TCC receives emergency housing grants for flood victims

Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) has been awarded a \$230,000 Emergency Housing Assistance Grant from the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation to build temporary emergency housing for families who lost their homes in the Koyukuk flooding.

According to Todd Hoener, Housing Services Director for TCC, Hughes was not originally designated for new temporary housing. "The disaster people viewed Hughes' housing damage as more rehab. When the crew realized some houses were irreparable, AHFC said they wanted to help with temporary housing relief. AHFC has been very responsive."

TCC will use the money to build three log homes that will blend into the village environment. They will be modest, functional, energy efficient, and built on Triodetic foundations. The foundations have been used for nearly 10 years in northern Canada and proved to be functional in a number of different soil and climate conditions. Hoener said, "We thought this type of foundation was the answer, considering the remote site, the climate, and the labor skill needed. They're metal and go up very fast in cold weather with unskilled labor. They're stable and should even withstand a flood."

TCC plans to build eight permanent housing units for Hughes, using funds from HUD's Indian HOME Program and AHFC's Loans to Sponsors Program. Once the families are relocated in permanent housing, TCC will turn the emergency houses over to a tribe of Hughes and will facilitate an education program on how to care for the buildings.