

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development

Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)

Grant Recipient: Bristol Bay Borough

Project Title:

Project Type: New Construction and Land Acquisition

Bristol Bay Borough - Bear Proof Fencing for Landfill

State Funding Requested: \$60,000

House District: 37 / S

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

Electric fencing around the landfill to exclude bears for the safety of landfill workers and users

Funding Plan:

Total Cost of Project: \$60,000							
	<u>Funding Secured</u>		<u>Other Pending Requests</u>		<u>Anticipated Future Need</u>		
	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	
State Funds					\$50,000	2011	
Local Funds	\$10,000	2010					
Total	\$10,000				\$50,000		

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

On September 28, 1989, the Bristol Bay landfill located on the Alaska Peninsula Highway between King Salmon and Naknek was given a permit by the Department of Environmental Conservation as a Class II landfill; one of 16 in the State. They certified that at the current use pattern, the landfill has capacity for another 100 years. It has a building with a bailer to compact the refuse which allows for more capacity. It, also, is a collection site for recycling of batteries, antifreeze, and aluminum used for school fund raising activities. This landfill has become a regular spot for bears and they are causing damage to the facilities and danger to the people. The bears dig up the buried, processed bails of garbage, feed on it and the garbage gets strewn around the landfill vicinity. They have become very brazen and are not frightened by the normal deterrent methods and each year it is becoming more difficult to keep them away. Various non-lethal methods of deterring bears have been tried without success. These methods include: alarms, seal bombs and rubber bullets.

The Bristol Bay Borough Landfill's garbage is attracting brown bears and the brown bears are feeding on the garbage – this is a public safety problem. Having brown bears feeding on the landfill garbage, becoming accustomed to human garbage as food, and brown bears traveling long distances through residential neighborhoods to get to the landfill are public safety problems that can be corrected. The landfill is open five days per week in the summer and processes 45-55 bales of solid waste per day, with each bale weighing 3,500 pounds. In the winter months, 60 bales per month are processed.

Many other Alaskan landfills have installed electric fences and solved their bear, wolf, coyote, dog and fox problems. The Borough has decided to use the same proactive approach to correcting our bear problem and plans on installing and maintaining a permanent, electric deterrent fence to encompass the entire area of the landfill.

The process will be approached in stages and most important is to educate the community before any installation work is done. The community needs to be aware that this is a learning process for the bears and will take time. Meanwhile,

For use by Co-chair Staff Only:

\$60,000
Approved

5:18 PM 5/4/2010

garbage collection and placement must be followed to a strict set of rules not only at the landfill site, but at each landowner's site. The community must also be made aware of possible increased "traffic" as the bears are being made to stay away from their old food collection area and temporarily looking for alternative areas.

The installation of the project is planned for September 2010, after the bear population has decreased at the landfill and after the fence line is cleared. The electric fence will surround the expanse of the landfill property which is approximately 16,000 linear feet and will include two drive-over electric mats that would be placed at the landfill building and/ or one of the gates. The fence will be maintained and inspected on a regular basis to increase its sustainability.

This has to been found to be the best solution for the community and the processing of solid waste. It will prove to prevent dangerous bear encounters for the landfill staff and the communities of the Bristol Bay Borough. During the summer of 2009, landfill staff were charged by bears on more than nine occassions. Additionally, members of the public are known to trespass onto the landfill during closed hours to view the bears. This situation is very dangerous and could easily result in bears attacks on these persons. Not only will the threats to public health and safety be addressed, but also unsanitary conditions when the bears have unearthed the buried garbage bails and possibly hazardous materials.

Goals and Objectives (the community need served by this project)

This project will reduce the impact related to threats to public health by providing a safer environment for the public to dispose of their garbage at the landfill site and reducing the chances of dangerous bear encounters. In effect, the community members will feel encouraged to make more frequent disposals at the landfill thereby alleviating habit of accumulating bagged garbage sitting around the home for longer periods of time, thus attracting the bears to their homes.

The landfill operational efficiency is improved upon as there will be less interruptions to workflow due to time needed to repair damage caused to the facility by the bears and time when it is essential to stop the task at hand and get safely away from the bears. Once the bears are kept out of the landfill area, there will be no unearthed garbage bails to be re-buried and tasks to be duplicated. It is also possible that community exposure to locally generated hazardous waste will be decreased because the bears are kept away from moving it out of place.

Project Timeline:

Notice of Legislative funding-Spring, 2010
 Publish "Request for Proposal" for providing landfill fencing- June, 2010
 Select vendor for providing materials and labor- July, 2010
 Construct fencing: August-September - 2010.

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Bristol Bay Borough

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

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Total Project Snapshot Report

FY 2011 Capital Budget

TPS Report 54169v2

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? Yes No