

ALASKA NATIVE VILLAGE CORPORATION ASSOCIATION

House Resources Committee



About Us

- Created in 2008 by founding member The Kuskokwim Corporation
- Consists of Full-Paid, and Affiliate level Alaska Native Village Corporations created under ANCSA – 176 left
- 9-member Board of Directors – has to be a CEO, Chair, or COO of the Organization
- Partner Organizations – Committed partners who value their relationship with Village Corporations

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Mission and Vision

Mission

ANVCA promotes the success of our Village Corporations and protection of our Native lands.

Vision

The vision of ANVCA is to support the mission with projects and activities that provide:

- Education to Village Corporations
- Advocacy for Village Corporations
- Outreach to and inclusion of Village Corporations statewide
- Village Corporation sustainability

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The Village Corporations are important to the Alaska Economy

- Alaska Business Monthly ranks the top 49 Alaskan owned businesses every year
- In 2016, **19%** of the total revenue on the list were from Alaska Native Village/Urban Corporations
- When we add the regionals on the list it jumps to **73%**

Company	Rank
Chenega Corp.	4
Ukpeagvik Inupiat Corp.	9
Olgoonik Corp.	14
Goldbelt Inc.	15
Sitnasuak Native Corp.	24
Tanadgusix Corp.	26
The Kuskokwim Corp.	34
Cape Fox Corporation	41

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Our Board

Nathan McCowan – Chair	President/CEO St. George Tanaq	Aleut Region
Jana Turvey – Vice Chair	President/CEO Leisnoi, Inc.	Koniag Region
Nancy Andrew – Secretary Treasurer	President/CEO St. Mary’s Native Corporation	Aleut Region
Tony Cange - Director	President/CEO Seldovia Native Association	CIRI Region
Charles W. Totemoff – Director	President/CEO Chenega Corporation	Chugach Region
Ron Philemonoff	CEO TDX Corporation	Aleut
Curtis McQueen – Director	President/CEO Eklutna Inc.	CIRI Region
Anne Thomas - Director	President Chitina Native Corporation	Ahtna Region

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Programs

- ANVCA Networking Events
- ANVCA Fishnet Lunches
- Legislative Fly-in
- Committee Work
- Annual Conference and Meeting

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Advocacy

- ANCSA Lands Solutions
- Protection of Minority Owned Business Programs
- Secure a Solution for Alaska's Fiscal Future
- Support economic and infrastructure development policy projects – Federal & State
- Promote inclusion of Alaska Native representation in Arctic discussions & decisions – Federal & State
- Get Out the Native Vote

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ANVCA Networking Events

- **Juneau** reception co-hosted by AFN, ANCSA CEOs, and ANVCA
- **DC** Reception co-hosted by NCAI, NACA, AFN, ANCSA CEOs
- **Anchorage** Annual Meeting Reception

