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Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
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Document Distribution

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Division of Environmental Health and Engineering

Amendment No. 1 to the Cooperative Project Agreement

A Health Facility Improvement Project Between:
The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and
The Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments in
The City of Fort Yukon, Alaska
Project No. AN 05-GE8
August 2006

AMENDMENT NO. 1
TO THE
COOPERATIVE PROJECT AGREEMENT
HEALTH FACILITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
FORT YUKON, ALASKA

PROJECT NO. AN 05-GE8

To complete this project, ANTHC and the Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments mutually agree to the terms and conditions contained in this Amendment.

APPROVED BY:

8 Aug 06
Date

Ralph H. Hogge
Ralph Hogge, P.E.
Director, Regional Facilities Services
DEHE, ANTHC

APPROVED BY:

8 Aug 2006
Date

Craig L. Fleener
Craig L. Fleener
Executive Director,
Council of Athabascan
Tribal Governments

**AMENDMENT NO. 1
TO THE
COOPERATIVE PROJECT AGREEMENT
HEALTH FACILITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
FORT YUKON, ALASKA**

PROJECT NO. AN 05-GE8

DATE OF DOCUMENT:
August 2006

A. INTRODUCTION

Throughout this Amendment these entities are referred to as follows:

Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments	=	CATG
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium	=	ANTHC
Cooperative Project Agreement	=	CPA
Denali Commission	=	Commission

On August 12, 2005, ANTHC and the Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments executed a CPA authorized by the Denali Commission to revise the existing design for the new primary care subregional clinic in Fort Yukon, Alaska. Originally, the design was for an approximately 27,000-square-foot building. This redesign effort will decrease the building to approximately 15,000 square feet, and shall include 100 percent final design drawings and a 100 percent construction cost estimate. This redesign effort is necessary to conform with the clinic's business plan. No construction will be performed under this project phase.

The project was funded by Denali Commission Financial Assistance Award Project No. 0146-DC-2004-I29, Amendment No. 1, dated July 2005.

B. REVISION OF SCOPE OF PROJECT

This Amendment expands the scope of work to include construction of the subregional clinic. Activities include site preparation, materials and equipment, construction, and labor.

C. REVISION OF PROJECT FUNDING

This project was originally awarded \$470,190. This Amendment adds \$3,365,015 of Commission funding and \$841,254 of CATG funding. Project funding therefore totals \$4,676,459. The additional Commission funds are derived from Denali Commission Financial Assistance Award Project No. 0146-DC-2004-I29, Addendum C, dated July 2005.

A revised project budget and funding sources table is provided below.

Job Type	Scope of Work	Qty	Units	Unit Cost	Total Cost	Funding Sources		
						Denali FY04	Denali FY04	CATG
M-DS	Design studies and construction planning	1	LS	470,190	470,190	470,190		
M-CL	Construct subregional clinic	1	LS	4,206,269	4,206,269		3,365,015	841,254
Total Project Funding					\$4,676,459	\$470,190	\$3,365,015	\$841,254

By signing this Agreement, CATG agrees that its cost share of \$841,254 shall be transferred to ANTHC and used for the project. If this funding is not made available, project activities will be curtailed.

Per the Memorandum of Understanding with the Denali Commission, no funding will be distributed until the environmental recommendations listed in the attached Environmental Review are implemented.

D. PROJECT ADMINISTRATION

In conformance with the Commission's Financial Assistance Award, the following project management methodology has been selected by CATG:

Project construction shall be managed by CATG, which has met standards for a "Pass Through" organization approved by ANTHC. ANTHC will only maintain program oversight of the project. No technical assistance or project management will be provided by ANTHC.

Construction activities are expected to begin by June 2006 and be finished by June 2008.

This document constitutes Amendment No. 1 to the CPA to revise the existing design for the new primary care subregional clinic in Fort Yukon, Alaska. All other sections of the original CPA remain in effect as agreed upon and executed.

