

# STATE OF ALASKA

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

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February 6, 2013

The Honorable Pete Kelly  
Co-Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 516  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

The Honorable Kevin Meyer  
Co-Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 518  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Re: Kivalina Disaster Relief and Erosion

Dear Co-Chair Kelly and Co-Chair Meyer,


During the February 5, 2013, Senate Finance Committee hearing on Senate Bill 42, the supplemental budget for FY 2013, Senator Olson asked for an update on the status of disaster relief for the community of Kivalina from the fall flooding and erosion in the area.

In the fall 2012, heavy rains caused record flows on the Wulik River, which washed away several sections of the water piping preventing Kivalina from filling the city's water tank. The Department of Military and Veteran's Affairs (DMVA) confirmed that in order to get the Kivalina water source filled to acceptable levels, response and initial recovery money was fully expended. DMVA worked with the borough and local health corporation to fill the village water tanks to the same level as the prior year, when the water utility was fully functional.

DMVA has also worked in the region to support Kivalina's efforts to select an evacuation site due to coastal erosion. These efforts are not eligible for Disaster Relief Funds. There are ongoing discussions with the Northwest Arctic Borough and the community regarding funding to assist these efforts.

Please let me know if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,



Karen J. Rehfeld  
Director