupiat Corporation
USDW	Unified School District Warehouse

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North Slope Borough

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4.2 Atqasuk Village Profile

4.2.1 Summary

Atqasuk is located on the Arctic Coastal plain, on the banks of the Meade River, within the region that has become the National Petroleum Reserve – Alaska (NPROA) (Figure B-1). The community is located about 60 miles southwest of Barrow.

The Atqasuk area has been used for generations as base camps for subsistence activities. The village is located near the old Atqasuk village site (pre-1970) and the Tigaluk camp area. There are many historic and contemporary hunting and fishing camps in this area. With the community's inland location, subsistence activities focus on land and river resources. In addition, many residents travel to coastal communities to participate in whaling and hunting for marine mammals.

During World War II (1939-45), bituminous coal was mined in Atqasuk for use in Barrow's government and private facilities. The population of Old Atqasuk declined steadily between 1939 and 1970. The 1970 Census did not record any residents in the community. Atqasuk was re-established by the North Slope Borough (NSB) in 1977. The 1980 Census recorded 107 residents in the community, only three years after people began to return to the area. Atqasuk was incorporated as a second-class city in 1982. Atqasuk Corporation is the local village corporation. The Village of Atqasuk is a federally recognized tribe.

Atqasuk has a young population, with a high ratio of dependents to wage earners. At the same time, the community has high rates of unemployment and underemployment. The community has high levels of subsistence activities and use of subsistence resources.

The Meade River School is operated by the North Slope Borough School District and serves kindergarten through twelfth grade students. The community infrastructure has had several upgrades in recent years. Water and sewer projects funded by the North Slope Borough have been completed. An electric utility is functional in the community, as well as telecommunications.

Sources: (University of Alaska - Arctic Environmental Information and Data Center 1978; Wickersham & Flavin Planning Consultants 1982; Alaska Consultants Incorporated 1983b; Shepro, Maas et al. 2003; DCED 2004)



Aerial view of Atqasuk

4.2.2 Physical Environment

- Atqasuk is an inland community, located on the Meade River on the Arctic coastal plain, about 60 miles south of Barrow and 58 miles east of Wainwright (Alaska Consultants Incorporated 1983b; DCED 2004).
- The community encompasses 38.9 square miles of land and 3.5 square miles of water (DCED 2004).
- The village is located on a stabilized sand dune flat, which is underlain by permafrost (Alaska Consultants Incorporated 1983b).
- Temperatures in Atqasuk are more extreme than in the coastal settlements. Precipitation is typically light, at 5 inches per year, with snowfall averaging 22 inches (DCED 2004).
- The physical characteristics of Atqasuk are available in more detail in prior planning documents (Wickersham & Flavin Planning Consultants 1982; Alaska Consultants Incorporated 1983b).



Lakes and ponds in the vicinity of Atqasuk

4.2.2.1. Hazards

- With the community's inland location, potential hazards include riverbank erosion, flooding, and subsidence due to permafrost melting. However, existing data are not generally available for the location and extent of hazards; potential hazard conditions should be considered further on a project-specific basis.
- There has been no recorded flooding since the community was re-established in 1977 (US Army Corps of Engineers 2000). However village residents reported in August 2004 that seasonal flooding occurs south of town in the area of the old village site on the east side of the river.
- The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) (ADEC 2004) has one site in Atqasuk listed in their contaminated sites database. No action has occurred at the tank farm site since 2000 (Table 4.2-1).

**Table 4.2-1
Areas of Potential Contamination in Atqasuk**

Site Name	Location	Status	Reckey
Atqasuk Tank Farm	No Address, Atqasuk, AK 99791	Inactive	1988310111601

Source (ADEC 2004)

4.2.3 Human Environment

- The Atqasuk area has been used for generations as base camps for subsistence activities. The village is located near the old Atqasuk village site (pre-1970) and the Tugaluk camp area (Alaska Consultants Incorporated 1983b).
- During World War II (1939–45), bituminous coal was mined in Atqasuk for use in Barrow’s government and private facilities (Alaska Consultants Incorporated 1983b; DCED 2004). There is one woman in Atqasuk who still burns coal for heat.
- A post office was established in the community from 1951 to 1957 under the name of Meade River (DCED 2004).
- The population of Old Atqasuk declined steadily between 1939 and 1970. The 1970 Census did not record any residents in the community. Atqasuk was re-established by the North Slope Borough in 1977. The 1980 Census recorded 107 residents in the community, only three years after people began to return to the area (Alaska Consultants Incorporated 1983b; Shepro, Maas et al. 2003).
- Atqasuk was incorporated as a second-class city in 1982 (Alaska Consultants Incorporated 1983b).
- Atqasuk Corporation is the local Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) village corporation.

