

The Case: Goodbye Honey Buckets

“More than 20,000 rural Native residents in Alaska live in communities without running water and where homes, local government offices, commercial buildings and even medical clinics use plastic buckets for toilets--euphemistically called 'honey buckets.' The waste from these toilets is often spilled in the process of hauling it to disposal sites, and these spillages have led to the outbreak of epidemic diseases such as Hepatitis A.”

An Alaskan Challenge: Native Village Sanitation, US Congress, 1994

Even in 2018, there are still villages without a municipal sewer system. John Kepaaq is a member of the Tribal Council in Icy Valley and he is concerned about the type of sewer system that is being considered. Everyone in northern Alaska has heard stories about outside developers who did not realize the unique problems of construction in the arctic.

Icy Valley is a village of about 200 people who know what it is like to live with permafrost, darkness, and long cold winters.

John wants to be sure that the sewage system proposed for their village is appropriate for the cold temperatures and safe for the tundra environment.



Case Author:
Lana McNeil University of Rural Alaska, 2002

CASE ANALYSIS SHEET

1. Recognize potential issues and major topics in the case What is this case about?
Underline and list terms or phrases that seem to be important.
Then, list 3-4 topics or issues presented in the case.

2. What specific questions do you have about these topics? At first by yourself, and later in a group, list what you already know about this case in the "What Do I Know?" column. List questions you would like to learn more about in the "What Do I Need to Know?" column.

What Do I Know?	What Do I Need to Know?

3. With your group, choose 1-3 questions or issues in the "What do I need to know?" list that you think are most important to explore. Do the same for things your group already knew.

4. What kinds of references or resources will help you answer or explore these questions? Identify two different resources and explain what information each resource is likely to give that will help you answer the question(s). Choose specific resources or types of resources.