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ANVCA Fishnet Lunches

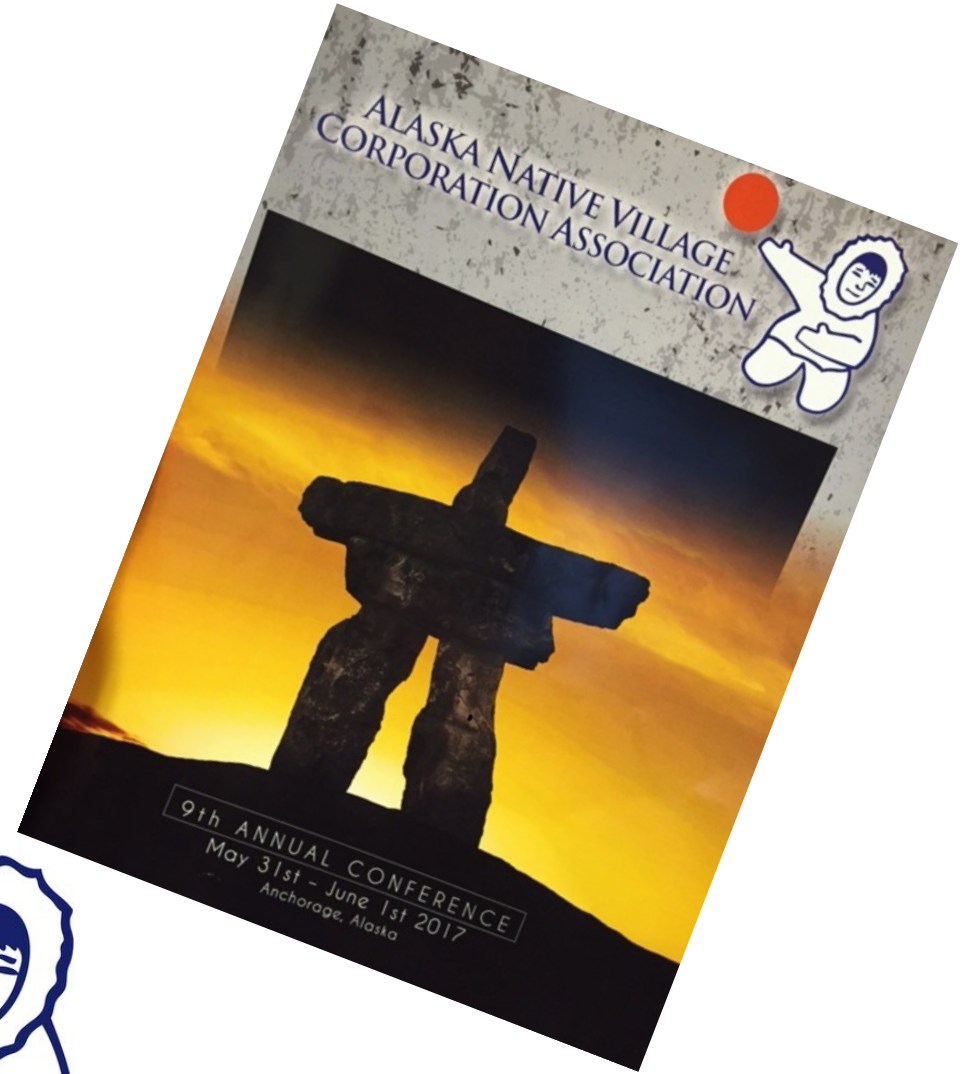
- Lunch gatherings for members and partner organizations
- Excellent Networking opportunity
- One per month
- Topics range from technical training to informational



Annual Meeting

- Over 250 attendees
- Spring (May 10 & 11)
- Over 40 speakers and topics
- Broad range of topics – How to Hire and Inspire a CEO, Board Best Practices, Federal Contracting, etc.

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Committee Work

- Legislative Committee
- Lands Committee
- Membership Committee
- Ad-Hoc working Groups – Infrastructure

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Legislative Fly-in – Juneau

- Typically in January
- Focus on Statewide issues that affect our members
- ANVCA works closely with our State Legislators to ensure that our members voices are heard



Legislative Fly-in - DC

- Around 30 participants
- 2017 had 6 teams covering 5 issues
- Over 30 meetings with key Leadership on targeted committees



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2018 Federal Legislative Priorities

1. **Protect ANCs from legal liability claims for prior contaminated ANCSA lands**
2. Address US sovereign immunity and petroleum cleanup – Secure site by site investigation funding
3. Require annual agency report to Congress on status of ANCSA cleanup efforts
4. **Prioritize the cleanup of ANCSA contaminated lands**
5. Swap ANCSA contaminated lands with federal government
6. Advance Tri-Lead Agency working group Coordinating Agency for Contaminated Lands Clean-up
7. Provide ANC businesses a preference for contracting to cleanup ANCSA lands
8. **Adopt ANCSA Clean-up Mitigation Credits in Alaska**
9. Require Minority best-effort contracting in all Public/Private infrastructure projects including guaranteed investment offerings

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2018 State Priorities

1. Protect ANCs from legal liability claims for prior contaminated ANCSA lands by amending AS46.03.822
2. Prioritize the cleanup of ANCSA contaminated lands – State Agencies
3. Support the return of 14C ANCSA Lands from the State to Village Corporations who elect to not have a borough or municipality in their Village
4. Support the Stand For Alaska Initiative
5. Ensure Local content in any state-wide infrastructure (Capital) projects as well as Operations and Maintenance contracts

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ANCSA Contaminated Lands - Timeline