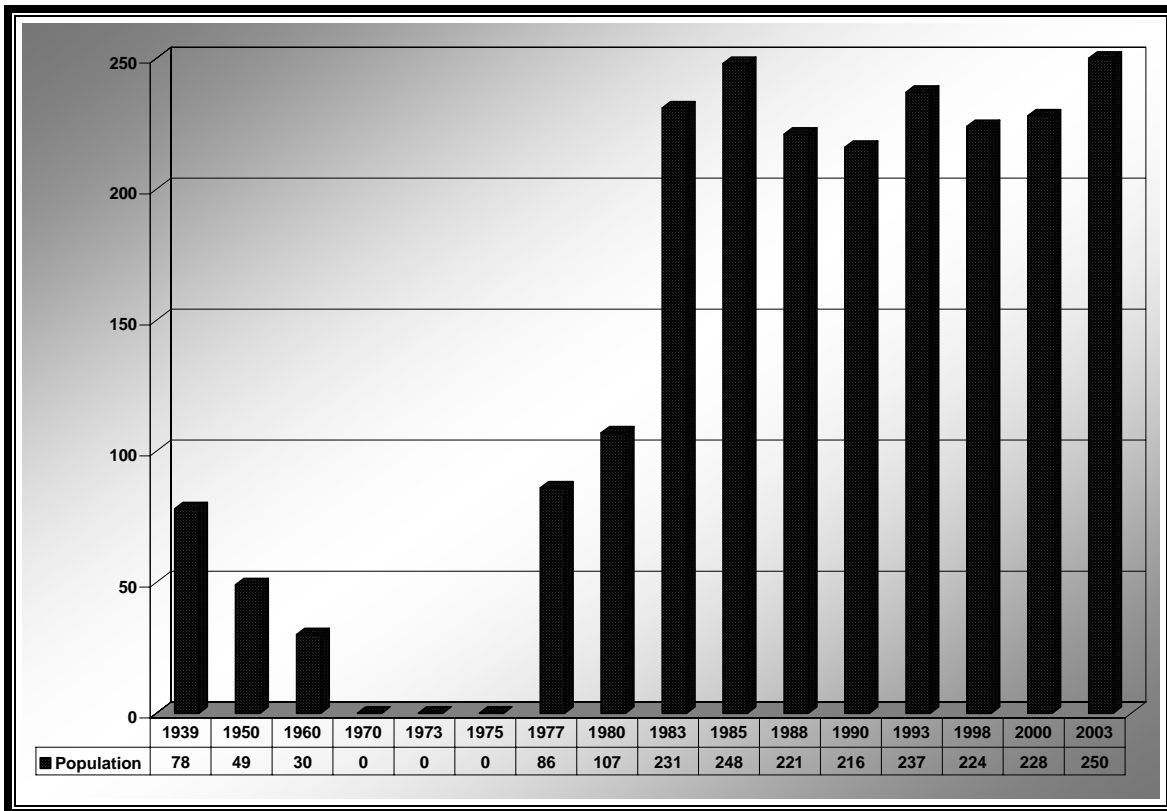


Atqasuk Post Office

4.2.3.1. Population

- For the past 20 years, the population of Atqasuk has fluctuated with local social and economic circumstances (Shepro, Maas et al. 2003). Refer to Figure 4.2-1.
- Atqasuk has a young population; average ages in Atqasuk are less than in the state or nation (Table 4.2-2). There is a high ratio of dependents to wage earners (Shepro, Maas et al. 2003).

