

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY;  
Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy  
**UNALAKLEET 14-PLEX ANALYSIS**

PHOTO CREDIT: Dr. John Cloud, NOAA Central Library

*"Promoting and advancing the development of healthy,  
durable, and sustainable shelter for Alaskans and other  
Circumpolar people ."*



RESEARCH | INNOVATION | EDUCATION

COLD CLIMATE HOUSING RESEARCH CENTER

**CCHRC**

A faint, grayscale photograph of a modern architectural structure with large glass windows and a grid-like pattern, serving as a background for the text.

Building Science Research

Product Testing

Policy Research

Sustainable Northern  
Communities

# The Challenges



**32.5% of the housing stock** is considered in need of major repair or **falling apart**

**74.4 %** of households are considered **drafty**

21.8% of households are unable to maintain 70° F on cold days in the winter

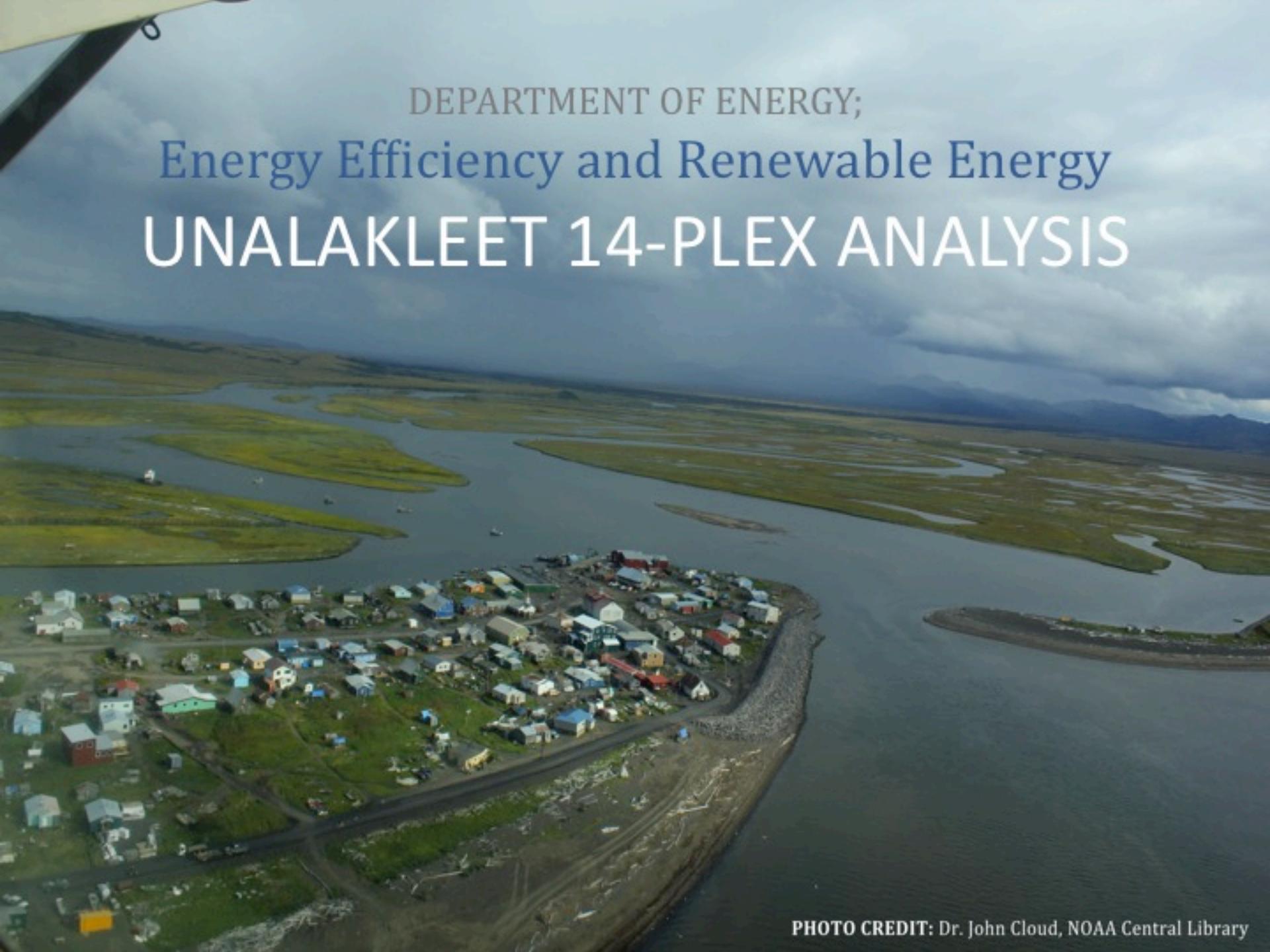
**37.4%** of households report having **mold/mildew** in the home



