TULUKSAK WATER AND SEWER

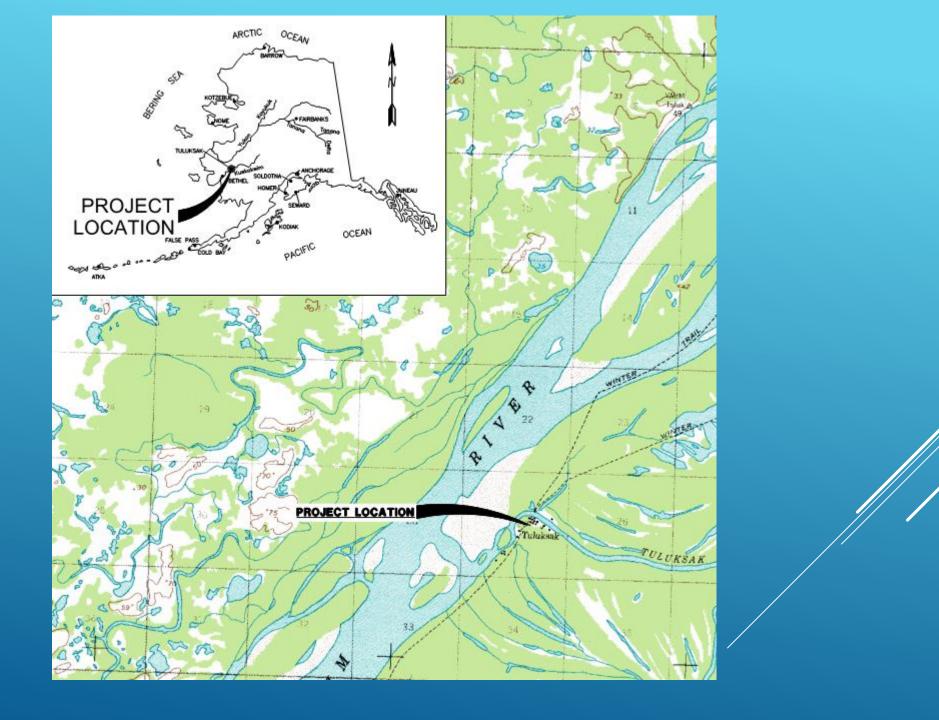
Preliminary Engineering Report March 2021

The Village Safe Water (VSW) program, in coordination with the Tuluksak Native Community (TNC), retained CRW Engineering Group, LLC (CRW) to provide engineering planning services for a piped water and sewer system to serve the community.



Nearly Complete Lift Station

PROJECT PLANNING



- The community water system currently consists of: a groundwater water sources (WTP well), a 25-foot long raw water transmission line, a water treatment plant/washeteria (WTP/W), two 10,000-gallon water storage tank (WST), and a community watering point in the washeteria.
- The water treatment plant does not produce drinking water that meets regulatory requirements and as a result the community gets the majority of their water from the rivers near the community.
- Wastewater systems include a honey bucket haul system, a community lagoon, school lagoon, and WTP lagoon.