APPENDIX

Preliminary Environmental Review Memorandum Environmental Review and Documentation

Maps

- USGS Community Vicinity Map
- Project Activity Map



ALASKA NATIVE TRIBAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM
Division of Environmental Health & Engineering
1901 Bragaw, Suite 200
Anchorage, Alaska 99508-3440

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 2005

FROM: Heritage and Environmental Consultant

SUBJECT: City of Fort Yukon, Preliminary Environmental Review
Project No. AN 05-GE8, Amendment 1

TO: FOR THE RECORD

Based upon the scope for this project, an environmental review in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) has been completed. The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) has considered all potential environmental concerns (specific and cumulative effects) associated with the project in consultation with applicable federal, state, and local authorities. The Environmental Review Report has been completed and reviewed with respect to the proposed health facilities construction and is attached to this Memorandum.

FINDINGS

This environmental review finds that an Environmental Assessment is required for this project. Current HIS policy (Federal Register, Vol. 58, No. 3, January 6, 1993, pp.569-572) calls for the preparation of an Environmental Assessment for projects which fail to meet the criteria established for categorical exclusion from further Environmental Review, as determined by the attached "Environmental Review and Documentation." Upon issuance of a FONSI by the Denali Commission, the Environmental Assessment will serve as the final environmental review.

BACKGROUND

Fort Yukon is located at the confluence of the Yukon River and the Porcupine River, about 145 air miles northeast of Fairbanks. It lies at approximately 66.564720° North Latitude and - 145.27389° West Longitude. (Sec. 18, T020N, R012E, Fairbanks Meridian.)

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF IMPORTANCE

This project will construct a 17,000 square foot subregional hospital in Fort Yukon, Alaska. An archaeological survey by Northern Land Use Research in 2003 determined that no historic properties would be affected by construction of this facility. The ANTHC will seek concurrence from the State Historic Preservation Officer with this finding. It appears as though the facility will be constructed above the 100-year flood plain. There is no critical habitat for threatened or endangered species in the vicinity of facility. There are no other environmental resources identified that might sustain direct adverse effects as a result of construction. However, because the facility is a "large clinic" in accordance with the Indian Health Service definitions, which are utilized by the ANTHC, an environmental assessment will need to be reviewed by the ANTHC and forwarded to the Denali Commission for a FONSI.

SCOPE OF WORK

This Amendment expands the scope of work to include construction of the subregional clinic. Activities include site preparation, materials and equipment, construction, and labor.

PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES

Given the environmental review performed by the ANTHC, the following mitigation activities are proposed for this project:

Submit an environmental assessment to the ANTHC prior to ground disturbance

SUMMARY

In the event that the ANTHC becomes aware of any other unforeseen discovery, which could change the environmental determination, the appropriate authority will be notified to develop an acceptable course of action prior to resuming construction activities in the impacted area.

With the scope of work outlined for this project, the ANTHC has completed the environmental review. If the scope of work is changed in the future, then the ANTHC will revisit this environmental review to determine if potential environmental concerns have been addressed.


Chris Campbell

HEALTH CARE FACILITIES ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION

Facility: Subregional Hospital

Location: Fort Yukon, Alaska

Project Description: Construction

Category	Determination (Yes or No)	Basis for Determination (Documentation, see last page)
PART I.		
1. Does this project include construction or lease of new facilities which will total more than 1080 square meters (12,000 square feet)? (Include portable facilities and trailers.)	Yes	Printed Materials– The proposed health facility in Fort Yukon, Alaska will total 17,000 square feet.
2. Does this project involve the construction or lease of new facilities on more than 2 hectares (5 acres) of land?	No	Printed Materials – Less than 2 hectares (5 acres) will be involved in the proposed Fort Yukon, Alaska facility.
3. <u>Historic Preservation</u> : Will the proposed project construction or renovation adversely affect properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic places (buildings, archaeological sites, objects of significance)? If a property is more than 50 years old and no determination of eligibility was done, the agency must evaluate and nominate the facility. Contact the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and document the contact and SHPO response.	No	Printed Materials – The State Historic Preservation Officer wrote a letter concurring with the proposed Fort Yukon, Alaska Clinic on November 09, 2004. This letter is attached as supporting documentation.

