

North Slope Borough

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Josiah A. Patkotak, Mayor

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

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January 3, 2025

ANAKTUVUK PASS WATER AND SEWER

On December 25, 2024, North Slope Borough public works identified a leak in the water and sewer system. From that day we've have been limiting service throughout the village of Anaktuvuk Pass as a whole. Services have been shut down with scheduled pressure service twice per day to reduce the amount of water lost through the leaks on the system. The scheduled pressure tests will happen at 8am and 6pm for one hour for each loop. Operators put a boil water notice in effect with the shutdowns affecting all of Anaktuvuk Pass.

Our water leaks are outstripping our ability to make potable water. We cannot keep up with losses when making water and keeping the village in circulation. To keep water for flushing and critical needs we must still shut down the water distribution piping to keep water in the storage tank. We have been flushing twice a day to keep the main lines from freezing. We lose most of our water during those flushes. Leaving the system in circulation, always on, would run us dry in less than ½ a day.

We have 4 excavations open in village. 3 near the water plant and health clinic and one on the north side of the bridge. Two excavations have exposed piping and two remain to expose pipe. Those two that exposed piping allowed the construction of a temporary bypass to restore pressure service to part of the south side of town. The school now has water service.

Additional underground personnel will arrive on Saturday, January 4, 2025, to assist with digging, thawing, water delivery, and any tasks required by the utilities system specialist or current underground crew. New equipment includes a steamer (both new and existing), a mini excavator, and a jackhammer attachment. Operations has successfully deployed charters from both Anchorage and Fairbanks, with more available as needed. One more charter is being manifested as of this time.

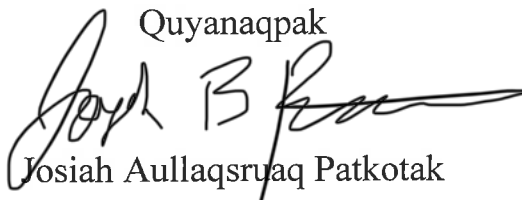
Now that the first bypass at Fire Hydrant 8 to the water plant is complete, the focus will shift to addressing other leaks on Contact Street and south of the school on Summer Street. A similar bypass plan is being implemented for the north loop, with Arctic water hose being ordered for the north side to selectively restore pressure service, except for Contact Street, which has a large leak.

As of January 3, 2025, the current service outages include the north side of town and select areas on the south side, specifically Maptegak Street, Illinois Street (between Maptegak and Summer), and Summer Street (from Illinois Street south). These areas should experience water pressure twice a day during flushing activities. Residents are encouraged to use the local Facebook page to report whether or not they have water and sewer service during the flushing process.

Water is available to all residents. The water plant is open to the public everyday until 12:00am. Bring the container that has been provided to you. If you have not received one, please request one from the water plant or the City of Anaktuvuk Pass. We are expecting more supplies including honey buckets, trash bags, pinesol, water jugs, and bottled water.

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work to resolve this situation. The progress remains slow and we are taking the situation day by day. If there are any significant updates, we will keep you informed.

The North Slope Borough remains committed to the safety and well-being of all residents. Thank you for your cooperation.

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Josiah Aullaqsruaq Patkotak