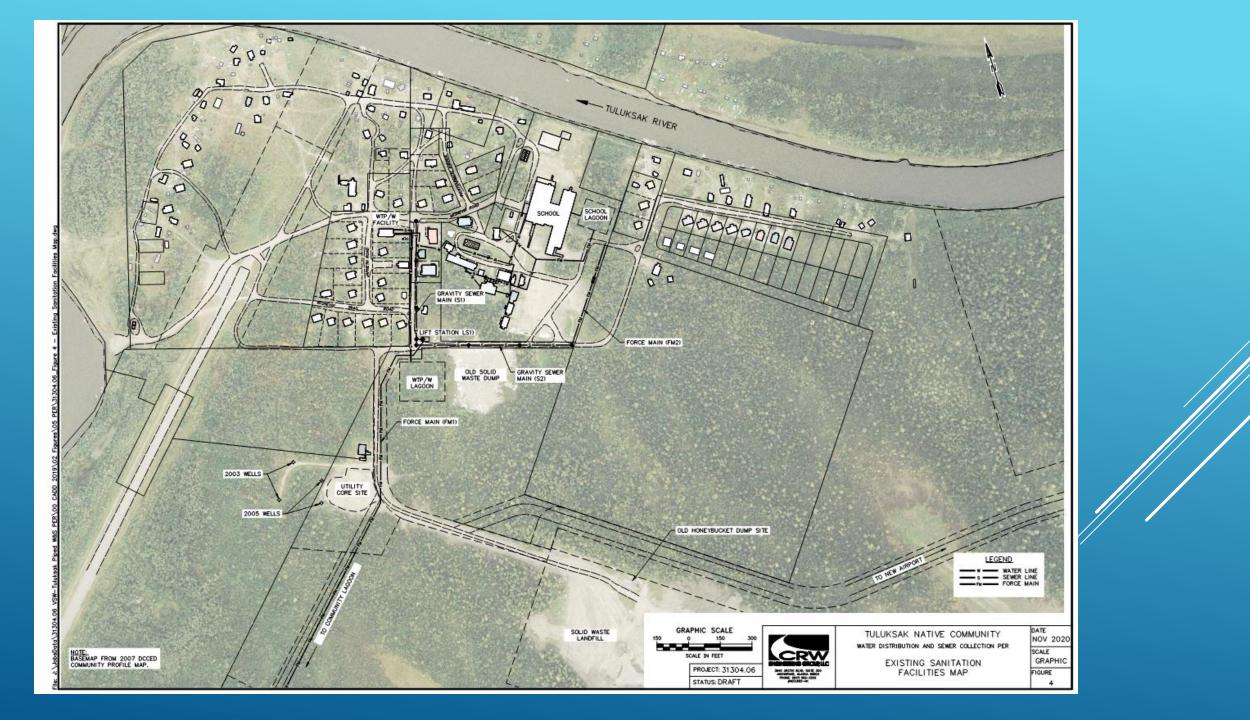
EXISTING FACILITIES



Community Lagoon



WTP



The community of Tuluksak is actively seeking to improve the public health of the community and meet the essential sanitary needs for its residents. A significant part of that effort is the goal to replace the community's honeybucket system with a more sanitary collection method and to be able to provide residents with an adequate supply of safe, potable water for drinking and washing purposes. The project under consideration would improve health and safety conditions and provide water and sewer service to the majority of homes in the community.

NEED FOR PROJECT

Based on watering point records, almost all residents in Tuluksak use less than 5 gallons of treated water per capita per day, with most users using 1 to 2 gallons per day if that. The World Health Organization recommends a minimum of 13 gallons per capita per day for basic needs. Increased water use without improved access to water is not likely to occur. In communities that have transitioned from honeybucket and self-haul water systems to piped water and sewer there's a reduction in gastrointestinal disease of up to 40% (Thomas et al., 2003). Experience has also shown that school attendance rates increase with the installation of in-home plumbing, and school districts have noted that it is easier to recruit and retain teachers in communities with piped water and sewer service.

HEALTH, SANITATION AND SECURITY

- Below-grade configurations were evaluated for the pipe water distribution system.
- Three different configurations of a sewer collection system including a closed haul (decentralized) system were evaluated, including:
 - Alternative #1 Gravity Sewer
 - > Alternative #2 Pressure Sewer
 - > Alternative #3 Vacuum Sewer
 - Closed haul (Truck Haul) system was considered
- All alternatives consider a new WTP and use of the community lagoon for wastewater treatment.

