

Collaborative Approaches to Brownfields Redevelopment in Alaska



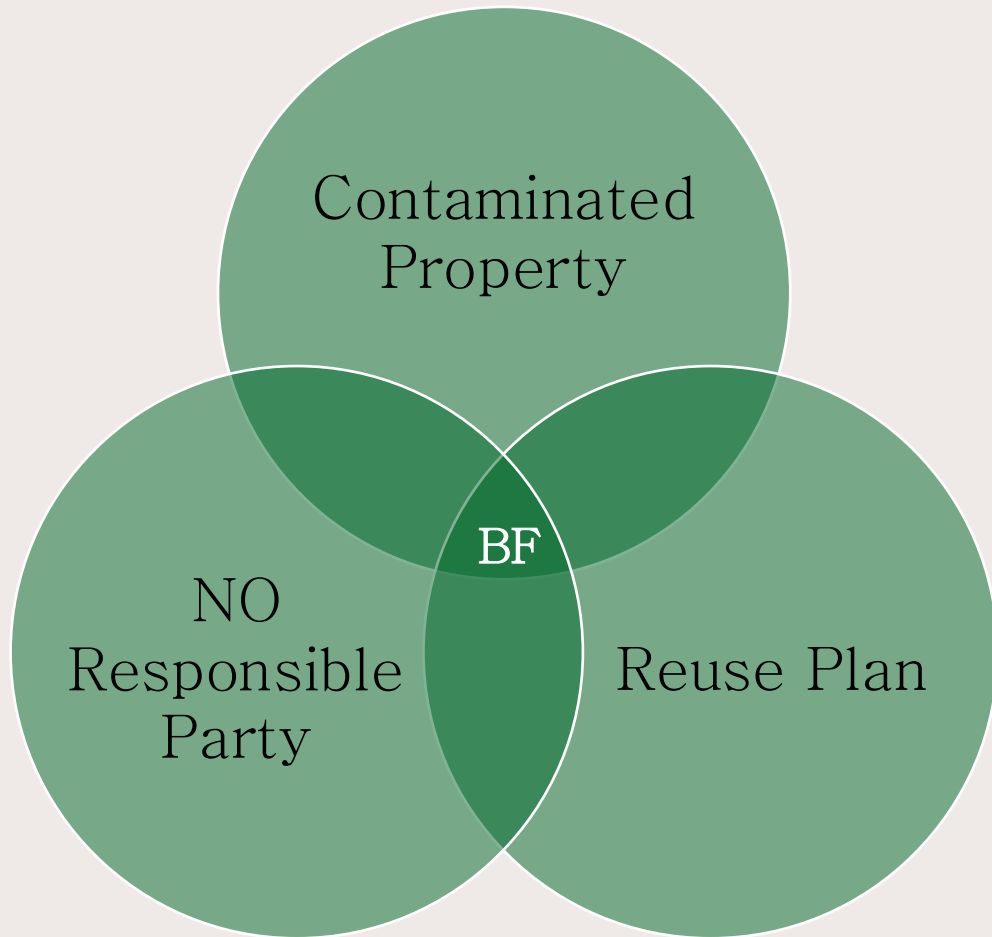
Flannery Ballard – Alaska DEC Brownfields



Jordan Finney – ANTHC Contaminated Sites



What are Brownfields?



Old Contaminated Sites	Reuse!
Old Canneries	Mixed Use/Office Space
Former Military Sites	Community Gardens
Abandoned Tank Farms	Subsistence Areas
Old Schools	Mixed Use Housing
Former Drycleaners	Mixed Commercial Space
Former Gas Stations	Cultural Education Centers
Mine Sites	Greenspace

Cleanup in Alaska... is
complicated





We are BIG

- 665,384 sq miles
→ We are 2.5x Texas
- 1,100 mi Nome to Juneau
→ Seattle to Portland
is 150 mi

