

## ANIAK Sanitation Project Status Update for 2024Q1

1 message

**Erickson, Anita Y (DEC)** <anita.erickson@alaska.gov>

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To: cityofaniak <cityofaniak@gmail.com>, "Laura Simeon (aniaktribe@gmail.com)" <aniaktribe@gmail.com>

Cc: Harvey Hoffman <aniak.igap@gmail.com>, bruce\_werba <bruce\_werba@ykhc.org>, "Broerman, Fred J (CED)" <fred.broerman@alaska.gov>, "aniaktribe88@yahoo.com" <aniaktribe88@yahoo.com>, "Martinez, Nicholas L (CED)" <nicholas.martinez@alaska.gov>

Hi Missy and Laura,

I hope that signs of Spring are appearing in Aniak. Here's an update regarding the work the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Village Safe Water (VSW) Program has completed on behalf of the community of Aniak during the first quarter of 2024.

### Activities During This Quarter:

1. **VSW Year 2024 Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Funding:** David DeHaan, a VSW Environmental Protection Specialist assigned to assist the City of Aniak, contacted the City on February 7th with notification regarding the commencement of this year's funding cycle and to initiate the discussions regarding Aniak's sanitation needs.

- **Planning Project Applications: The deadline for submission of a CIP Planning Project Application was March 8, 2024.** This year, the eligibility requirements reverted to only those communities which do not already have a CIP planning project in progress. Given that Aniak has the planning project for the First Time Provision of a Community Water System, as described below, Aniak is not eligible to apply for another planning project this year.
- **Construction Project Applications:** In previous years, communities with a BP Score below a certain threshold would not be eligible to apply for CIP funding. This year, Operation and Management Best Practices (BP) Scores have been eliminated as an eligibility criterion to apply for CIP construction funding. Note, however that BP Score is still used as a criterion for rating each application, and obtaining a higher BP Score is one of the best ways to improve the chance of receiving funding for your community's construction project. **Applications may be submitted starting April 1, 2024, and the deadline for submission of a CIP Construction Project Application was May 3, 2024.** VSW is not aware of any Capital Improvement Project construction funding needs of Aniak.

### 2. Drinking Water:

- **First Time Provision of a Community Water System (Planning Project ANI0002 - Grant 24RV47 from United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development [RD] with the required match provided by State of Alaska DEC VSW) —**
- The VSW Grants Team provided the City of Aniak with a copy of the final Rural Alaska Village Agreement (RAVG) signed by RD, the last signatory, in an email dated January 26<sup>th</sup>.
- With the CPAs finalized, the VSW Engineering Team is given the green light to start developing the solicitation to hire an engineering firm to perform the planning study. The VSW Engineering Team initially drafted the scope of work for this as a stand-alone project. However, for efficiency, VSW decided to combine the solicitation for this planning project with that of the wastewater treatment upgrades project. Combining the two planning projects into one solicitation would result in having a single engineering firm review Aniak's current infrastructure rather than two, and it would provide for a single Preliminary Engineering Report that holistically evaluates Aniak's needs of both water and wastewater. The draft scope of work was provided to the community on March 29<sup>th</sup> for review and comments.

### 2. Wastewater:

- **Wastewater Treatment Upgrades (Planning Project ANI0003 - Grant 24AV78 from the Indian Health Service [IHS]) —** As with Planning Project ANI0003, the scope of work for this planning project was combined

the with the solicitation for First Time Provision of a Community Water System project. Please refer to the update for Project ANI0002 for further progress information.

### 3. **Solid Waste:**

- **Solid Waste Upgrades Project (Grant Pending from IHS)** — This project is for equipment and materials: signage, a #10 burn cage, fish totes for storage of collected household hazardous wastes, and a skid steer. IHS has indicated that it has allocated funds for IHS-eligible portions of this project, however, we are still waiting for the funds to be released. In the meantime, please be aware that for all IHS solid waste equipment and material projects that are funded, for efficiency, rather than approaching these on a project-by-project basis, VSW is working to procure the equipment and materials wholistically. There is no projected timeline...it'll also depend on the relevant item(s) and their availability.