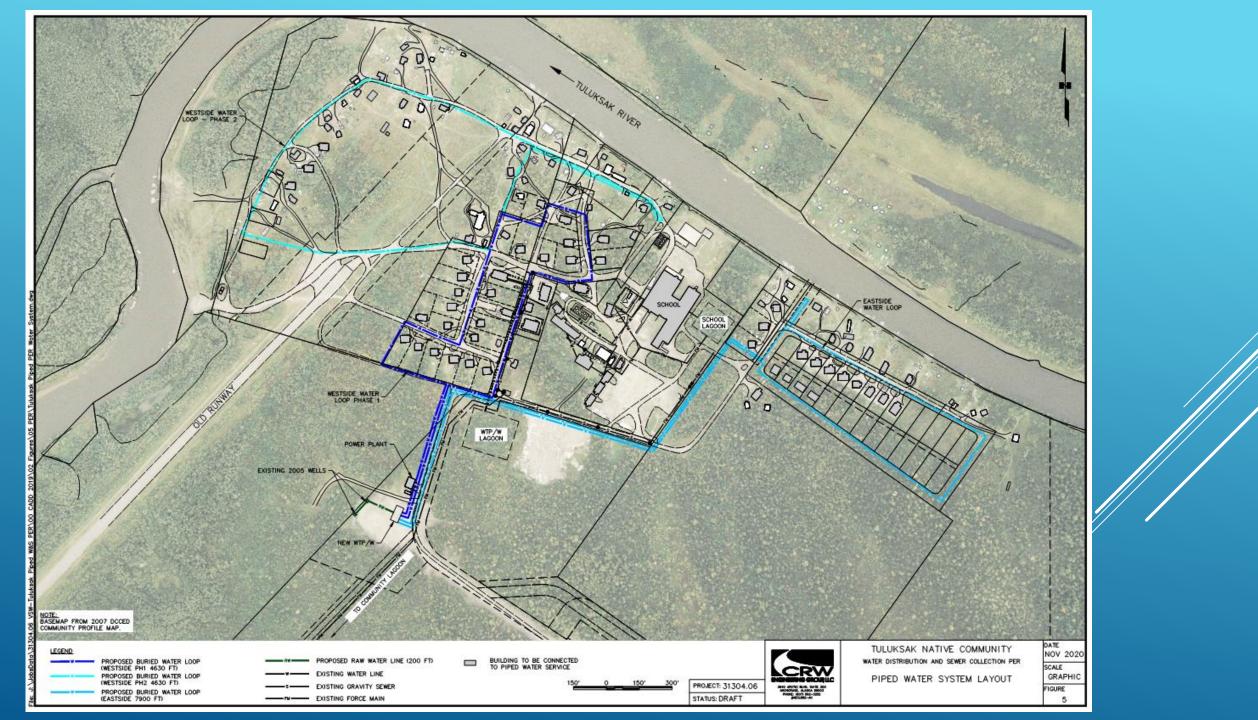
ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

- Two water distribution loops would serve the community: Westside Loop, and Eastside Loop. The water mains would be constructed of 6x15 Arctic pipe with a 6-inch HDPE water line and an aluminum jacket. All the mains would be buried 3 to 6 feet deep and generally located in existing road rights-of-way (ROW).
- The layout and length of the water loops are shown on Figure 5.



Below grade pipes in Kiana

WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM – BELOW GRADE



A gravity sewer system would consist of a service line from each facility, a network of gravity sewer mains, 2 lift stations and a terminal lift station. Wastewater would generally flow from the extremities of the community to a nearby lift station and then to the terminal lift station. The terminal lift station would pump wastewater to the community lagoon. A conceptual layout of the system is shown on Figure 7.