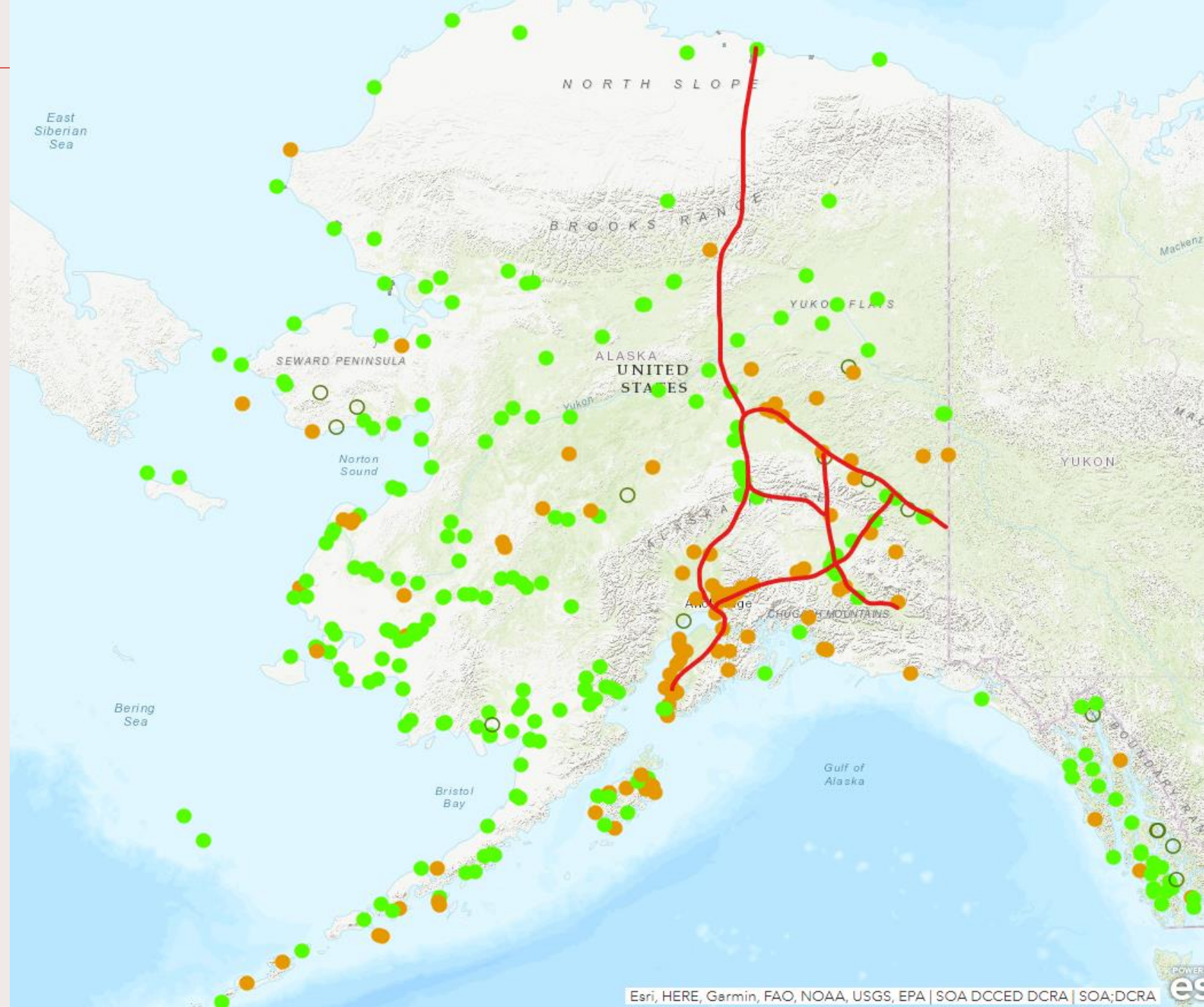
We are COLD

- Short Field Season!
 - Breakup & flooding
 - Ice roads
 - Weather delays
 - Permafrost