HEALTH CARE FACILITIES ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION

Facility: Fort Yukon Location: Fort Yukon, Alaska
 Project Description: Construction

Category	Determination (Yes or No)	Basis for Determination (Documentation, see last page)
4. Will the proposed project construction or renovation violate local, state, or federal law on the use and storage of hazardous substances or the transportation, storage, and disposal of hazardous wastes or medical wastes? (Activities that generate those items include renovations, new construction, air conditioning repair and service, pesticide application, motor pools, automobile repair, welding, landscaping, agricultural activities, print shops, hospitals, clinics, medical centers, etc. Repair, renovation, or demolition activities can generate waste that has asbestos-containing materials, asbestos, lead-based paint, PCBs, CFCs, etc.)	No	Printed Materials – The proposed project in Fort Yukon, Alaska does not violate local, state, or federal law on the use and storage of hazardous substances or the transportation, storage, and disposal of hazardous wastes or medical wastes.
5. Will the project result in a known violation or continuance of a violation of applicable (Federal, Tribal, State or Local) law or requirements imposed for protection of the environment or public health and safety? REFERENCE: National Environmental Policy Act of 1969/FR Vol. 58, No.3, K.1., K.2.	No	Printed Materials – The project will be in compliance with all applicable laws and requirements and will have the appropriated regulatory approvals.

HEALTH CARE FACILITIES ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION

Facility: Fort Yukon Location: Fort Yukon, Alaska
 Project Description: Construction

Category	Determination (Yes or No)	Basis for Determination (Documentation, see last page)
6. Will the proposed project or construction or renovation result in a conflict with existing or proposed state, federal and local land use plans?	No	Printed Materials – The project site is not zoned. The Fort Yukon, Alaska City has identified this project as an essential community facility.
7. Is the project significantly greater in scope than normal projects for the area or does the project have significant unusual characteristics? REFERENCE: National Environmental Policy Act of 1969/FR Vol. 58, No.3, K.11.	Yes	Printed Materials – The proposed clinic project in Fort Yukon, Alaska is not typical in scope in comparison with ANTHC health facility improvement projects in rural Alaska.
8. Does the project have significant adverse direct or indirect effects on parklands, other public lands, or areas of recognized scenic or recreational value? REFERENCE: National Environmental Policy Act of 1969/FR Vol. 58, No.3, K.5.	No	Printed Materials – Alaska Wildlife Refuges, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The community of Fort Yukon, Alaska is not located. In of parklands, other public lands, or areas of recognized scenic or recreational value.

HEALTH CARE FACILITIES ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION

Facility: Fort Yukon Location: Fort Yukon, Alaska
 Project Description: Construction

Category	Determination (Yes or No)	Basis for Determination (Documentation, see last page)
9. Is there a controversy with respect to environmental effects of the project based on reasonable and substantial issues? REFERENCE: National Environmental Policy Act of 1969/FR Vol. 58, No.3, K.3.	No	Through signature of this document, the City acknowledges that no controversy exists with respect to this project and will abide with Section 106 procedures if a discovery is made.
10. Does the project establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects? (cumulative impact based on current information) REFERENCE: National Environmental Policy Act of 1969/FR Vol. 58, No.3, K.6.	No	Printed Materials-- The health facility construction project in Fort Yukon, Alaska is not anticipated to result in any cumulative impacts that will result in degradation of environmental concerns as outlined in NEPA.
11. Does the project involve the use, transfer or lease of real property which has been used as a storage for hazardous waste and/or petroleum products or their derivatives for more than one year? REFERENCE: Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980/FR Vol. 58, No.3, K.10.	No	Personal contact -- The project engineer, in consultation with the City/Tribe of Fort Yukon, Alaska confirms that real property associated with the health facility project in Fort Yukon, Alaska has not been associated with the use, transfer, or lease as storage for hazardous waste for more than one year.
PART II		

HEALTH CARE FACILITIES ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION

Facility: Fort Yukon Location: Fort Yukon, Alaska
 Project Description: Construction

Category	Determination (Yes or No)	Basis for Determination (Documentation, see last page)
12. Will the proposed project construction or renovation require major sedimentation and erosion control measures? (e.g.; construction or expansion of a parking lot)	No	Printed Material- The proposed health facility project will be constructed in an area which does not affect soil erosion or sedimentation.
13. Will the proposed project construction or renovation adversely affect community noise levels?	No	Printed Material – This project will not affect community noise levels because no blasting will occur and heavy equipment use will be limited to the daytime.
14. Will the proposed project construction or renovation adversely affect community air pollution?	No	Printed Material – The proposed health facility project in Fort Yukon, Alaska will not adversely affect air pollution. The project is located in an unclassified area with no identified air pollution problems and it will have minor to no effect on local air quality.
15. Will the proposed project construction or renovation create a need for additional capacity in educational facilities?	Unknown	Printed materials- The proposed health facility project at Fort Yukon, Alaska may affect any need for additional capacity in educational facilities.
16. Will the proposed project construction or renovation create a need for additional capacity in health care facilities and for health care services?	No	Printed Materials – The proposed health facility project is not anticipated to create a need for additional capacity in health care facilities and for health care services because it will not affect community population levels.