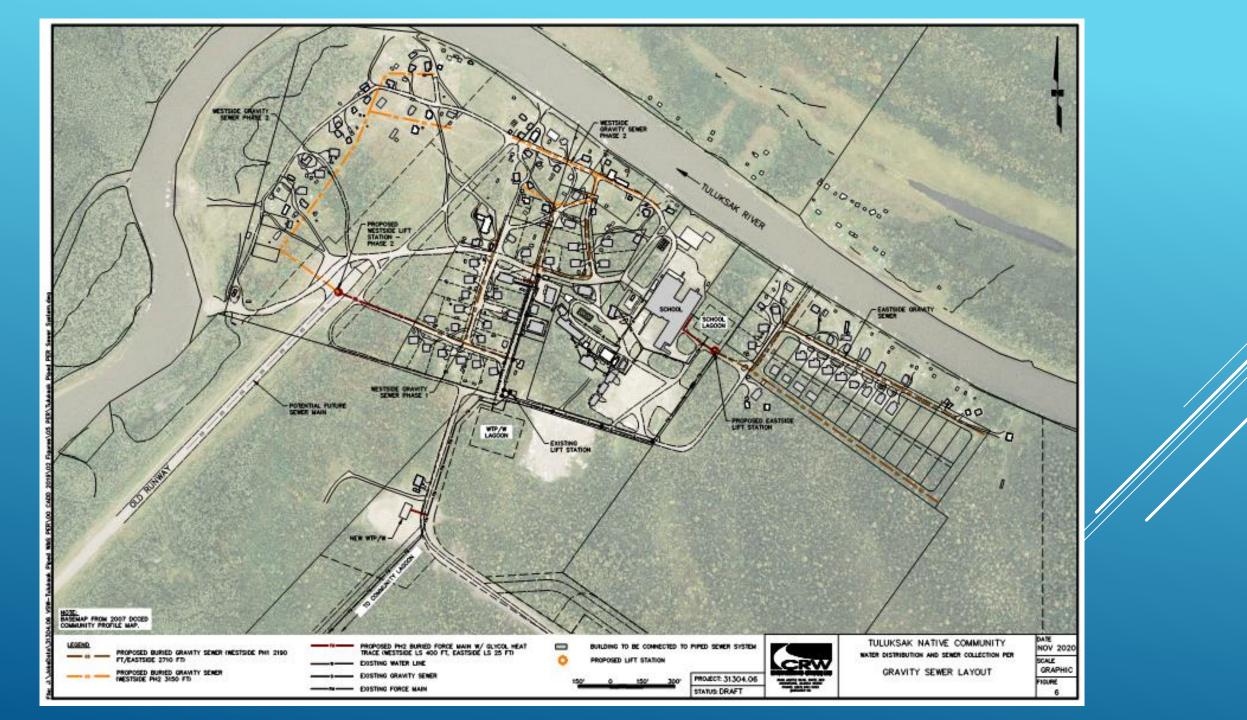
Advantages

- Lowest capital costs for the piped systems
- Low O&M cost.
- The simplest system for the homeowner to operate and maintain.
- No specialty or custom components to repair or replace
- Lowest freeze potential as the sewer mains and services lines are typically near empty.

Disadvantages

- Requires more water than a vacuum sewer system
- The sewer mains and service lines are grade sensitive, so there is less tolerance for ground movement than with a pressure sewer system.
- The flat topography requires multiple lift stations for a relatively small service area.

WASTEWATER COLLECTION ALTERNATIVE 1 – GRAVITY SEWER



A pressure sewer system would include: a grinder pump station and glycol circulation pump at each house/business, a service line from each facility, and a network of lowpressure sewer mains. Wastewater would generally flow from the outer part of the community towards a central collection point then to the community shown on Figure 7.