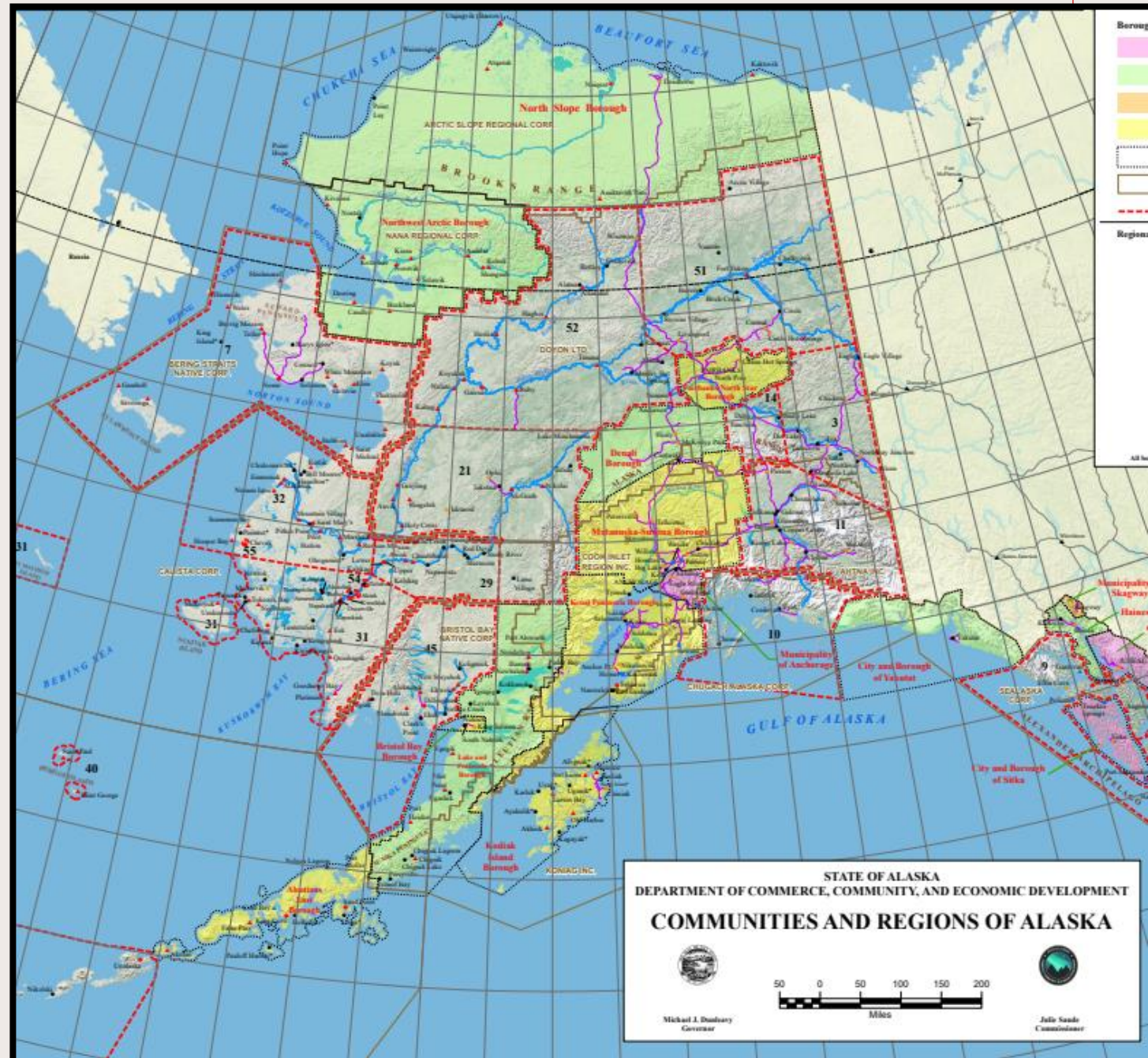
We are RURAL

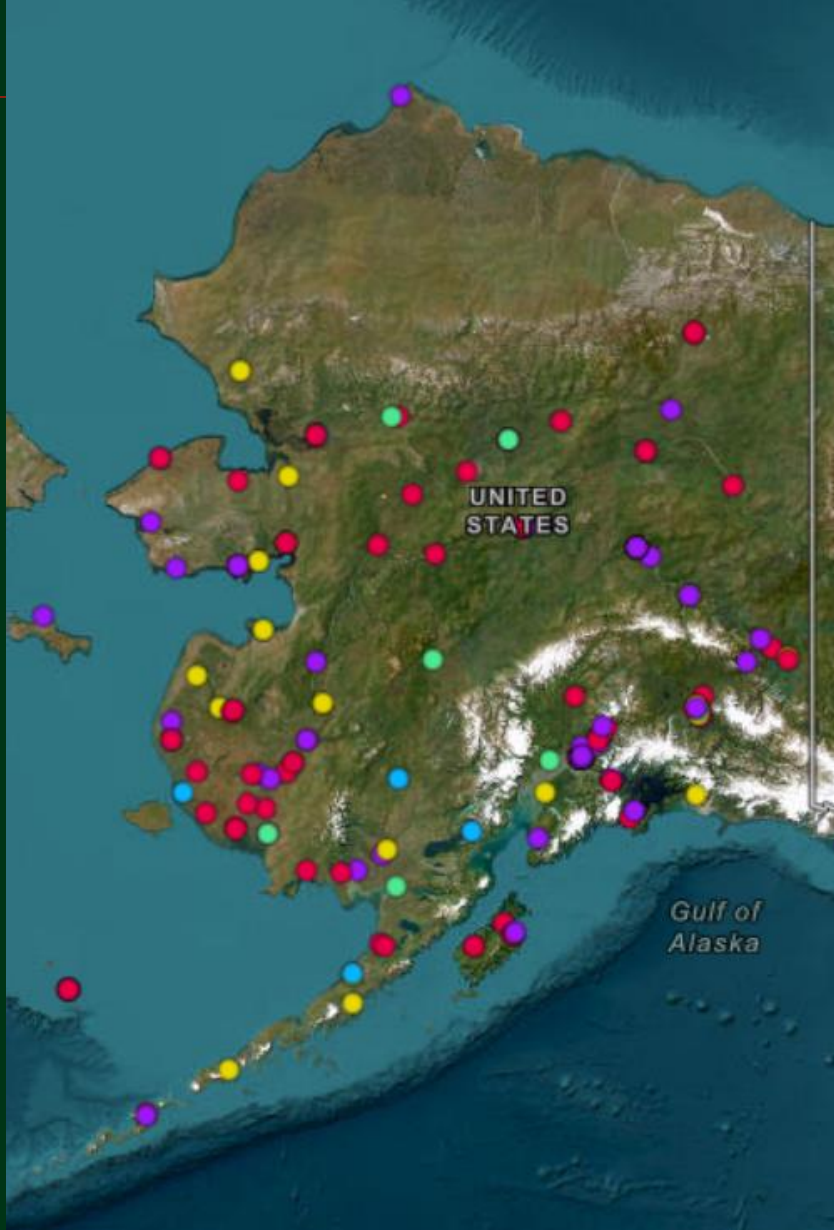
- Lowest population density
→ Delaware has 35% more people!
- 17,681 miles of public roads
→ Oregon has ~79,000
- 6,181 miles of paved roads
→ Same as New Hampshire!
- 86% of AK communities cannot be accessed by road
- What does this mean?
→ Life and environmental work is \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$