HEALTH CARE FACILITIES ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION

Facility: Fort Yukon Location: Fort Yukon, Alaska
 Project Description: Construction

Category	Determination (Yes or No)	Basis for Determination (Documentation, see last page)
17. Will the proposed project construction or renovation create a need for additional energy supply or generation?	Yes	The larger facility may require a need for additional energy generation.
18. Will the proposed project construction or renovation create a need for additional capacity at solid waste disposal facilities?	No	Printed materials – The proposed health facility project will not generate any additional sewage than the existing facility because it will not affect community population levels.
19. Will the proposed project construction or renovation create a need for additional capacity at wastewater treatment facilities?	No	Printed materials – The proposed health facility project will not generate any additional solid waste than at present in Fort Yukon, Alaska, and will not affect the capacity of the community's wastewater treatment facilities.
20. Will the proposed project construction or renovation create a need for/or require a storm water control plan? (e.g.; parking lots. Contact local or state authorities, or EPA to determine if your facility or project is in a regulated storm water area.)	No	Printed materials – The proposed health facility project will be extremely limited in overall surface area, and is not expected to significantly affect storm water control in Fort Yukon, Alaska. Storm drainage will be directed away from the building and parking areas. The project is outside of a regulated storm water area.

HEALTH CARE FACILITIES ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION

Facility: Fort Yukon Location: Fort Yukon, Alaska
 Project Description: Construction

Category	Determination (Yes or No)	Basis for Determination (Documentation, see last page)
21. Will the proposed project construction or renovation create a need for additional drinking water supply?	No	Printed materials – The proposed health facility project will not create a need for additional drinking water supply as the same population will continue to be served as previously.
22. Will the proposed project construction or renovation create a need for additional capacity in transportation systems?	No	Printed materials – The proposed health facility project in Fort Yukon, Alaska will serve the same population in a community lacking a transportation system.
23. Are there other considerations about the proposed project construction or renovation that could adversely affect the environment and/or public health and safety?	No	Printed materials – The proposed health facility project in Fort Yukon, Alaska is not anticipated to adversely affect the environment and/or public health and safety. No toxic building materials will be utilized.
PART III		
24. <u>SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT</u> : Will the project impact a sole source aquifer? REFERENCE: Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974/FR Vol. 58, No.3, K.5.	No	Personal Contact – Letter on file from Michael Crotteau, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation August 1999. There are no designated sole source aquifers in Alaska.

HEALTH CARE FACILITIES ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION

Facility: Fort Yukon Location: Fort Yukon, Alaska
 Project Description: Construction

Category	Determination (Yes or No)	Basis for Determination (Documentation, see last page)
<p>25. <u>FLOODPLAINS</u>: Will the project involve construction in a floodplain (except for actions excluded as a class) or impact floodplain development? REFERENCE: Executive Order 11988 and related Acts and Executive Orders/FR Vol.58, No.3, K.5., K.9.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Although Fort Yukon, Alaska lies in a floodplain, and health facility construction is in a floodplain, it will be conducted in accordance with class action requirements (IHS Environmental Review Manual 2.2.3:18) and work will not adversely affect Floodplain development. There are no flood plain maps available for the community and the community does not participate in the National Flood Insurance Program.</p>
<p>26. <u>WETLANDS/WATER RESOURCES</u>: Will the project adversely affect wetlands/water resources or will there be construction in wetlands, except in conformance with a Corps of Engineers Section 404 Permit? REFERENCE: Executive Order 11990 and related Acts and Executive Orders/FR Vol. 58, No.3, K.5.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Printed materials – All construction will be done upon consultation with the US Army Corps of Engineers (COE) and in conformance with any requisite COE permit.</p>

