

# BROWNFIELDS



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## What is Brownfield???

By John Carnahan, ADEC Brownfield  
Coordinator; Molly Afcan

“A brownfield is land or a building where there is a concern for contamination.

And the contamination concern stops us from using the land or building for what we want.

If we cannot do what we want, then the land or building is a brownfield.” –Molly Afcan

The following is a was report on previous newsletter: **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

## ArcGIS In Tununak

By Joey Billy

ArcGIS was completed on the 3rd day after intense 3 day crash course done by Andrew Boyscout, Director, Land Protection Consortium of Chevak.

The Nelson Isalnd Consortium from all 7 villages (Chefornak, Kipnuk, Newtok, Nightmute, Tununak) except Toksook Bay and Umkumiut Tribes joined Andrew Boyscout cin layering the Alaska Bureau of Indian Affairs GIS Start-up Workshop and Library of Calista Region map.

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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 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.



*Caninermiut/Qaluyaat-Illu ArcGIS training in Tununak*

With the exception to Brownfield Representatives, NIC Villages that attended were IGAP and IGAP Reps from Newtok and Nightmute joined the ArcGIS training.

## Nelson Island Consortium

By Joseph John, Jr.

Hello my name is Joseph John, Jr. I am a Brownfield Rep for Native Village of Newtok. I started work with the Newtok Traditional Council on September 29, 2008.

During my short tenure of employment, I traveled to San Diego for Western Brownfield Workshop and ATCEM in Anchorage. The intense training/workshop, I thought was too much information for me as I have just started working. But all the more information for the new job I have applied for was great information. The general information that I do know about the Brownfield and Brownfielding my Native area village as I found out: A piece of land and or abandoned sites that are possibly contaminated that can be re-used for green site and or for public use.

I had done the inventory for the sites are, so far: the Old B.I.A. School, the Old B.I.A., Warehouse and the Tank farm.

The Brownfield sites that I have completed, I have

noticed the sites are all close to each other and are too close to where the play deck is. This poses health risk for the community especially the younger generation. The play deck is where the kids and young adults play basketball and younger kids play around the school during summer times and during school sessions in winter. The warehouse and the tank farm are not too far away either.

I am hoping the inventories that I have completed will be Brownfielded. Because the sites are too close for ill feeling for general public to be around the sites.

The general health is a risk where the play deck is and a lot of kids go under the school, the warehouse and sometimes kids go inside the tank farm to play tag, or just play around in there (the fence around the tanks).'

## Quotes From Elder Sophie of Nightmute

By Joey Billy

I would like to thank One of the difficulty in g Monica Shelden with the Association of Village Council Presidents for the quotes taken from Sophie from Nightmute. I used the quotes to post on Brownfield Newsletter dated September 2008, Volume 1, Issue 1.

The following was an excerpts from Bureau of Indian Affairs Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act 14(h)(1) Historic and Cemetary Program. The quote was from the tape ID 83TUN008 which is an interview with late Sophie Amadius.

The interviewers during taping are Louanna Fesselmeyer and Ben Barnette, with interpreter Cecilia Fairbanks.

The interview took place in Nightmute, Alaska on July 7, 1983. Ther interview was transcribed and translated by Alice Fredson who is originally from Qipkeq, Alaska.

The transcription was reviewed and corrected

Please see *Drawing Readers Quotes From the Elder Sophie of Nightmute* on page 5

*"My grandmother taught me long ago the special places for collecting water used in healing teas." Unknown author*

## Brownfield in Newtok

By Joseph John, Jr.-Newtok

In Newtok, like many other surrounding villages, there is a dump that may have been contaminated and needs to be brownfielded, I think our dump site here is contaminated with chemicals from lack of community control and education. There were a lot of home appliances: refrigerators, freezers, and home electronics that have been dumped there before.

Some of the electronics and appliances have now been put in storage for recycling. And some had been sent to Bethel Recycling Center for further processing.

The Newtok Traditional Council IGAP Department has been taking care of the recycling for the community for the past few years. This is from years of trainings, workshops, conferences that the information have put forth in our village. Also, getting the information to the community. With the community effort the IGAPs have been storing possible contaminant junks to be recycled.

## 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 Clifford Usugan*

Some elders here used to say that the grounds here were not contaminated before modern conveniences and now the contaminants are difficult to ignore.

In the past, during subsistence the people used to dig underground to dispose of the trash. Where ever they went, they had to bring along their nonperishable trash and dumped them properly, respecting their hunting and fishing grounds.