**Fuel oil prices** reach as high as **\$10/gallon**

**55.9%** of households have **income less than \$20,000**

Housing units exhibiting the worst conditions are occupied by those with the lowest income.



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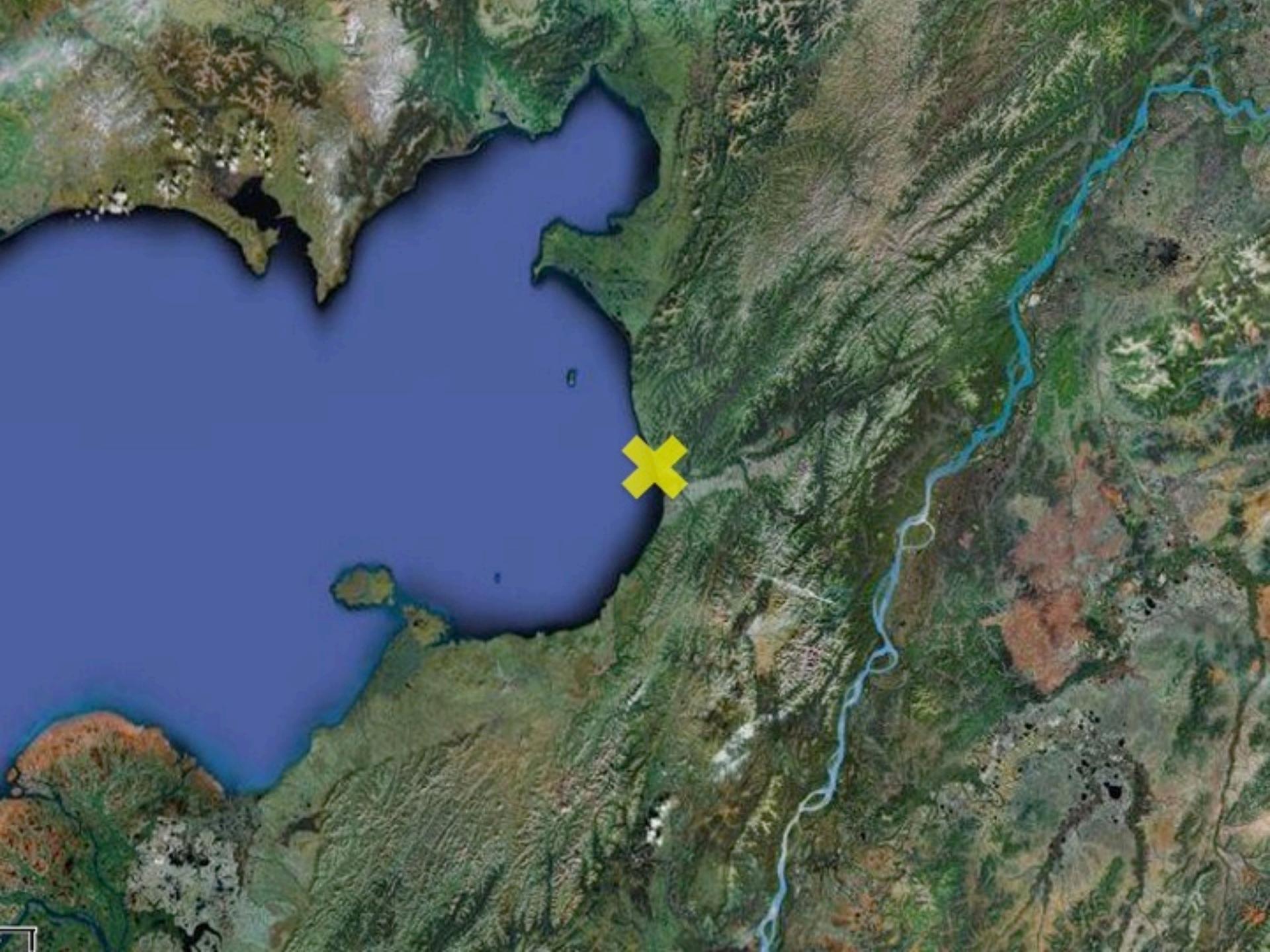
# **Feasibility Study: 14-PLEX**

