

Eight villages to get grants for wastewater

SEATTLE — Eight Alaska Native villages will receive a total of \$5.5 million for construction of wastewater treatment projects, according to Robie G. Russell, regional administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency in Seattle.

"The Alaskan villages account for more than 25 percent of the nation's Indian wastewater needs," Russell said. "Many disease outbreaks in the villages are a direct result of inadequate waste disposal."

Villages included are McGrath, Koyuk, Sheldon Point, Gambell, Nikolai, Kongiaganak, Selawik and Lower Kalskag. Huslia was selected earlier this year as one of five model projects for the new program.

The Alaska villages were among 26 projects totaling almost \$18 million.

The 1976 amendments to the Clean Water Act created an opportunity for the grant program to help pay for planning, design and building of wastewater treatment systems to serve Indian tribes.

In 1988 the act was further amended to make Alaska Native villages eligible to receive the grants.

The work to be done in the villages will be managed by the U.S. Public Health Service and the Alaska State Department of Environmental Conservation.