### 4. **Other Items for the Good of the Community:**

- **Training Opportunities** — VSW forwarded the following training opportunities on the following dates. I hope the community was able to take advantage of some of them. Please let me know if you did not receive these:

#### 1. **Forwarded on January 16<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>: Very Small Water Systems Operator Certification Training Course**

Blended Training offered February 13 through March 1, 2024 online and in Billings, Montana.

#### 2. **Forwarded on January 23rd: Water Distribution System Essentials**

Virtual Training offered February 27-28, 2024 online.

#### 3. **Forwarded on January 31st: Cross Connection Controls**

Multi-week Virtual Training course offered March 19 & 21, March 26 & 28, and April 2 & 4, 2024 online.

#### 4. **Forwarded on February 6<sup>th</sup>: Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) Federal Regulations Training Course & Certification Exam**

Blended Training scheduled April 2 - 12, 2024 online and in Parker, Arizona.

#### 5. **Forwarded on February 14<sup>th</sup>:**

##### **Basic Electrical Controls**

Virtual Training course offered March 13, 2024 online.

##### **Maintaining Water Quality**

Virtual Training scheduled for May 15, 2024 online.

##### **Water Storage and Distribution**

Virtual Training scheduled for July 24, 2024 online.

- **Survey on Operations & Maintenance Needs & Challenges in Rural Alaska** — On January 24<sup>th</sup>, VSW forwarded a request from Francine Moreno, Director of Rural Utility Management Services for the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) wherein she asks for direct feedback from rural communities regarding their operations & maintenance (O&M) needs, barriers, benefits and costs. The email request included a survey link.

- **Energy Opportunities** — On March 20<sup>th</sup>, VSW forwarded a couple of links from the US Department of Energy. One link was to an announcement regarding technical assistance for hydropower project development and the other link was to an announcement of rural and remote communities, several of which are in Alaska, selected for projects to better ensure uninterrupted power and lower costs. I hope these sparked some ideas for your community. Please let me know if you did not receive these.

### **Activities Anticipated for the Next Quarter:**

1. **VSW Year 2024 CIP Funding:** CIP Planning or Construction grants applications are reviewed by the funders and scored by the funding committee. The CIP funded project list is anticipated for release on July 8<sup>th</sup>.

2. **Drinking Water: First Time Provision of Community Water (Planning Project ANI0002)** — VSW anticipates issuing a solicitation for proposals to perform the work from interested consulting and design engineering firms during the second quarter of 2024.
3. **Wastewater: Wastewater Treatment Upgrades (Planning Project ANI0003)** — VSW anticipates issuing a solicitation for proposals to perform the work from interested consulting and design engineering firms during the second quarter of 2024.
4. **Solid Waste:** None required at this time. Waiting for funding to come through. When the funds do come through, the VSW Grants Team will contact the City with details on securing the funds, including Cooperative Project Agreement information.

**Action Items for the City of Aniak:**

1. **VSW Year 2024 CIP Funding:** Please let me know if I am mistaken and Aniak has submitted applications for either CIP Planning or Construction grants.
2. **Drinking Water: First Time Provision of Community Water (Planning Project)** — There is no immediate action required. As noted in the previous quarterly update, it would be helpful for the City to identify one or two parcels of land that could be used as the basis for cost estimates of a water treatment plant and washeteria (as a possible alternative) and appurtenant piping. This information would be useful for the engineering firm that is selected to perform the project.
3. **Wastewater: Wastewater Treatment Upgrades (Planning Project)** — As noted in the previous quarterly update, it would be helpful for the City to identify one or two parcels of land that could be considered for potential wastewater treatment relocation options. As with the drinking water planning project, this information would be useful for the engineering firm that is selected to perform the project.
4. **Solid Waste:** None required at this time.

As usual, if you have any questions, think I've overlooked anything or if you would like to pursue other drinking water system, wastewater system or solid waste management improvements for the community of Aniak, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Cheers,

Anita Erickson, P.E.

Village Safe Water Program

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

[555 Cordova Street](#)

[Anchorage, AK 99501](#)

907-269-4592 Direct