- **1971** – ANCSA passes
- **1990** – Alaska Native Community raises red flag that BLM is conveying contaminated lands as part of ANCSA settlement
- **1991** – Secretary of Interior is required through the DOI Appropriations Act to report to Congress on contaminated lands conveyed through ANCSA

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ANCSA Contaminated Lands - Timeline

- **1998** - DOI Report to Congress titled *Hazardous Substance Contamination of Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act Lands in Alaska*. Report identifies **over 650** sites that require remediation, provides six recommendations.
 1. Establish a forum of ANCSA landowners and Federal, State, local and Tribal agencies for exchanging information, discussing issues, and setting priorities;
 2. Compile a coordinated, comprehensive inventory of contaminated sites with input from all parties;
 3. Apply EPA policies to ANCSA landowners, not to impose landowner liability to federal transferees for contamination existing at the time of conveyance, where the landowner has not contributed to the contamination;
 4. Analyze the data collected and report to Congress on sites not covered in existing programs and recommend whether further Federal programs or actions are needed;
 5. Modify policies, where needed, to address contaminants and structures that may affect public health and safety on ANCSA lands; and
 6. Continue to develop, under the leadership of the EPA and any other relevant agencies, a process to train and enable local residents to better participate in cleanup efforts.

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ANCSA Contaminated Lands - Timeline

- **2012** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) passes Resolution 12-42 “supports the introduction and enactment of federal legislation acknowledging that the federal government is financial responsible for the remediation of contaminated lands conveyed pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.”
- **2013** Alaska Delegation sends letter to DOI Secretary Sally Jewel requesting update on DOI’s 1998 ANCSA contaminated lands report to Congress

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ANCSA Contaminated Lands - Timeline

- **2014** - Public Law 113-235 Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015 requires the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to report to Congress on contaminated lands conveyed through ANCSA.
- **2016** - BLM Report to Congress titled *Hazardous Substance Contamination of Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act Lands in Alaska: 2016 Update to the U.S. Department of the Interior 1998 Report to Congress*. Report identifies **537** sites that require remediation, **acknowledges BLM has not taken action on much of its 1998 Report recommendations to Congress.**

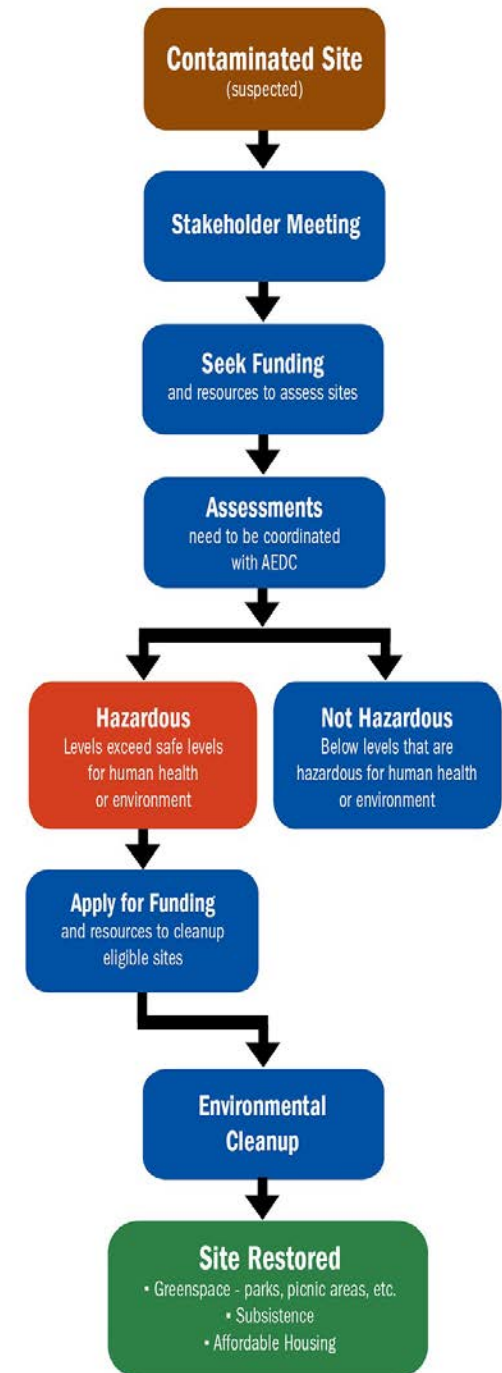
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What Happened Next?