HEALTH CARE FACILITIES ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION

Facility: Fort Yukon Location: Fort Yukon, Alaska
 Project Description: Construction

Category	Determination (Yes or No)	Basis for Determination (Documentation, see last page)
<p>27. <u>Coastal Zone Management</u>: Will the proposed project construction or renovation directly affect a Coastal Zone in a manner inconsistent with the State Coastal Zone Management Plan? (Each coastal state should have a state office to manage its coastal zone development and use. All federal projects in the coastal zone must comply with the management plan.)</p>	No	Fort Yukon does not lie within a Coastal Zone.
<p>28. <u>WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT</u>: Is the project a "Water Resources Project" which will impact a wild, scenic or recreational river area and create conditions inconsistent with the character of the river? REFERENCE: Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 and related Executive Actions/FR Vol. 58, No.3, K.5.</p>	No	Printed Materials – <i>Wild and Scenic Rivers (Alaska) List</i> , National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, National Parks Service. The community of Fort Yukon, Alaska is not located on a Wild or Scenic River.
<p>29. <u>FARMLAND PROTECTION ACT</u>: Will the project convert significant agricultural lands to non-agricultural uses? REFERENCE: Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981 and related Acts and Executive Orders/FR Vol. 58, No.3, K.5.</p>	No	Personal Contact – Letter on file from Steve Tickett, Alaska Department of Natural Resources, July 1999. The community of Fort Yukon, Alaska is not located within an identified significant agricultural area.

HEALTH CARE FACILITIES ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION

Facility: Fort Yukon Location: Fort Yukon, Alaska
 Project Description: Construction

Category	Determination (Yes or No)	Basis for Determination (Documentation, see last page)
30. <u>WILDERNESS ACT</u> : Will the project adversely impact a wilderness area? REFERENCE: Wilderness Act of 1964/FR Vol. 58, No.3, K.5.	No	Printed Materials -- Great Outdoor Recreation Pages, Alaska Wilderness Area List. The community of Fort Yukon, Alaska is not located in a designated wilderness area.
31. <u>ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT</u> : Is the project likely to adversely affect a species listed on the Federal List of Endangered or Threatened Species or the specific critical habitat? REFERENCE: Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended/FR Vol. 58, No.3, K.8.	No	Printed Materials -- <i>Endangered, threatened and candidate species in Alaska</i> , U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, December 2000. This project will not be taking place in the vicinity of a critical habitat of an endangered species.

I certify that to the best of my knowledge and ability the information presented herein is true and correct.

Luke T. Schull
 Signature, ANTHC Project Manager

11/18/05
 Date

Chris Campbell
 Signature, ANTHC Environmental Review Officer

12/2/05
 Date



Denali Commission
510 L Street, Suite 410
Anchorage, AK 99501

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July 24, 2006

Chris Campbell
Heritage and Environmental Consultant
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
1901 South Bragaw, Suite 200
Anchorage, AK 99508-3440

Dear Ms. Campbell:

RE: Notice of Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact
(FONSI) for the Fort Yukon Health Center.

This letter is written by the Denali Commission (Commission) to indicate to the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) that the course of action outlined in the attached FONSI has been prepared by the Denali Commission for the Fort Yukon Health Center clinic project (attached). This action is needed to allow ANTHC authority to proceed in funding with the Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments (CATG) for this project.

In this case, the following mitigation measures shall be incorporated into the proposed project's design consistent with the FONSI:

1. Section D-1, Vegetation, states a mitigating measure that controls to be provided during construction to minimize ground disturbance and erosion outside construction areas in accordance with the project's EPA Storm-water Permit including silt fences, construction entrance, etc.
2. Section D-5-d-i, Floodplain location states that purchase of flood insurance on the building and contents is required, unless the building fill pad is removed from the floodplain by action of the Federal Emergency Management (REMA) sometime in the future. Participation in the NFIP is required.
3. Section D-5-d-ii states that an evacuation plan shall be implemented to evacuate patients from the clinic during times of flood, and to accommodate incoming patients via airplane for care.
4. Section D-5-d-iii states that elevation of the clinic is required to be built at 447', as 445' is the Base Flood elevation.