**Figure 4.2-1
Atqasuk Population 1939 – 2003**



Source: (Shepro, Maas et al. 2003)

**Table 4.2-2
Age Distributions in Atqasuk, Alaska, and USA**

Criteria	U.S. 2000	Alaska 2000	Atqasuk 2003
Percent 18 and under	26.0%	30.0%	42.9%
Percent 18-24 years of age	10.0%	9.0%	4.7%
Percent 55-64 years of age	9.0%	7.0%	7.6%
Percent 65 and older	12.0%	6.0%	5.9%
Percent 18-64 years of age	62.0%	64.0%	51.2%

Source: (Shepro, Maas et al. 2003)

4.2.3.2. Economy

- The unemployment rate in the community was approximately 15 percent in 2003, which was lower than the Borough unemployment rate of 19 percent, but higher than the unemployment rates for the state (8 percent) or nation (6 percent) in a similar timeframe (Shepro, Maas et al. 2003). The labor force in Atqasuk consisted of approximately 72 individuals in 2003 (Table 4.2-3).
- The Borough education and governmental services have historically provided the majority of employment (about 57 percent), with the Atqasuk Corporation employing approximately 38 percent of the labor force (Table 4.2-4) (Shepro, Maas et al. 2003).
- The Atqasuk Corporation has increased the number of employees from 5 in 1998 to 26 in 2003 (Shepro, Maas et al. 2003).
- The Atqasuk Corporation Store sells local commercial goods, including groceries, general merchandise, propane, diesel fuel, and gasoline.
- Approximately 14 percent of the community households reported income from craft sales in 2003, including masks, toys, and clothing items (Shepro, Maas et al. 2003).

**Table 4.2-3
Atqasuk 2003-Labor Force Participation 1998 and 2003**

Status	1998	2003
Total Population	224	250
Persons 16-64*	114	140
Persons in Labor Force	64	72
Respondents Reporting Underemployment	6	31
Respondents Working Less Than 10 months	43	45
Average Months Employed	NA	7.7**
Average Months Unemployed	NA	4***

Notes: *Persons with valid data; **Persons with some employment
***Persons seeking work

Source: (Shepro, Maas et al. 2003)

**Table 4.2-4
Atqasuk Employees by Ethnicity in 2003**

Employer	Inupiat	Caucasian	Other Minority
City Government	1	0	0
NSB Government	19	1	0
NSB School District	8	10	2
Village Corporation/Subsidiary	26	0	1
Trade	1	0	0
Other	3	0	0
Total	58	11	3

Note: *Persons with valid data

Source: (Shepro, Maas et al. 2003)

4.2.3.3. Subsistence

- Approximately 84 percent of Inupiat households were reported to participate in the subsistence economy; subsistence resources provide a substantial amount of local food (Table 4.2-5). Inupiat households have greater levels of subsistence use than non-Native households (Shepro, Maas et al. 2003). The subsistence lifestyle remains a primary cultural choice for Native households.
- “All of the part time workers and 72 percent of temporary seasonal workers said half or more of their food came from hunting and fishing, compared to 38 percent of those who had full-time jobs” (Shepro, Maas et al. 2003). However, the same study noted that 50 percent of Inupiat households with above average incomes derived half or more of their food from subsistence resources. As the economies have declined in the rural communities in recent years, the reliance on subsistence resources has increased.
- There are indications that the tradition of sharing subsistence resources is changing in Atqasuk. Households are giving away less of their subsistence resources. Atqasuk residents who share their subsistence resources typically give them to people in other Arctic Slope communities. Some local residents also share with family and friends in the Northwest Arctic Borough, Fairbanks, and Anchorage (Shepro, Maas et al. 2003).
- The average expenditure for the 29 households who reported subsistence expenditures was \$3,307, however the median expenditure was \$500. This includes expenses such as fuel, ammunition, and other supplies needed to participate in subsistence activities. There were few families who spent large amounts on subsistence activities and many families who spent little on these activities. The expenditure data supports other evidence that there is a decline in Atqasuk in subsistence harvesting and sharing (Shepro, Maas et al. 2003).
- Subsistence activities occur year-round, with seasonal emphases (Table 4.2-6). Some species, like caribou, are harvested during all months of the year, except April (Hepa 1997). Subsistence resources are particularly abundant from July through September; hunters harvest grizzly bears, moose, squirrels, and migratory birds throughout the summer (U.S. Department of the Interior 2004). Salmonberries and blueberries are generally plentiful in August and September (Hepa 1997).
- Subsistence Harvests – Atqasuk is rich in caribou, fish, and waterfowl, and hunters access areas of the coast for seals and other marine resources. Some Atqasuk hunters are members of Barrow whaling crews and take part in bowhead whaling and festivities in Barrow, returning with shares after a successful harvest. However, the importance of marine mammal harvests to Atqasuk residents may be under-estimated in some studies because harvests are generally attributed to the coastal community of the harvest crew (Hepa 1997). Atqasuk depends on the same resources as Barrow, but in different proportions, and their subsistence use areas overlap. Limited harvest data is available for Atqasuk; the Borough Department of Wildlife Management has only collected harvest data for the harvest year 1994-95 (Hepa 1997; U.S. Department of the Interior 2004).
- A generalized illustration of the distribution of subsistence uses is displayed in Figure B-5. The associated maps of wildlife habitat and distribution (Figures B-6 through B-11) illustrate areas that are important for subsistence resources. All project proponents should consult with the Borough, communities, and tribes regarding current subsistence activities and locations, due to seasonal and annual variations of the resources.