- 2016 Strategic task Force – ANCSA Contaminated Lands Resource Guide
- EPA, DOI, and DEC lead agencies of ANCSA Steering Committee under Statement of Cooperating Agencies
- 2017 continued Advocacy in DC and at home
- 2017 Establish a formal Workgroup to Develop criteria to prioritize remediation of ANCSA Contaminated Sites facilitated by ANTHC Tribal Response Program funded by EPA

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2017 Continued Advocacy

- 2017 legal Analysis – Funded by Alaska Community Foundation, gives options for ANCs holding contaminated sites
- Creative Solutions – Grants and clean-up dollars are drying up, we have to come up with different ways to fund
- Clean-up credits could be a way to get there in this administration
- Working group being formed with key stakeholders

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2017 Continued Advocacy

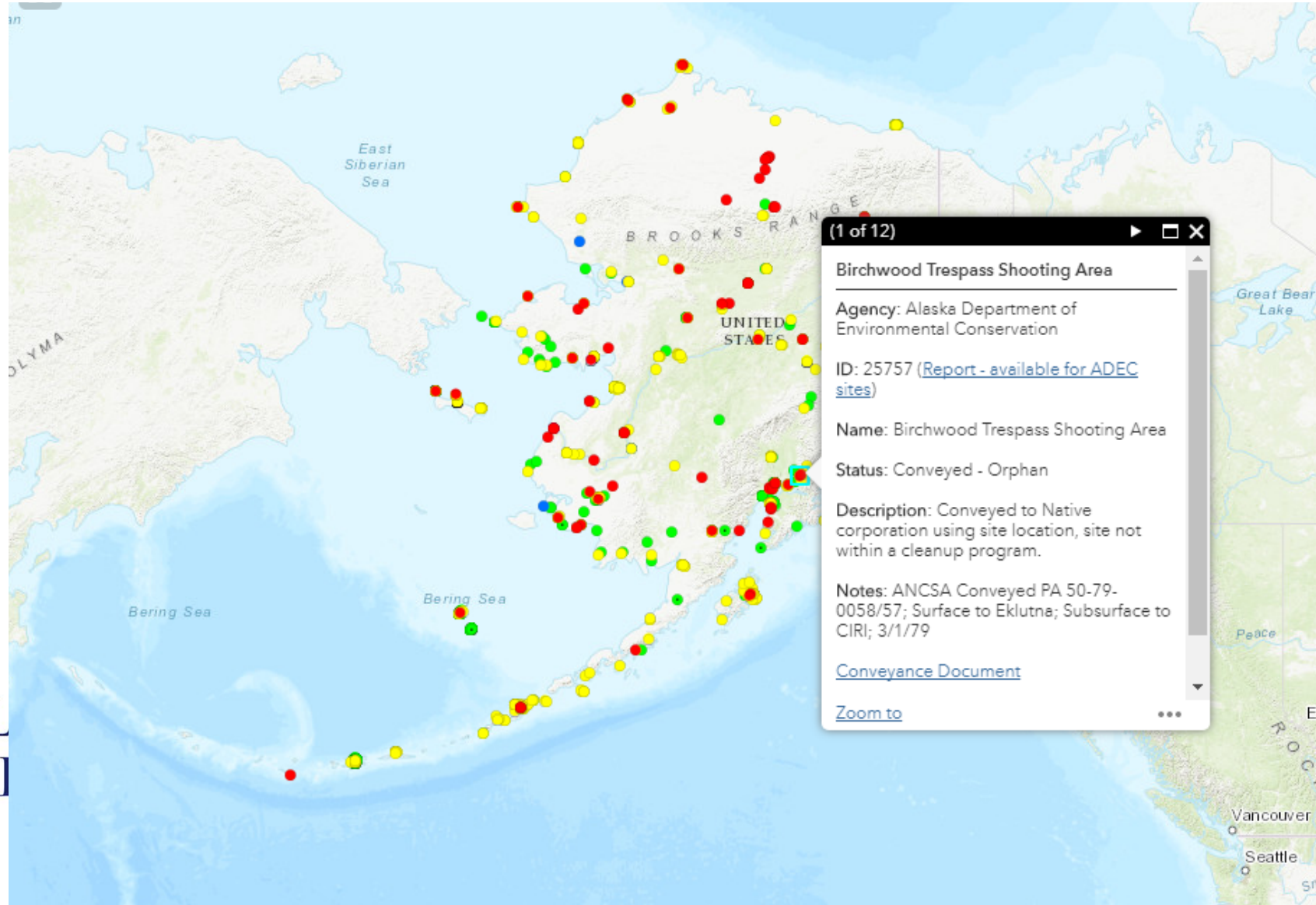
- ANVCA Invited to testify in front of the Environment and Public Works Committee in March 2017
- Bi-partisan Senate Bill 822 is introduced by Senator Inhofe – “To amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 to modify provisions relating to grants, and for other purposes.”
- Senator Dan Sullivan, working closely with ranking Senator Tom Carper, introduces amendment language to S. 822 in July
- Environment and Public Works Committee is so inspired by Ms. Lukin’s testimony, the entire committee comes to Alaska in late August, where ANVCA presented again