These requirements are cited directly from the Denali Commission FONSI dated July 20, 2006 and signed by Mr. George Cannelos.

Please contact Ms. Denali Daniels of my staff, ddaniels@denali.gov, 271.1189, with any questions.

Sincerely,
Amali Daniels
for Tessa Rinner

Tessa L. D. Rinner, MPA
Director of Programs

Attachments

CC: Paul Morrison ANTHC (via e-mail)
Craig Fleener, CATG (via email)

File: Chronological
Award file/146-DC-2004-I29



**Notice of Availability of Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact for the Fort Yukon Clinic New Construction Project
July 2006**

AGENCY: Denali Commission in Partnership with the State of Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development (DCCED), the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA).

ACTION: Notice of Availability of Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Denali Daniels, Program Manager, Denali Commission, 510 L Street, Suite 410, Anchorage, Alaska 99501, telephone: (907) 271-1414, telefax: (907) 271-1415, email: ddaniels@denali.gov.

Substantial information, including the complete Finding of No Significant Impact, is provided with this notice. You may contact the above individual to obtain a copy of the entire Environmental Assessment.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Introduction

The Denali Commission is considering providing funding to the Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments (CATG) for the construction of a primary care health facility to be located in the community of Fort Yukon, Alaska. Introduced by Congress in 1998, the Denali Commission is an innovative federal-state partnership designed to provide critical utilities, infrastructure, and economic support throughout Alaska.

II. Environmental Assessment

A. Proposed Action

The proposed regional clinic would be 13,946 sq. ft. in size with an additional 1,470 sq. ft. mezzanine floor. The main floor would house various administration offices, examining rooms, rest rooms, a waiting area, and lobby. There would be dedicated urgent care beds, a radiology department, procedure and casting area, laboratory, dental

clinic, conference area, and a community service division. The mezzanine would house the mechanical room, telephone room, generator, boiler, and also serve as an extra storage area.

B. Need for Proposed Action

Existing clinic in Fort Yukon is inadequate both in physical condition and size to meet the current needs and grant requirements. The building was not suitable for continued use and is not designed for a clinic. The current building, which was remodeled in 1985 as an addition to an old FAA trailer facility, cannot be economically renovated or upgraded for current or future uses in health care. The building has major deficiencies that cause the health center to be out of compliance with medical accreditation requirements.

The Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments (CATG) is a regional non-profit tribal organization that provides comprehensive medical, dental, emergency medical and social services for 1,439 residents in the Yukon Flats region in Alaska. CATG is owned and operated by ten Athabascan Tribal villages. The ten Gwich'in and Koyukon Athabascan tribes are Arctic Village, Beaver, Birch Creek, Canyon Village, Chalkyitsik, Circle, Rampart, Stevens Village, Venetie and Fort Yukon. CATG has been responsible for providing these and surrounding communities with comprehensive primary health care since 1995.

C. Clinic Site Environment

Fort Yukon is located in the confluence of the Yukon River and the Porcupine River, about 145 air miles northeast of Fairbanks, Alaska. It lies at approximately 66.564720 degrees North Latitude and - 145.27389 degrees West Longitude. Fort Yukon is located in the Fairbanks Recording District. The area encompasses 7.0 sq. miles of land and 0.4 sq. miles of water. The winters are long and harsh and the summers are short but warm. After freeze-up the plateau is a source of cold, continental arctic air. Daily minimum temperatures between November and March are usually below zero. Extended periods of -50 to -60 are common. Summer high temperatures run 65 to 72 degrees. Total annual precipitation averages 6.58 inches, with 43.4 inches of snow fall. The Yukon River is ice-free from the end of May through mid-September.

Fort Yukon lies with the floodplains of the Yukon and Porcupine Rivers. The Yukon Flats, consisting of 6.5 million acres consists of mostly flats to undulating lowlands dotted with shallow lakes, sloughs, and meandering streams.

Elevation is about 300 feet in the west and 600 to 900 feet in the north and east. The Yukon River is the principal drainage. Fort Yukon is flooded to some extent annually and is considered to have a high flood hazard. Flooding during the Spring is caused mainly by ice jams.

The City of Fort Yukon is eligible to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), designed to offset dependency on National Disaster Relief in times of flood.