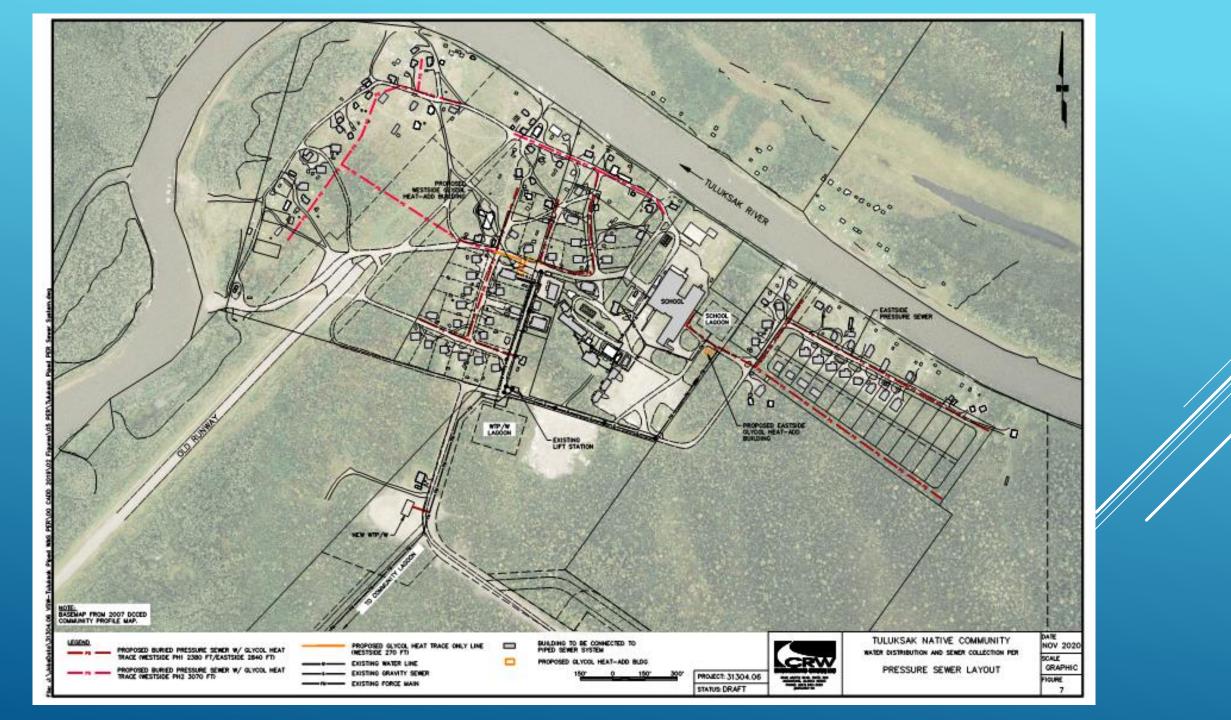
<u>Advantages</u>

- Pressure sewer mains are not grade sensitive, so there is greater tolerance for ground movement.
- More flexibility in the routing of mains as
 the grinder pumps have more head capacity than vacuum pumps.
- Sewer mains can be shallowly buried to avoid challenging soil.
- Homeowners pay for the electricity to
 operate the grinder pump, so there is an incentive to conserve water.

Disadvantages

- More expensive to operate and maintain than a gravity or vacuum sewer system with vacuum toilets.
- The system's operation will require approximately 90 grinder pumps compared to three pumps for the vacuum sewer system and four pumps for gravity sewer.
- Requires more water to operate than a vacuum sewer system.
- Increased freeze potential as the mains and services lines are always full of liquid.

WASTEWATER COLLECTION ALTERNATIVE 2 – PRESSURE SEWER



A vacuum sewer system would consist of: a vacuum toilet and 10-gallon greywater sump in each house/business, a sewer service line from each facility, a network of vacuum sewer mains, and a central vacuum collection station.