We are COMPLEX

- 19 Boroughs
- ~145 cities
 - Anchorage: 400,000
 - Fairbanks: 85,000
 - Juneau: 33,000
 - Sitka: 8,800
 - Ketchikan: 8,000
- 12 ANCSA Regional Corporations
- ~175 Village Corporations
- 229 Federally Recognized Tribes
- 1 Federal Indian Reservation
- Oil production industry
- Military activity and federal facilities





Alaska DEC's Brownfields Program



DEC Brownfields Program



- Began operating in 2003
- Providing assessment services since 2005, cleanup in 2014
- Provided services to nearly 200 communities
- 2026 Highlights
 - 31 applicants for DBAC services
 - ~\$800,000 to 20 communities
 - Final 2 years of additional IIJA funding
 - First year of new CWAGST funding

What do we do?

- Provide **site-specific technical assistance** and assessment and cleanup services
- Assist Alaska stakeholders **apply for grants**
- Provide **regulatory guidance**
- Provide and facilitate **community outreach, training, and resources**





DEC Brownfield Assessment and Cleanup (DBAC) Services

- Service, not a grant
- Projects range \$25K to \$125K
- Tribes are eligible!



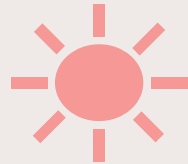
DBAC
Application
Period
Open



Proposals
Evaluated
& Projects
Awarded



Projects
Funded &
Scoping

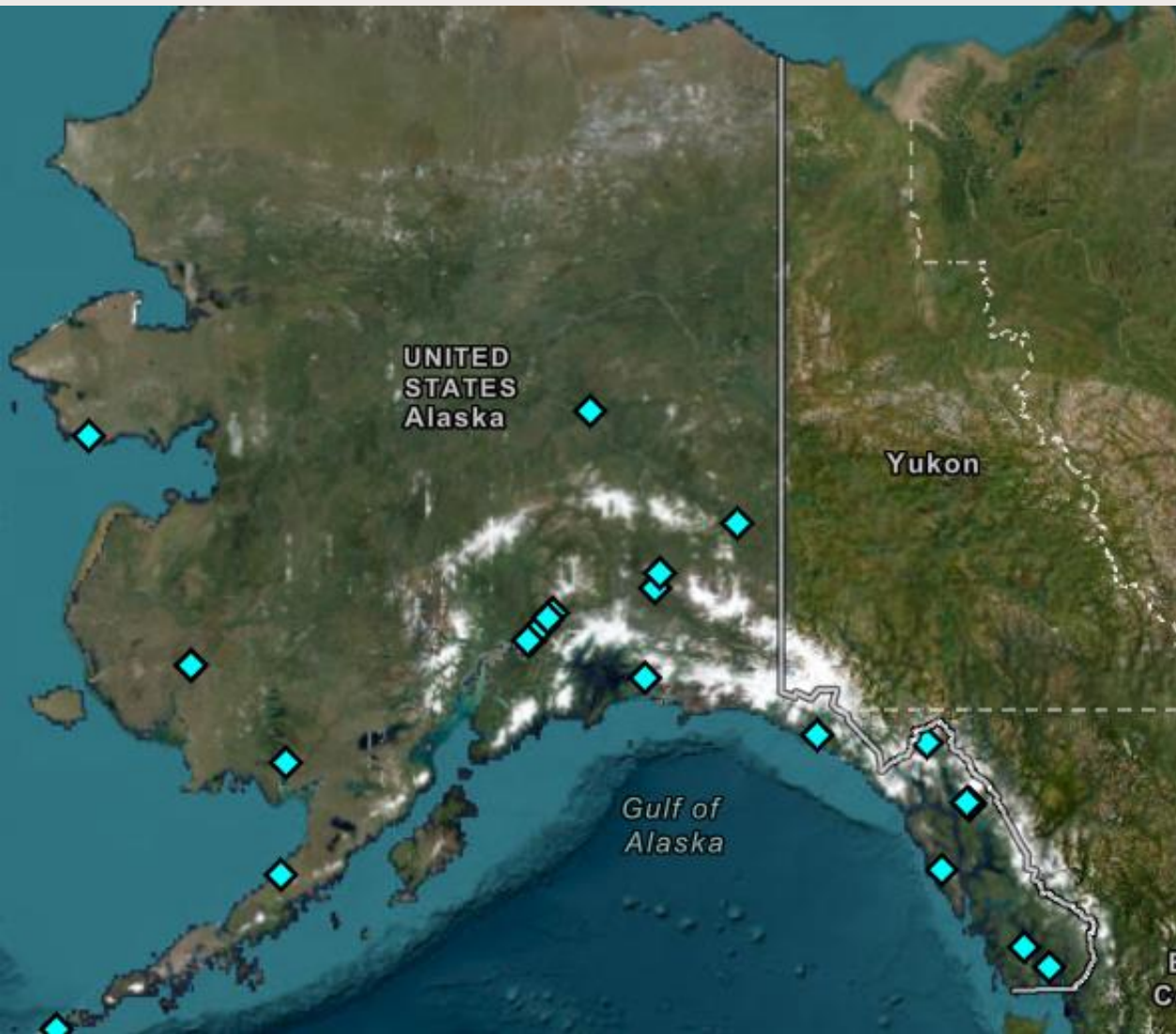


