



Toksook Bay

## Current ARUC communities

- |                       |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Ambler</b>         | <b>Noorvik</b>         |
| <b>Chevak</b>         | <b>Pitkas Point</b>    |
| <b>Chignik Lagoon</b> | <b>Quinhagak</b>       |
| <b>Chignik Lake</b>   | <b>Russian Mission</b> |
| <b>Deering</b>        | <b>St. Michael</b>     |
| <b>Golovin</b>        | <b>Savoonga</b>        |
| <b>Goodnews Bay</b>   | <b>Scammon Bay</b>     |
| <b>Holy Cross</b>     | <b>Shungnak</b>        |
| <b>Kiana</b>          | <b>Sleetmute</b>       |
| <b>Kobuk</b>          | <b>South Naknek</b>    |
| <b>Kotlik</b>         | <b>Toksook Bay</b>     |
| <b>Lower Kalskag</b>  | <b>Tyonek</b>          |
| <b>New Stuyahok</b>   | <b>Upper Kalskag</b>   |
| <b>Newhalen</b>       |                        |

Each community selects a member to be on the ARUC Advisory Committee. The ARUC Advisory Committee meets four times a year, once in person and three times via teleconference to represent their community and provide direction on water and sewer operations and rates.

### Alaska Rural Utility Collaborative

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ALASKA NATIVE  
TRIBAL HEALTH  
CONSORTIUM



## Alaska Rural Utility Collaborative

Empowering communities in rural Alaska to sustainably provide safe water and sanitation services.

## What is ARUC?

The Alaska Rural Utility Collaborative (ARUC) is an Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) program that was created to manage, operate and maintain water/sewer systems in rural Alaska.

Each community system is treated as a standalone non-profit business. Money from local customers, generated from utility fees and local community and regional support, must be enough to pay the system's direct expenses. ARUC works with communities to set water/sewer rates, bill local water and sewer customers, provide supervision to local water plant operators, and more.

There are two types of membership within ANTHC's ARUC statewide program: the Assisted Billing Program and the full ARUC membership program.



Nick Epchook, ARUC operator, New Stuyahok



2015 ARUC Committee Chairman Paul Chimiugak and ARUC accounting specialist Ryan Chingliak

## Assisted Billing

This program provides enrolled communities with water and sewer system billing services and collection from customers. Fees are collected and refunded to the community, minus the monthly service fee.

### Highlights

- Processes monthly billing and shares customer account information with community partners
- Requires a 30-day commitment from ANTHC and the community
- Builds partnership for potential full ARUC membership
- Provides electrical billing services

## ARUC membership

This program provides management and operations of the water/sewer system in addition to billing services. The community must be in the Assisted Billing Program for a minimum for one year before becoming a full ARUC member.

ARUC sets rates with approval by the local community partners. Community rates are set to be self-supporting, so rates vary by location.

### Highlights

- ARUC supports activities of locally hired water plant operator(s) (and backup) in each community.
- All fuel, parts, electricity, etc. for water/sewer system are purchased through ARUC with community funds.
- ARUC enforces shut-off of non-paying customers.
- ARUC member communities meet all Rural Utility Business Advisor indicators as long as the community is current with IRS payments.
- ARUC membership is a long-term commitment with contracts automatically renewing in most cases.

***Grant funding covers the management costs of ARUC.***

***The money that customers pay from each community go back into the operations and maintenance of their own system.***