**Table 4.2-5
Atqasuk Household Usage of Subsistence Resources in 1998 and 2003**

Amount	Number 1998	Percentage 1998	Number 2003	Percentage 2003
None	0	0	9	19%
Very little	6	18%	6	12.5%
Less than half	4	12%	7	15%
Half	6	18%	15	31%
More than half	7	21%	4	8%
Nearly all	10	30%	6	12.5%
All	0	0%	1	2%
Total	33	100%	48	100%

Source: (Shepro, Maas et al. 2003)

**Table 4.2-6
Atqasuk Seasonal Subsistence Rounds**

	Winter					Spring		Summer			Fall	
	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Fish												
Birds/Eggs												
Berries												
Moose												
Caribou												
Furbearers												

	No to very low levels of subsistence activities
	Low to medium levels of subsistence activity
	High levels of subsistence activity

Source: (U.S. Department of the Interior 2004)

Note: See (Hepa 1997) for more detailed information on Atqasuk subsistence practices.



The Meade River supports many subsistence activities.

4.2.3.4. Income

- The North Slope Borough's census data (Shepro, Maas et al. 2003) identified a per capita income of approximately \$29,000, which they contrasted with the federal census data from 2000 of approximately \$14,700 per capita. Average and median incomes also varied between the two studies. The median income reported by the Borough study was \$56,000, and the figure reported by the federal study was approximately \$66,600.
- There were large differences in incomes between ethnic groups; refer to Table 4.2-7 (Shepro, Maas et al. 2003).
- Only one of the 64 households that participated in an economic survey (Shepro, Maas et al. 2003) reported incomes below the poverty level established by the federal government. However, over half of the households did not report their incomes (refer to Table 4.2-8).
- Approximately 14 percent of the Atqasuk households reported income from the sales of crafts, including masks, toys, and clothing items (Shepro, Maas et al. 2003).

**Table 4.2-7
Distribution of Inupiat and Non-Inupiat Income in Atqasuk**

Total Household Income	Inupiat #	Inupiat %	Non-Inupiat #	Non-Inupiat %
\$0-\$15,000	25	51.1%	0	0%
\$15,001-\$29,999	7	14.3%	1	7%
\$30,000-\$39,999	8	16.4%	1	7%
\$40,000-\$49,999	6	12.3%	3	21.5%
\$50,000-\$59,999	2	4.1%	4	28.6%
\$60,000-\$69,999	1	2.1%	3	21.5%
\$70,000-\$79,999	0	0%	0	7.5%
\$80,000-\$89,999	0	0%	1	7%
\$90,000-\$99,000	0	0%	1	7%
Totals/Percentages	49	100%	14	100%

Note: *Based on Individuals that divulged their income

Source: (Shepro, Maas et al. 2003)

**Table 4.2-8
Atqasuk-2003 Household Size and Reported Incomes**

Income Level	Number of Persons in Household										Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
\$0-15,000			1								1
\$15,001-\$30,000		1	1	3							5
\$30,001-\$40,000		1	2		1	1					5
\$40,001-\$50,000											0
\$50,001-\$60,000		1		3	2						6
\$60,001-\$70,000	1										1
\$70,001-\$80,000					1	2					3
\$80,001-\$90,000		1					1				2
\$90,001-\$100,000	2					1					3
Over \$100,001		3									2
Households not Reporting Income	10	5	3	4	3	4	4		1	1	35
Total	13	12	7	10	7	8	5	0	1	1	64

