

# North Slope Borough

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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*Josiah A. Patkotak, Mayor*

## PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

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**January 6, 2025**

### NUIQSUT VACUUM SEWER COLLECTION

On December 28, 2024, a power outage took down the computer running the Nuiqsut Vacuum Collection Station. Public Works, via Search and Rescue, immediately dispatched an electrician to support water and sewer operators in response to the outage. The collection system operation was restored at approximately 6 pm the same day. The computer could not be restored, and operators are manually operating the collection system.

Operators are turning on the vacuum pumps at regular intervals to maintain sewage collection in Nuiqsut. However, vacuum pressure in the Mains may drop between cycles. If residents experience slow draining or backups, they should contact the Water Plant Operators for investigation. On Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup> a controls contractor is scheduled to arrive with a replacement computer to restore automatic vacuum pump operation, and restoring normal vacuum collection. Once this work is complete, the vacuum station will return to normal function.

In addition to the vacuum station outage, multiple leaks in the vacuum collection system were discovered on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025. The underground contractor has sent staff to assist operators in locating the leak with more expected January 7<sup>th</sup>. Operators have closed the valve at Nigliq Street and Second Avenue to reduce the number of affected services. Ten homes on Nigliq Street do not have continuous vacuum sewer collection. The excessive usage of drains in this area may cause sewage spills or backups in homes. Operators are opening the valve at 12:00AM and 1:00pm, this may affect vacuum for the entire community.

Supplies including honey buckets, trash bags, and Pinesol are available for affected homes. Residents can reach out to Public Works or the water plant for these items. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work to resolve these issues. 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