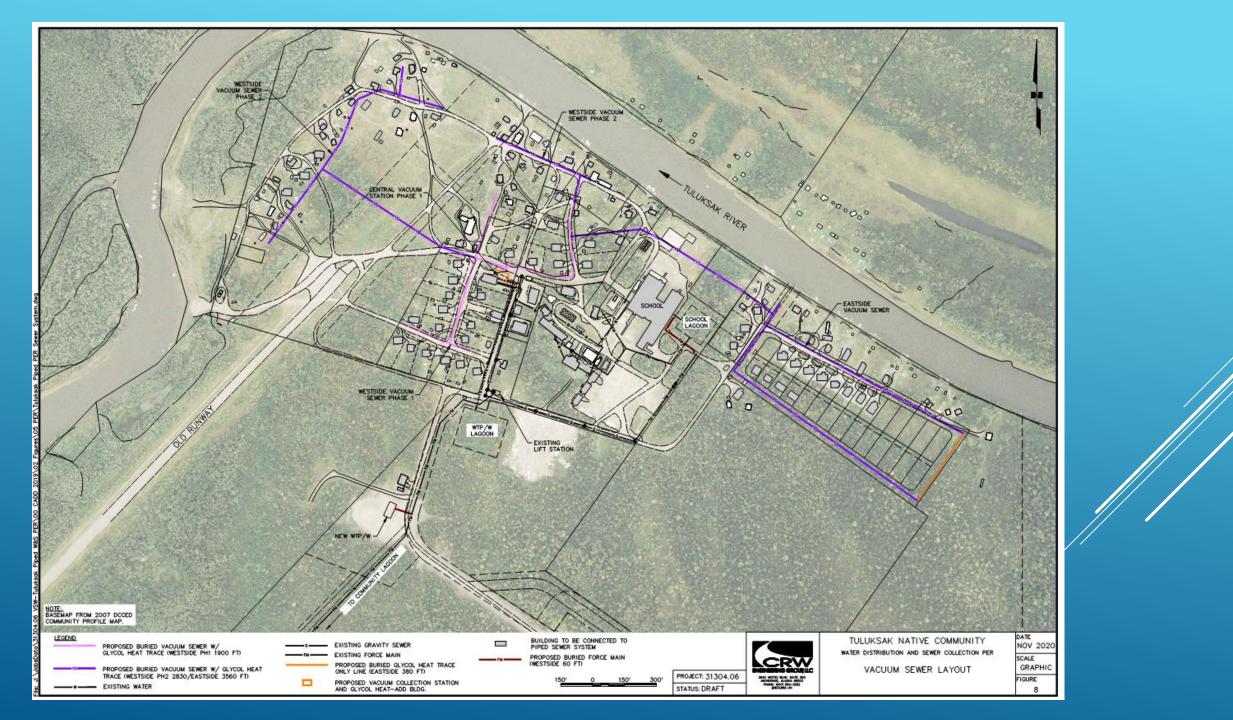
<u>Advantages</u>

- Requires the least amount of water when
 vacuum toilets are utilized. The vacuum station equipment is above grade, making it cleaner and easier to work on than
 submersible sewage pumps in a wet well.
- There are fewer pumps to operate and maintain.
- Sewer mains can be shallowly buried to avoid challenging soil conditions.
- Reduced freeze potential as the sewer
 mains and services lines are typically less than half full.

Disadvantages

- The sewer mains and service lines are grade sensitive, so there is less tolerance for ground movement.
- The vacuum pumps are expensive to replace (\$15K versus \$5k for a typical submersible sewage pump).
- Unreported vacuum leaks or faulty valves can significantly increase the electrical cost for the utility.
- The vacuum toilets and greywater sumps are noisy when discharged.

WASTEWATER COLLECTION ALTERNATIVE 3 – VACUUM SEWER



This alternative would consist of individual water and sewer systems for each residence with a tuck haul system. Figure 9 shows the project layout.