Source: (Shepro, Maas et al. 2003)

4.2.3.5. Housing

- Atqasuk has 60 housing units, with 55 occupied, leaving 5 vacant (DCED 2004). The housing units are predominantly detached single-family units, although some multi-unit facilities exist. The North Slope Borough census data (Shepro, Maas et al. 2003) reported only 52 housing units.
- In 2003, 87 percent of households in Atqasuk lived in single-family dwellings, and 13 percent lived in multi-family dwellings (Shepro, Maas et al. 2003). Refer to Table 4.2-9.
- All of the households are reported to have complete kitchens, including running water. However, over 80 percent of the households lacked complete plumbing (DCED 2004).
- The lack of availability of new residential lots hinders new housing construction.

Table 4.2-9
Atqasuk Households by Type of Living Structure

Type	Number	Percent
One-family house	45	86.6%
Building for two families	4	7.7%
Building for 3 or 4 families	3	5.8%
Total	52	100%

Source: (Shepro, Maas et al. 2003)

4.2.4 *Land Ownership and Land Use*

4.2.4.1. Land Ownership

- Atqasuk became a second class city in 1982. The corporate boundaries encompass 43 square miles, and the city boundaries were surveyed at 46.9 acres (Alaska Consultants Incorporated 1983b).
- In Atqasuk, as in other North Slope villages, accurate information regarding the status of title for individual lots is not always available (Alaska Consultants Incorporated 1983b). This can cause problems in land conveyances.
- There are Native allotment applications within Atqasuk's municipal boundaries. They are located both north and southeast of the surveyed city boundaries (Alaska Consultants Incorporated 1983b).
- Atqasuk is located within NPRA, which is federally owned and is managed by the Bureau of Land Management.
- Atqasuk Corporation has the right to select 69,120 acres of land in the Atqasuk area, with 56,744 acres patented to the Corporation to date. Land selections and conveyances are still incomplete, with 12,376 acres still to be selected. There are no interim conveyances pending for Atqasuk (BLM 2005). The Corporation must convey land to the City of Atqasuk for community use and expansion. (Alaska Consultants Incorporated 1983b; DCED 2004). The City initiated legal action against the Corporation in 1997 for failure to complete the conveyances to the City (DCED 2004).

4.2.4.2. Land Use

- Atqasuk is zoned a Village District in the North Slope Borough Comprehensive Plan (Wickersham & Flavin Planning Consultants 1982). Regulations and guidelines for land uses allowed within Village Districts may be found in the Borough Land Management Regulations (1990). Borough zoning districts are displayed in Figure B-3.
- A variety of traditional land uses occur within and adjacent to the community for subsistence and cultural purposes. Important use areas should be identified on a project-specific basis.
- Land uses are divided into four general categories: residential, public and semi-public, commercial, and industrial (Figure V-3). These land use classifications are based on observations and community input. There are no legal zoning districts within the community at this time.
- **Residential** – The community has both single-family and multi-family housing units. The original residential area was on the south side of the community, however additional housing has been developed on the north side of the community and along Tikilik Street, which extends farther south from the community.
- **Public and Semi-public** – Public and semi-public buildings and facilities are located throughout the community, but are predominantly located in the center of the community. These buildings and facilities include the church, community hall, fire station, government buildings, health clinic, police station, and school.
- **Commercial** – Office buildings, stores, and other businesses are dispersed throughout the community, but are generally located in the central section of town.
- **Industrial** – Industrial land uses typically occur on the perimeter of Atqasuk. Industrial land uses include the airport, fuel storage tanks, landfill, power plant, telecommunications facilities, and wastewater treatment facilities.

4.2.5 *Community Facilities and Utilities*

4.2.5.1. Facilities

- A health clinic, staffed by community Health Aides, is open each day and is available 24 hours a day for emergencies.
- The fire department is equipped with a pumper apparatus and a pumper/water tender apparatus, capable of pumping 1,250 gallons per minute (gpm) and 750 gpm of water respectively, for a total of 2,000 gpm of water (Steurmer 2005).
- Community facilities include the community building, police station, and fire station equipped with two fire engines and an ambulance. Community facilities are indicated on Figure V-4.