Nowadays, the people here are dumping anything

Please see *Everyone Brownfield in Newtokon* page 4

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*

The q & a's that was stressed during the opening session from the attendees asked good questions. The concern was: the trails between the villages during white outs during winter time, stranded out in the open sea during summer time was the concern. By this knowledge on layering the maps and the use of gps would be traceable on the maps.

I was impressed to see what Andrew had done

*Tight Space from page 3*

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

*“The bones of an animal and the sea shells were disposed of underground up on the hill on separate ditches, that way the environment kept clean. The Walrus were cleaned in one spot also, keeping the environment clean.”*

with his work with the Chevak area map. From the layout, there are revines, rivers, and creeks that he created using the ArcGIS commands in layers. Also, the villages from his area were placed on the map. This is great work that he done.

The impression that I got from the attendees was great, ready to learn and with the first command, I saw smiles as we went along. I was impressed!

We had to starte late during the first day of training. The staff of NIC Villages, some did not make it time due to weather not cooperating. I asked Andrew if he wanted to start later as couple of the Brownfield Representatives were on their way to Tununak and I did not want the Representatives miss out on vital information on ArcGIS training.e

The second day of training was not too difficult I thought. The layering part with the new commands made it easeier to deal with. We were semi-on our own working with the map that were downloaded.

*Everyone Brownfield in Newtok from*

~~page 3~~ the dumpsite and not recycling what needs to be recycled.

The IGAP Department had announced on VHF that they would collect used marine batteries, batteries, and other electronics to be recycled.

Besides brownfielding the dump site, this past week I have done inventories for the old BIA School, warehouse, tank farm and the old water well that was used by the BIA School. I am hoping that all the inventories that I had completed will warrant brownfielding the sites.

*Drawing Readers Quotes from the Elder Sophie of Nightmute* from page 2  
by Monica Sheldon who is originally from Alarneq, Alaska by January 10, 2007.

As it is ascribed during the interview, number 83TUN008 Interview:

Louanna: Can she name any of the people who lived there?

Cecilia: Ah, tamaani-qaa, ah, yuut kinkut tayim' tamaantelallret atrit qanruteksuumaaten igauninka? <Ah, may you tell [us] the names of the people who lived there so I can write them down?>

Sophie: Yullret-wa tua-I yullret atrit nalluyaguskenka tayima. Yullrit nun...nunallret makut yullrit nangengameng. Nalluyagulluki tayim' yuut. <I have forgotten the names of people that died. The people who lived in these old villages are gone. I have forgotten the people.>

Cecilia: Nallunrilkengaten tougaam atret atrit taugaam. <Only the names of the people you know.>

Sophie: Nallunrilkenganka. Nauwa yuut? Nallunrill... nallunritellruyaaqekena nalluyaguskenka tayima yuullrit tengernanriamki ak'a. Tangernanrirluki. Ukut taugaam tua-I nunalgukaraanka nalluvkenaki.

*"The sea shells were recycled for warring purposes. They were used as shields in ancient days."*

<The ones I know. Where are the people? I knew the ones who lived there, but I have forgotten them, because I do not see them anymore. I do not see them anymore. I only know the people who live here in my village.>

Louanna: Maybe if people ... were people she was visiting a family?

Cecilia: Kinkut kinkut-mi tamakut cenirtelallrusiki? <Who were the people you visited?>

Sophie: Cenirtelallrusia-qaa? <Who did I visit?>

Cecilia: Yaah.

Sophie: Yugnun-wa tua-I yugnun seningssaaralallrulrianga tam... tama.. tamakut nunat yuitnun yural... yuraliya'argata allanruaqama. Nangengameng tua-I, atrit-llu nailuyagulluki. Kit... kingkuucillrat nalluyagulluki. <I visit the people who lived in those villages. When we went to the festivals I would be their guest. They are all gone, and I have forgotten their names. I have forgotten who they were.>

g Cecilia: She can't remember. It's been too long.

Sophie: Ukut taugaam tua-I nunalgutenka nalluvkenaki ugkut-llu nunat Tuqsugmiut. Yullret augkut tua-I tamakut tayim' nauwa? Nalluyagulluki tangernanriamki. <I only know the people living in my village and in the village of Tuqsuk [USGS Toksook]. The people that have died, where are they? I have forgotten them, because I do not see them anymore.>

Cecilia: The only people she knows now are the people that are living here. She's forgotten a lot of them.

Louanna: It's hard to remember.

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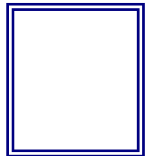
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