Workplans
Developed
&
Fieldwork
Conducted

- **DEC-led site-specific assessment and cleanup activities**
- **Services provided:**
 - Phase I / Phase II Assessments
 - Property Assessment and Cleanup Plans (PACPs)
 - Analysis of Brownfield Cleanup Alternatives (ABCAs)
 - Hazardous Building Materials (HBM) Surveys
 - Site Remediation Planning and Cleanup Activities
- **Decreases administrative burden for Brownfield communities**



Tribal Response Programs



~20 in the state currently

- Maniilaq Association
- Native Community of Georgetown
- Ketchikan Indian Community



ANTHC Contaminated Site Program

- ANTHC has had TRP since 2008
- We service the whole state
- 6 team members
- Split into 3 categories
 - Brownfields
 - ANSCA
 - Landscape assessment



What we do

- Tribal service
- Tribal Response Program Engagement
- Community Engagement
- Contaminated ANCSA Lands
- External Partner Educations
- Site Specific Services



Native Village of Tetlin



- 20 mi SE of Tok, 200+ miles from Fairbanks, 300+ miles from Anchorage
- Semi-nomadic Tetlin Athabascan Indian people
- Relocated from “Last Tetlin” in the 1920s
- 1936 Tetlin Indian Reserve (786,000 acres)
- 1971 ANCSA, reserve revoked
 - Unique ANCSA status – subsurface rights
- 2020 population ~ 126 people