Atqasuk Fire Station

4.2.5.2. [Water](#)

- Construction of a piped water system began in 2001. The system operational with 2,131,000 gallons of piped water and 72,700 gallons of truck hauled water in 2003 (Grinage 2004).
- In 2003, 85 percent of households had running water piped to their house, and 13 percent received their water by truck (Shepro, Maas et al. 2003).
- The NSB Public Works Department (PWD) provides the operations and maintenance for both the water and sewer piped system and operates the water/sewer truck haul system (Grinage 2004).
- Water is collected from a surface water source, Imakruak Lake, and transported to the Water Treatment Facility, treated with membrane filtration, and stored in two large storage tanks. The two storage tanks have capacities of 2.5 and 1.4 million gallons, making a total combined storage capacity of approximately 4 million gallons. Water is pumped from July through September. The utility is operated by the Atqasuk Corporation (Grinage 2004).
- The typical household water holding tank capacity is 250 gallons (Grinage 2004).
- The frequency of household water holding tank delivery is four to eight days (Grinage 2004).
- There are 17 fire hydrants, and all are operational (Burton 2004). However, the fire hydrants are spaced greater than 500 feet apart, which exceeds the maximum allowable distance in the International Fire Code (Steurmer 2005).
- The maximum water flow in the community is approximately 1,250 gallons per minute, which would not meet the needs of large fire situations. For example, a fire in a large structure that does not have a sprinkler system, such as a store or equipment shop would require a water flow in excess of 2,000 gallons per minute. In structures that have a sprinkler system, such as the school, the sprinkler system would demand a flow of 1,000 gallons per minute, and the hydrant flow demand would be an additional 1,000 gallons per minute. (Steurmer 2005)

4.2.5.3. [Sewer](#)

- The utility is operated by the NSB PWD. Residents use honey buckets, which are dumped into bunkers, then hauled by truck to the sewage lagoon. The filtered wastewater is discharged into Kigarak Lake by the wastewater treatment plant (wastewater disposal permit, 2002).
- Construction of the sewer system began in 2001; it is presently operational and most households are connected to the piped sewer system. Those who remain on household tanks receive truck hauled water. The NSB provides septic tank pumping and honey bucket service depending on household demand and the number of people.

4.2.5.4. [Solid Waste](#)

- Refuse is collected by and disposed of at the NSB operated landfill. The landfill is located 2.5 miles from the airstrip, north of the community. The Class III landfill has a current permit, and typical contributions are unspecified. This landfill was built in 2000 with 1,096 cubic yards per year of expected waste, and is anticipated to have a design

life of 50 years. The components of the new facility include a connex, salvage area, burn cage, and sludge cell (Demientieff 2004).

4.2.5.5. Power

- There was a major switch to a baseboard/boiler system between 1998 and 2003. The change has mainly been accompanied by a dramatic drop in the number of households dependent on stand-alone heaters and forced-air furnace (63 percent baseboard/boiler system, 19 percent forced-air furnace, and 17 percent stand-alone stove) (Shepro, Maas et al. 2003).
- The NSB Power and Light System operates the local electric utility. Electricity is generated using diesel fuel and transmitted to housing via above-ground transmission lines (Grinage 2004).
- The rate schedule for use between one and 600 kilowatts (kW) is 15 cents per kW hour; use over 600 kW is 35 cents per kW hour (Grinage 2004).
- The community has a 2,400/4,160 Volt Distribution System with a 3,345 kW generation capacity. The system generated 3,488,000 kW hours in fiscal year 2004 (Grinage 2004).
- Atqasuk residents receive a power cost equalization subsidy (Grinage 2004).
- The NSB is installing a wind turbine for a feasibility study beginning in 2006 (Peidlow 2005).

4.2.5.6. Fuel Oil Petroleum Products

- The NSB PW provides the operations and maintenance for the bulk tank farm and gas station (Grinage 2004).
- The community has multiple bulk storage, intermediate, and day tanks for fuel storage scattered throughout the village (Table 4.2-10). All fuel storage tanks are connected above ground. Fuel is distributed via pipeline and truck depending on whether the recipient is commercial or residential. All tank information is based on a 2004 assessment that the NSB compiled for updating their Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) plans (Piedlow 2004).

