

# BROWNFIELDS



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## What is Brownfield???

By John Carnahan, ADEC Brownfield  
Coordinator

**brown-field** n. A piece of industrial or commercial property that is abandoned or underused and often environmentally contaminated, especially one considered as a potential site for redevelopment. (Definition according to the American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition, Houghton Mifflin Company, 2004.)

Any property potentially contaminated, previously contaminated, or perceived by a community to be contaminated with hazardous substances, including petroleum products, may be eligible for assistance from the State of Alaska or the federal government to support reuse and revitalization efforts. This assistance may include environmental assessment, cleanup, and job training. DEC assists eligible sites in Alaska in applying for different types of EPA brownfield grants. DEC also provides oversight to protect public health in the cleanup and management of brownfield sites.

Nearly a decade ago, EPA initiated a program to clean up brownfields. The program focused primarily on properties in urban blighted areas and was designed to empower states, communities, and others with economic redevelopment interests to assess, safely

## ArcGIS In Yupik

By Joey Billy

ArcGIS will be conducted in Yupik slated for October 15-17, 2008 in Tununak. Andrew Boy Scout, Director, Land Protection Consortium will preside the training and is based in Chevak. Although he is of Cupik descent, our language has distinct difference and understand the everyday language.

The Nelson Island Consortia villages will be attending the training. The tools we will be learning is to brownfield the sites that are possibly

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clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields, as well as to prevent the creation of new brownfields. As the program has developed, rural land and properties are increasingly eligible for assistance, with reuse for fish and wildlife habitat, subsistence, greenspace, or recreational uses. More details are available on EPA's website about the [formal definition of a brownfield site](#) for the purposes of determining eligibility for federal funding, and what kinds of sites are included or excluded in the definition.

In 2002, Congress expanded the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act ([CERCLA](#)) and increased funding authority for the federal Brownfields Program.

For more information about brownfields, please read our fact sheet, [Frequently Asked Questions About](#)

contaminated and the sites that can be reused for purposes that agree with their community leaders, elders and residents. The sites we will be brownfielding is the Historical site, the tank farms in active or inactive. The other sites that can be possibly brownfielded are the hunting grounds. There are sites that can be brownfielded.

During this training, we will field visit each site and get the coordinates. The coordinates is vitally important to be document it for easier access. With

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## Nelson Island Consortium

### Logo

By Molly L. Afcan

Due to a very long word for the logo on the right, non-native outside the village areas could not read so they had no choice but, made it shorter to Nelson Island Consortium. Our active environmental elders along the coast had asked all the employee's to keep the original name for all environmentalist's along the coast.

The consortium consists of 7 villages along the coast and inland. They are in order Chefornak, Kipnuk, Newtok, Nightmute, Toksook Bay, Tununak, and Umkumiut.



*Caninermiut/Qaluyaat-Illu  
Nunamta Menuitengnaqlerkaanun  
Nunam Caliarit*

Tununak is the leading grantee for the whole Nelson Island Consortium. Only 3 out of 7 have response staff that represent there villages. They are in order; Karen Abraham (CYF), vacant (KPN), Joseph John (WWT) and I myself representing Nightmute, Toksook Bay, Umkumiut and coordinating the whole consortia for Brownfield response program.

## Tununak Brownfield

By Joey Billy

I would like to introduce myself and the staff. My name is Joey Billy, Brownfield Coordinator for all NIC villages. I started working for Native Village of Tununak as of September 2, 2008. One of the difficulty in getting the information out to the villages is most difficult. The responses I get from the NIC villages is always minimal to none. The only active response with our office is Chefornak and not Newtok. Karen Abraham is the Brownfield Representative for Native Village of Chefornak.

The Tununak Brownfield has a new staff on board

as of today. Joseph John will be resrepresenting Native Village of Newtok.

The remaining villages have no representation and the only people that can get the information out is to the IGAP and their assistant, and CARE/BASE representatives. For those villages that do not have representation, Tununak and the active villages will cover their needs.

The NIC Brownfield is in our 3<sup>rd</sup> year of Section

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*"I have forgotten the names of people that died. The people who lived in these old villages are gone." Nightmute-Sophie*

## Granpa's face

By Joey Billy

"This is a picture taken sometime in May 2008 when I went halibut fishing with my baby sister Clara Erik and brother in-law George Panruk. While fishing I thought I saw a face in the cliff, after I went home I zoomed in the area and saw what appeared to be and resembled the face of my late Grandfather Sam Tangkak looking at the direction of where we were fishing." -John Walter, Jr.