Tetlin Rockhill Warehouse



ANTHC

Alaska DEC Brownfields

Applied for DBAC in 2022

Applied for DBAC in 2023

Traveled to Tetlin 2024 to assist inventory efforts

Awarded DBAC 2025

Awarded DBAC 2026



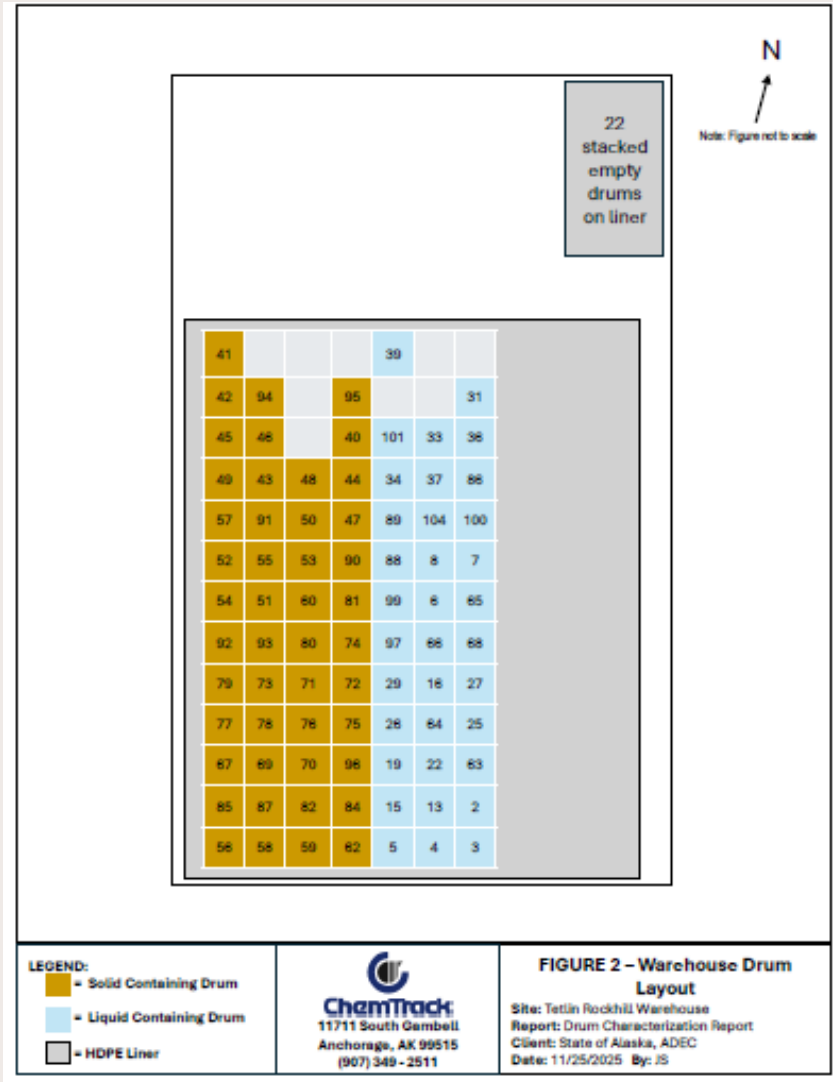
ANTHC Tetlin Technical Assistance

- Site research
- UAV photos
- Site visit
- Inventory
- Community visits
- Applications assistance
- Frequent meetings





DEC DBAC Drum Inventory



- Mobilized in October 2025
- Spray painted numerical identifiers on all drums
- Inventoried drums and placed on liner
- Solids were sampled for lab analysis, liquids field screened for future analysis

Drum Contents	Quantity of Drums
Solid – Soil	43
Solid – Assorted Waste (oily rags, debris, liner, etc.)	4
Liquid	36
Empty	22
TOTAL	105

Native Village of Chefornak



- 98 air miles SW of Bethel
- Traditional Yup'ik community
- Relocated from a village on the Bering Sea following a flood in the 1950s
- Village incorporated in 1973
- 2020 population ~ 506 people

Chefornak Former BIA School



ANTHC

Alaska DEC Brownfields

Traveled to Chefornak 2024 for site specific planning, DBAC application assistance

Awarded DBAC 2025



ANTHC Technical Assistance

- Site research
- UAV photos
- Site visit
- Inventory
- Community visits
- Applications assistance
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DEC DBAC HBM survey, lead soil sampling



- 2025 mobilized to Chefornak
- Conducted HBM survey on 4 buildings:
 - Former school building
 - HeadStart Program/ Teacher Housing
 - Powerhouse
 - Former Principal Housing
- Sampled for
 - Lead-based paint (LBP)
 - Asbestos- containing materials (ACM)
 - Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)



ACM Sample Summary

Building	CY02	CY03	CY04	CY10
ACM Samples	13	15	5	16
Layers Present	18	19	6	23
NOB	10	13	3	16