4.2.6 *Communication Infrastructure*

Atqasuk residents utilize a fully digital local telephone system, local dial-up Internet, a community teleconference center, cable television, public radio broadcast, an interactive video distance education system, a regional wide-area data network, and several two-way radio technologies, such as CB or marine VHF radios. Interconnection with the regional and global networks is via satellite (Arctic Slope Telephone Association Cooperative 2004).

4.2.7 *Natural Gas*

The NSB is planning a feasibility study to determine benefits of converting to natural gas or supplying power from Barrow (Peidlow 2005).

**Table 4.2-10
Atqasuk Fuel Tanks**

Tank Location	Tank Description or Number	Year Installed	Type of Fuel	Tank Capacity (gallons)
COMMERCIAL				
Tank Farm & Gas Station	ATQ-43 (Vertical)	1996	Diesel	285,000
	ATQ-44 (Vertical)	1996	Diesel	285,000
	ATQ-01	1996	Gasoline	30,000
	ATQ-02	1996	Gasoline	30,000
	ATQ-13 (Dispensing)	1996	Diesel	10,000
	ATQ-12 (Dispensing)	1996	Gasoline	10,000
Power Plant	Tank #1	1986?	Diesel	17,500
	Tank #2	1986?	Diesel	17,500
	Tank #3	1986?	Diesel	17,500
	Tank #4	1986?	Diesel	17,500
	Tank #5	1986?	Diesel	17,500
Generator Building	Tank #1	1987	Diesel	500
	Tank #2	1987	Diesel	250
	Tank #3	1987	Diesel	200
Heavy Equipment Shop	Tank #1	1987	Diesel	10,000
	Tank #2	1987	Diesel	300
New Heavy Equipment Shop	Tank #1	2000	Diesel	1,000
Vacuum Bldg	Tank #1	2000	Diesel	2,000
Health Clinic	Tank #1	1995?	Diesel	7,000
	Tank # 2 (Day Tank)	1995?	Diesel	250
Fire Station	Tank #1	2000	Diesel	7,000
	Tank # 2 (Day Tank)	Unknown	Diesel	275
Warm Storage Bldg (Old PSO)	Tank # 1	Unknown	Diesel	300
Atqasuk Meade River School	Tank #1		Diesel	10,000
	Tank #2 (Day Tank)		Diesel	250
	Tank #3		Diesel	1,000
Storage and Shop Bldg	Tank #1	Unknown	Diesel	300
Public Safety Office	Tank #1	1994	Diesel	6450
	Tank #2 (day tank)	1994	Diesel	100
	Tank #3 (day tank)	1994	Diesel	100
Water Utility Bldg	Tank #1	1987	Diesel	800
Water Treatment Plant	Tank #1	2000	Diesel	2000
Sewage Treatment Bldg	Tank #1	2000	Diesel	2,000
USDW Bldg	Tank #1	1987	Diesel	10,000
	Tank #2 (Day tank)	1987	Diesel	200
RESIDENTIAL				
Trailer w/lean-to (Transient housing)	Tank #1	Unknown	Diesel	250
Single Family Residence (Blk 3, Lot 4A)	Tank #1	Unknown	Diesel	300
5-plex Residential (Teacher housing)	Tank #1	Unknown	Diesel	1100
Single Family Residence (Blk 4, Lot 5A)	Tank #1	Unknown	Diesel	250
Single Family Residence (Blk 3, Lot 3)	Tank #1	1982	Diesel	250
Single Family Residence (Blk 3, Lot 7)	Tank #1	1986	Diesel	250

**Table 4.2-10(continued)
Atqasuk Fuel Tanks**

Tank Location	Tank Description or Number	Year Installed	Type of Fuel	Tank Capacity (gallons)
Single Family Residence (Lot 2, Blk 14)	Tank #1	2000	Diesel	250
Single Family Residence (Blk 2, Lot 10)	Tank #1	1997	Diesel	250
Single Family Residence (Blk 2, Lot 3)	Tank #1	2000	Diesel	250
Single Family Residence (Blk 2, Lot 10)	Tank #1	2000	Diesel	250

Source: (Piedlow 2004)

4.2.8 *Community Issues*

Issues, concerns, and comments were gathered during visits to the community in 2004 and 2005 during the Comprehensive Plan revision process. Comments identified at the meetings were grouped by the topics used to organize the Comprehensive Plan. There is a range of concerns identified for the community, and the list should be reviewed and updated annually for planning purposes.