NIC villages are a close knit community, predominantly spoken language is Yupik. The above captioned notation (in his own words) with the pictures at right, a second right is highlighted to show closer that was taken this past summer. The pictures shown are undoctored.

I do personally believe that we are being watched by our ancestor. I have not heard through oral history

## Nelson Island Consortia

By Joey Billy

Nelson Island Consortia was formed in late 1990's by Native Village of Newtok. The office then moved to Chefnak and is functioned and taken care of by Native Village of Chefnak. This was due to lack of office space. Newtok moved the NIC organization to be taken care of by Chefnak.

Since forming the NIC, and with the teleconference every Friday. NIC meets and discusses what needs to be taken care of, what each village is doing, and what steps are taken care of for individual problems. One of the successes that NIC created was passing an ordinance for all NIC regions. The banning of Styrofoam cups, and bowls used by school district. The NIC had two elders present for each NIC villages during the conference held in



*Picture by John Walter, Jr. during halibut fishing in May 2008.*

the face that are captured on the cliffs have anything to do with our culture. But I do strongly believe that our land and our ancestors have are keeping an eye on our actions.

The busiest time in Tununak is during summer time. All household do subsistence, gathering nourishment for the winter season. John went out halibut fishing when he captured the pictures. The cliff is located at Cape Vancouver on Nelson Island.

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Chefnak in May 2008. The NIC is led by Elders values with the representatives working on what the Elders say is the priorities in protecting subsistence. Also, the NIC was not only formed within itself, the community, Elders, representatives, and the public in all 7 villages belong to the group. And all are always encouraged to attend the meetings.

The NIC meets 3 times per year. The meetings are rotated each year from village to village to be sure to attend when it is in one of the NIC villages.

At this time, NIC is still in its planning stages. We are discussing and formatting the policy and procedures for our organization to better suit the

Please see *Tight Space* on page 4

*Great Articles* from page 1

this coordinate we would let the clean up crews for them to go on the sites. We do have forms that we can determine if the sites in question are contaminated. By these forms we will than inventory each site for public information if the sites are not contaminated and this can be inventoried for future reference.

All NIC villages are still learning the process and by this ArcGIS training with field visits. This would

give the idea how to Brownfield each site. Although communication is difficult, we often communicate through email, telephone and use of fax machine. With enough training we can get the message out. The upcoming events is another source of information in Brownfield. I would encourage all Tribal Administrators to get to know each representatives job description and the importance of their duties to keep their sites in prestine state.

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organization and to get the message out by use of newsletters, passing ordinances, brownfielding sites by recording, and creating website for informing public.

*“Nallunrilkenganka. Nauwa  
yuut? Nallunrill...  
Nallunritellruyaaqekena  
nalluyaguskenka tayima  
yuullrit tangernanriamkia  
ak'a. Tangernanrirluki.”  
Nightmute–Sophie*

*Everyone* from page 3

At this time of the year all the coastal villages come to Tununak for commercial halibut fishing and for subsistence.

With the picture, I feel rest assured that we are being watched. This makes me feel proud of who I am and with the people I am living with. The community that strive for the best, live the best. Although the socioeconomics is best described as low, it always amazes and baffled how each one lives. We are still living and living what we have learned from our ancestors.

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128. With this grant one of the required information is creating new website for NIC Brownfield villages. We contracted that out to Lynn Zender with Zendergroup. With what information we will post the information on the new website. At this time, the sites that need to be documented would be a lot easier after the ArcGIS training for documentation.

One of the sites we will be field visit during the training is the watering poing at old BIA site. The danger in contamination is the possible seeping contaminants on the table water. Tununak residents pack water at that watering point where the tank farm is. The BIA watering point has been in operation since, as far as I can remember in 1960's. This well is from the table water and

treated on site for public use. With this knowledge we can document this for public information.

I would encourage NIC villages that do not have Brownfield representation to get in contact with our office and we can discuss what needs to be done.

*"The ones I know.  
Where are the  
people? I know the  
ones who lived  
there, but I have  
forgotten them,  
because I do not  
see them  
anymore."  
Nightmute-Sophie*

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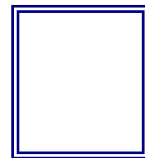
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*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

Web site address

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