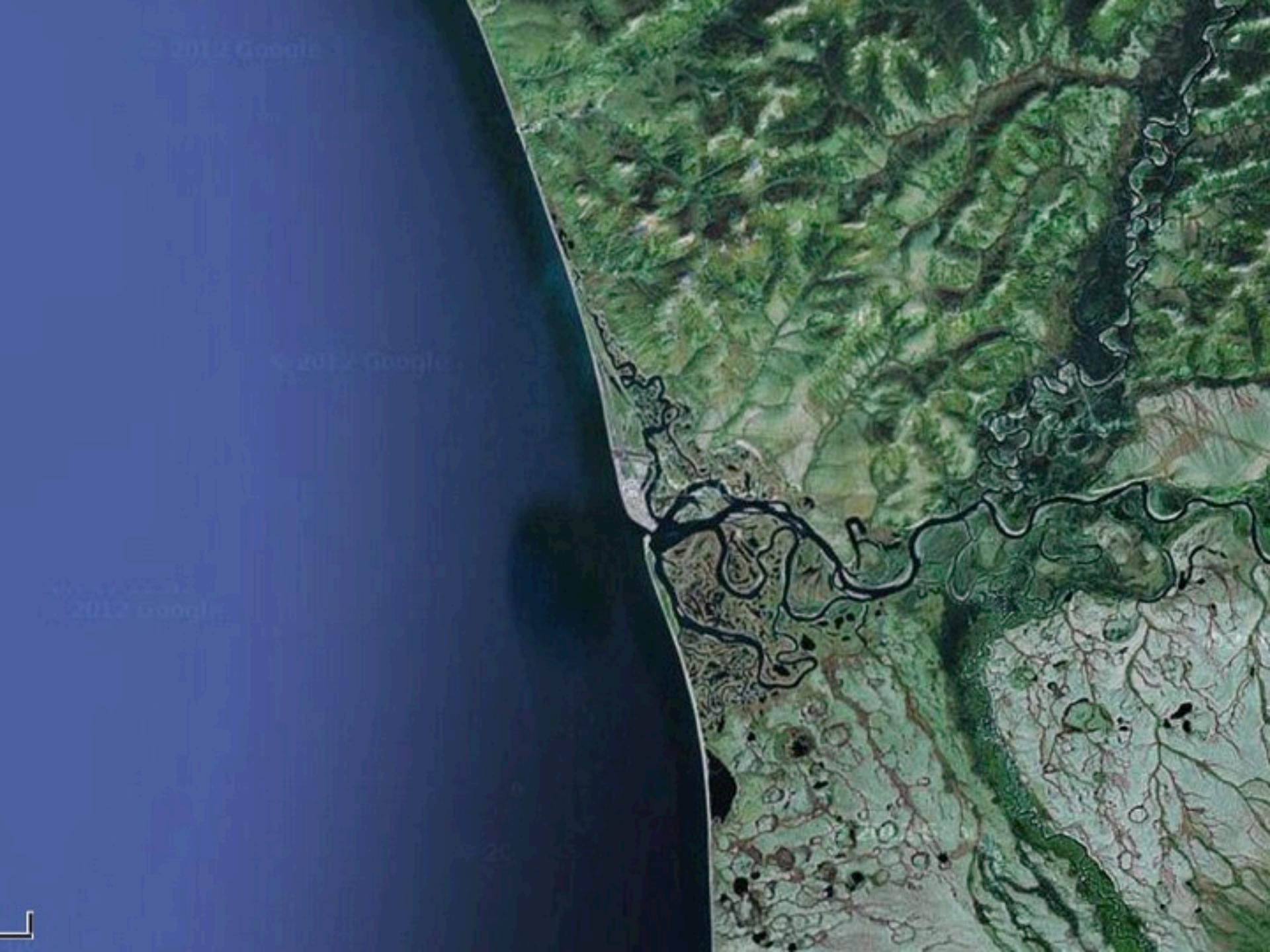
*Assess and determine the technical and economic feasibility of energy efficiency improvements to the Native Village of Unalakleet's 14 apartment building to insure much needed low income housing*