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ANCSA Contaminated Lands Inventory

created by the
lays locations (as of
ng contaminated



sites in the State of Alaska that have been conveyed to ANCSA corporations. The map has the capability to provide basic site information with links to conveyance information. For contaminated sites overseen by the State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), a link to the ADEC cleanup chronology report is also available. Zoom in to identify a site and click on the circle icon to get information about that site.

Sites within four databases (State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation-Contaminated Sites Program, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Formally Used Defense Sites, Federal Aviation Administration and U.S. Air Force) were reviewed by the BLM for an ANCSA corporation conveyance determination. The Orphan Sites within the inventory were derived from a series of meetings facilitated by the BLM in conjunction with ANCSA corporations and agency representatives whose databases were reviewed. Orphan sites are sites that have been conveyed to an ANCSA corporation and have been initially determined to not be in a current cleanup program.

- Orphan
- In Cleanup Program
- Informational
- Cleanup Complete with Institutional Controls
- Cleanup Complete

[Access the Web Feature Service \(WFS\) publication](#)

For additional information, please contact BLM Alaska:
Email: BLM_AK_AKSO_Public_Room@blm.gov
Public Information Center: 907-271-5960
Office of Communications: 907-271-5555

Address: Alaska State Office, 222 West Seventh Ave., #13
Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7504

The 2016 Report identifies the pre-transfer owners of 338 of over 530 identified sites that allegedly require additional cleanup as follows:

162	U.S. Department of Defense
51	State of Alaska / Its Political Subdivisions
42	Private Land Owners
26	Unknown
20	ANCs
16	Federal Aviation Administration
14	Non-ANCSA Native Entities
7	Other Federal Agencies

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Who is Responsible?

According to the 2016 report:

The Department of Defense and other pre-transfer owners and operators retain responsibility for addressing contamination that occurred during their ownership or operation of the sites. For example, the 2016 Report to Congress states:

“The DoD ... retains responsibility for addressing contamination resulting from releases on those sites that occurred during its administration of the lands and facilities.”

Actual cleanup of contaminated sites, however, has been extremely slow—or nonexistent.

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Call to Action

- Lifting legal liability for ANCs that received contaminated sites allows access to larger pots of clean-up funds
- Site Assessment and EPA funding in general is being reduced, we need to get creative to generate clean-up dollars
- Work with Legislature and Agency staff to develop a prioritization method to clean harmful sites that are close to Villages and their food source
- Create jobs in rural Alaska, while training local workers in remediation

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Our Ask

1. Protect ANCs from legal liability claims for prior contaminated ANCSA lands by amending AS46.03.822
2. Prioritize the cleanup of ANCSA contaminated lands – State Agencies

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Amending AS46.03.822

A Native Village or Native Corporation (as those terms are defined in section 3 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. § 1602)) that received a contaminated vessel or facility under that Act (43 U.S.C. § 1601 et seq.) shall not be liable for damages, for the costs of response, containment, removal, or remedial action, or for the additional costs of a function or service, including administrative expenses for the incremental costs of providing the function or service, or the costs of projects or activities that are delayed or lost resulting from an unpermitted release of a hazardous substance before the Native village or Native Corporation received the contaminated vessel or facility or, with respect to response costs, the substantial threat of an unpermitted release of a hazardous substance before the Native village or Native Corporation received the contaminated vessel or facility.

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