D. Alternatives

The No Action Alternative was considered. Under No Action Alternative the CATG would not build a new clinic facility in Fort Yukon, Alaska. Local health care services would remain limited to those provided in the existing clinic. Residents from the nine other villages requiring advanced health services would continue to travel to Fairbanks for their advanced health care needs.

E. Affected Environment

The following impacts were detailed in the Environmental Assessment:

1. Vegetation
 - a. A minimal adverse, long term impact to habitat, trees, shrub communities and herbaceous plants would be compacted within the approximate 60,000 sq. ft. footprint of the building site.
 - b. Mitigating Measure: Controls to be provided during construction to minimize ground disturbance and erosion outside construction areas in accordance with the project's EPA Storm-water Permit including silt fences, construction entrance, etc.
2. Wildlife
 - a. Proposed action would have a small negative impact on wildlife including birds, mammals, fish and amphibians. However, impact is minimal due to the significant surrounding open space to easily accommodate any small wildlife that may be displaced.
3. Impacts on Surface Water and Ground Water
 - a. Limited or no impacts from proposed alternative would result to surficial geology and soils, surface water, ground water or drinking water.
4. Wetlands
 - a. No wetlands will be affected by the project by the proposed action.
5. Floodplain location
 - a. Environmental Assessment states that the Fort Yukon does not participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The Commission has found that community does participate in the NFIP, so flood insurance is available.
 - b. Flooding occurs in Fort Yukon on an annual basis from ice jams in the river. The Commission has found that this factor involves risks to patients potentially receiving medical care or arriving from other communities to receive medical care.
 - c. Elevation of the new clinic as proposed in the Environmental Assessment is only 1.5 ft. above the required 6.0 ft. Base Flood Elevation 445 ft NAVD88 base map produced by ANTHC 1"=140' scale. Equivalent to BFE 435 ft NGVD1929 Corps of Engineers flood elevations. ANTHC and DCCED recommend fill pad be at our above 445 ft NAVD88 with the lowest finished floor level at 447 ft.

- d. Mitigating Measures:
 - i. Purchase of flood insurance on the building and contents is required, unless the building fill pad is removed from the floodplain by action of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) sometime in the future. Participation in the NFIP is required.
 - ii. An evacuation plan shall be implemented to evacuate patients from the clinic during times of flood, and to accommodate incoming patients via airplane for care.
 - iii. Elevation of the clinic is required to be built at 447', as 445' is the Base Flood Elevation.
- 6. Coastal Zones
 - a. Coastal zones would not be adversely affected under the proposed action alternative since the project is not located within a coastal zone management area.
- 7. Socioeconomic Factors
 - a. The proposed alternative would have a positive long-term impact on employment, income, population, housing, public health and safety, and social services.
- 8. Cultural Resources
 - a. Environmental Assessment indicates that an immediate halting of construction activities is required if workers discover a cultural site or cultural artifacts, and to follow procedures as directed by NAGPRA and NHPA. Additionally, Appendix A documents no historic properties affected by the proposed action.
- 9. Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species
 - a. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service no threatened, endangered or rare species are normally found in the Fort Yukon area therefore no impacts would occur.
- 10. Noise
 - a. Noise during construction is a concern, however construction activities would be temporary and would generally occur between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., limiting the impact.
- 11. Air Quality
 - a. Minor, short term impacts to air quality due to dust would be anticipated during times of dry weather, however impacts would be temporary.
- 12. Land Status
 - a. The site has been leased by CATG from Gwitch'yaa Zhee Village Corporation and the Native Village of Fort Yukon for 25 years with renewal for additional terms of 15 years.

F. Agencies Consulted

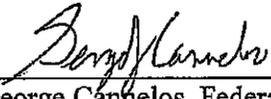
Alaska Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, the Alaska Department of Community and Economic Development and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

G. Conclusion

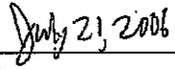
Based on its review and consultation with partner agencies, the Denali Commission has concluded that under the conditions stated in this document as mitigating measures, the environmental impacts associated with the proposed action will not significantly affect the human environment and funding should be provided to the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium for the purpose of funding the Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments to construct the regional primary care clinic in Fort Yukon, Alaska.

H. Preparer

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George Canelos, Federal Co-Chairman
Denali Commission



Date