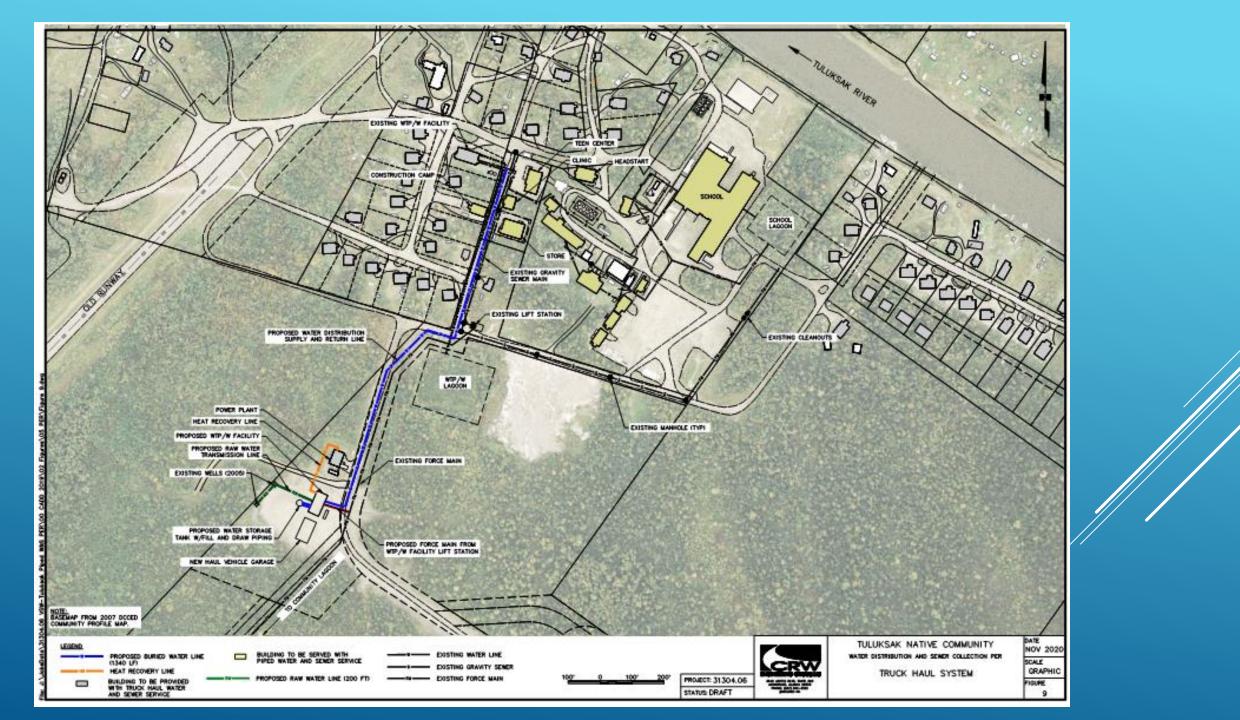
Advantages

- Fixed Costs for the utility are lower.
- Lowest capital cost alternative.
- The condition of the local roads will be improved.
- Road maintenance equipment will be
 provided.

Disadvantages

- The lowest level of service.
- Labor intensive and service is dependent on weather conditions and a high maintenance haul vehicle.
- Highest O&M cost.
- Once a home is served with a haul system, it is typically not eligible for future service from a piped system.

TRUCK HAUL SYSTEM ALTERNATIVE 4



Alternative	Capital Cost 1	O&M $Cost^1$	20-Year Salvage Value ¹	
Alternative 1 – Piped Water & Gravity Sewer	\$40,830,000	\$261,900	\$18,920,000	\$28,087,000
Alternative 2 – Piped Water & Pressure Sewer	\$50,180,000	\$300,000	\$17,480,000	\$39,530,000
Alternative 3 – Piped Water & Vacuum Sewer	\$46,640,000	\$277,300	\$22,209,000	\$31,100,000
Alternative 4 – Truck Haul Water & Sewer System	\$36,090,000	\$464,800	\$11,715,000	\$34,070,000
Notes: ¹ Rounded to the nearest \$1,000.				

LIFE CYCLE COST

- Water Distribution System
 - > Below-grade water system
- Sewer Collection System
 - > Below-grade gravity sewer
- Wastewater Treatment System
 - Community Lagoon

RECOMMENDATIONS