



## Swan Lake Loop Water Line Update – Unified Command Makes Progress

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Kotzebue, Alaska (Feb. 28, 2024 3:15 PM)** – The City of Kotzebue, Native Village of Kotzebue (NVOK), and Northwest Arctic Borough (NAB) are collaborating to provide updates on the frozen water lines impacting residents on Swan Lake Loop. The organizations are receiving support from NANA Regional Corporation, Maniilaq Association, Northwest Arctic Borough School District, and others.

The collaborative efforts of these organizations underscore the commitment to resolving the challenges faced by Kotzebue residents. Regular updates will be provided as the situation evolves.

#### Positive Progress:

- **Over 70% of main lines thawed:** Through collaboration with KEA, crews have successfully thawed approximately 5,800 feet of the original 7,800 feet of main water lines. This progress benefits both water and sewer lines.
- **Reduced number of affected homes:** Efforts have decreased the number of impacted homes. Currently, 51 water lines and 20 sewer lines are still affected, down from 61 and 29 respectively.

#### Ongoing efforts:

- **Thawing remaining lines:** Crews are actively working to thaw the remaining 2,000 feet of lines.
- **Water delivery system:** A "red flag" system allows residents to request water deliveries.
- **Resident support:** City staff are actively maintaining an up-to-date resident needs list through regular calls.
- **Bottled water and water tanks:** NVOK is providing bottled water and procuring an auxiliary pressurized water system for affected residents.
- **Storage and collaboration:** NAB is storing supplies for NVOK and collaborating on further assistance for the City.
- **Shower facilities:** The Northwest Arctic Borough School District, in collaboration with Parks and Recreation, is providing access to shower facilities for affected residents.
- **Laundry facilities:** Maniilaq Association is setting up laundry facilities with six washer and dryer sets and collaborating with KEA for power connections. Public notices will be posted once operational.

#### For further information or assistance:

- **Call:** City Hall at (907) 442-3401
- **Email:** customerservice@kotzebue.org