Land Ownership and Status

- Village corporation land selections are complete, but have not been conveyed. The process did not include 14(c)(3) selections for the municipality.

Land Use

- The subsistence lifestyle does not have boundaries. Subsistence users wish to preserve opportunities for subsistence activities across ownership boundaries.

Subsistence

- We need to identify subsistence areas by seasons. Subsistence activities occur in different areas, based on seasons, availability of resources, weather conditions, and other factors.
- Protect watersheds and wetlands; these are primary access routes to subsistence resources in the summer time.

Hazards

- The river is eroding the area near the cemetery.

Socioeconomic Factors

- The community needs an economic strategy.
- The senior center could have been a good chance to develop jobs to assist with healthcare and cleaning.
- More housing is needed in the community.

Public Services, Facilities, and Government

- There is a need for additional community facilities. The only existing facilities include the school (not open during the summer) and the community center. Needed facilities include a teen center and day care center.

- Houses that are not connected to water have difficulties because the washeteria is closed.
- Atqasuk is a growing community, and needs to expand the water and sewer systems. We have lots for new development that have power, but not water and sewer.
 - No current problems with the water system were identified. However, the community may wish to consider how the existing water and sewer systems are doing before adding to them. (Currently have a vacuum system.) What systems are working well in other villages? Are there cost advantages?
 - Above-ground sewer lines might be acceptable for consideration in extending water and sewer service to areas of the community that are not currently served.
- Pollution threats to the water source include prevailing winds blowing garbage and waste seepage from material stored near the water source. There is a storage site that might have been used by Borough contractors that needs to be cleaned up. There is also an erosion threat near the outfall of the lake.
- The community needs a new water truck and a new septic haul truck.
- Closer communication is needed with other communities, especially Wainwright.

Petroleum and Mineral Development

- Atqasuk needs to start planning for oil and gas development.
- The community would like a means to clean up natural gas for local use.
- Oil and gas potential of lands selected by the village corporation is unknown
- The US Trust Responsibility Act between the federal and tribal governments should affect the interface with resource development activities.

4.2.9 Community Priorities

The following priorities have been formally identified by the village in previous recommendations, correspondence, the Borough five-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP), or resolutions passed by city councils. Other community needs have been informally identified in the preceding discussion of issues.

- **Fuel tank hazards** – The diesel/fuel tanks that were installed in 1979 are holding fuel and have not been repaired. The conditions of the tanks are in a very critical stage, where if they rupture, oil and gas will leak into the drinking water. The land belongs to the Atqasuk Corporation, but they had a verbal agreement between the North Slope Borough and the Atqasuk Corporation to put the tanks where they are now. They are not being used at this time, and the pipes are seeping and will need to be plugged. The tanks were put in when Eugene Brower was Director of Public Works.
- **Need for gravel** – The road to the gravesite needs gravel. There is no gravel source to date, and the only place for gravel would be either Skull Cliffs or four miles out.
- **Need clean-up** – The north area of the village where all the Department of Municipal Services junk, piles of trash, metal, drums, and glass are going into the water. They did some cleaning, but it has not all been done to date.

- **Need clean-up** – On the west side of the village there are old Euclids, old equipment that belongs to Ukpeagvik Inupiat Corporation (UIC)/SKW Corporation. The site needs to be cleaned up.
- **Need clean-up** – There are drums on the NPRA trails that need to be cleaned up. They have been there a while.

The following projects for Atqasuk are on the Borough's CIP list pending funding or project completion:

- Road projects, including dust control and gravel repair on the road to the cemetery
- Removal of Department of Municipal Services (DMS) trash north of village
- Water and sewer extensions
- Power plant upgrade
- Repair, drain, and remove the 1979 fuel tanks
- Remove abandoned UIC/SKW Euclids west of city
- Health clinic upgrade

The following projects have been identified as community needs, and have been requested from the Borough, but these projects are not Borough responsibilities. The community will have to seek other sources of funding.

- Washeteria expansion
- Senior/teen center
- Playground equipment

4.2.10 References

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