Lead Paint Screening Summary

Building	CY02	CY03	CY04	CY10
XRF Readings	13	7	10	14

PCB Sample Summary

Building	CY02	CY03	CY04	CY10
PCB Bulk Samples	5	0	5	12
PCB Wipes	6	6	4	5

Lead in Soil Screening Summary

Building	CY02	CY03	CY04	CY10
XRF Readings	11	8	9	10
Non-Detects	4	8	5	5
FSAL Exceedances	3	0	1	2
Total Lead Samples	4	4	4	4
TCLP Samples	1	0	0	1



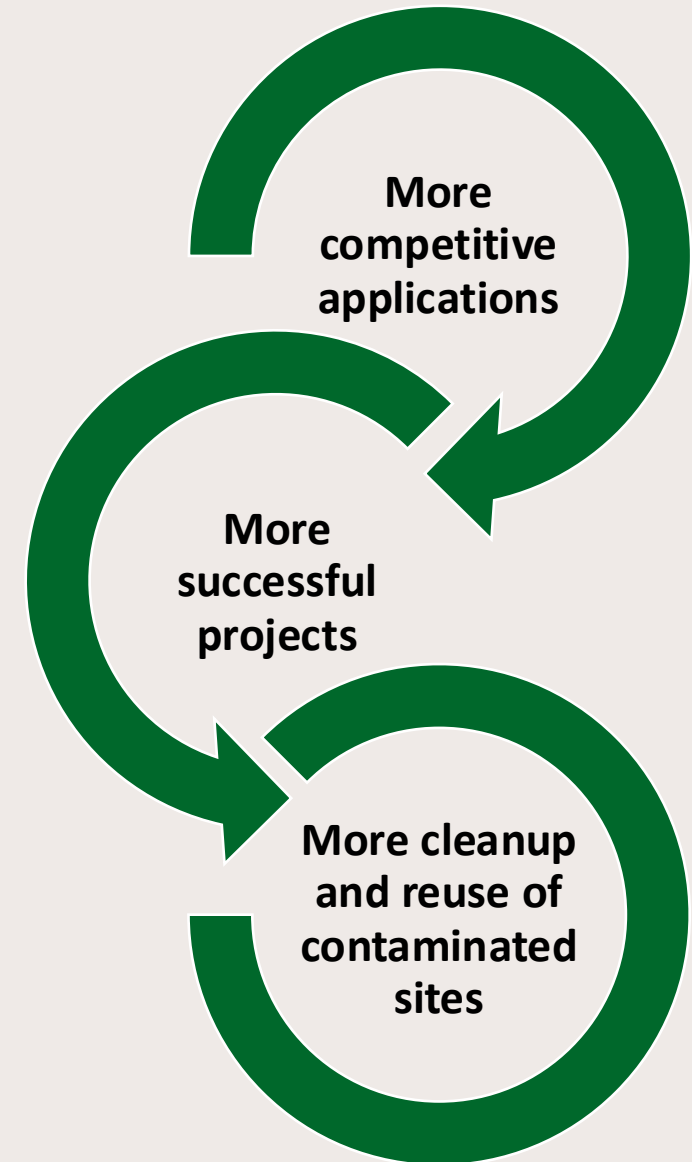
Continuing partnerships

- 2025 Sitka Contaminated Sites Community Meeting
 - Sitka Tribe
 - DEC
 - ANTHC
 - KSU
- 2026 – granted EPA Targeted Brownfields Assessment for Starrigavan Bay



Summary

- Successful brownfields redevelopment often depends on **strong partnerships** between state programs, NGOs, and local communities.
- NGOs play a critical role in helping communities **navigate** complex application and funding processes and **building local capacity and skills**.
- **Early collaboration** helps applicants strengthen proposals, clarify project goals, and identify eligible activities.
- State programs provide technical guidance, funding pathways, and regulatory clarity needed to move projects forward.
- **Combining these strengths helps reduce barriers for small, rural, or capacity-limited communities.**



Thank you

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