A map of Alaska showing the state outline and major islands. A yellow star marks the location of Unalakleet on the Seward Peninsula.

# UNALAKLEET













# 14-PLEX



# Building Analysis TEAM

- **Jack Hebert** (CCHRC, President and Founder)
- **Ilya Benesch** (CCHRC, Carpenter, Building Science Specialist)
- **Corey DiRutigliano** (CCHRC, Project Manager/ Architectural Designer)
- **Frank Thompson** (USKH, Structural Engineer)
- **Karl Hough** (Solutions for Healthy Breathing, Energy Rater)
- **Sheldon Katchatag** (Native Village of Unalakleet, Housing Director)



# Project Framework

- Building visit and investigation
- Steps Forward:
  - Possible futures
  - Increase efficiency
  - Set new precedents
  - Education/ workforce development

# 1970's



8 UNITS

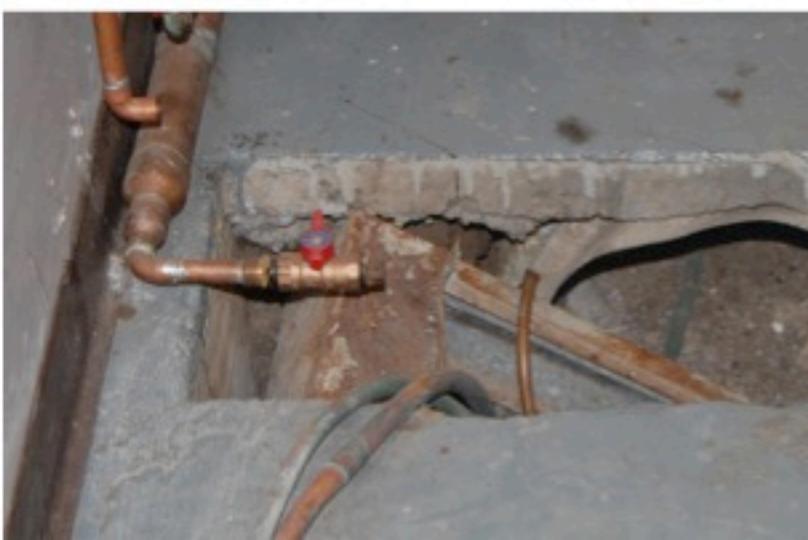
# 1980's



+6 UNITS (14 total)







# Structural

- All Weather Wood foundation on a concrete slab base
- Several noted conditions:
  - No positive drainage allowed pooling of surface water and saturation of soils
  - Minor structural deflection near the windows on the daylight-basement level



# Testing/Modeling

- Blower Door
  - Method: calibrated depressurization of the building to measure heat loss due to air leakage
- Digital Model
  - For additional analysis and design



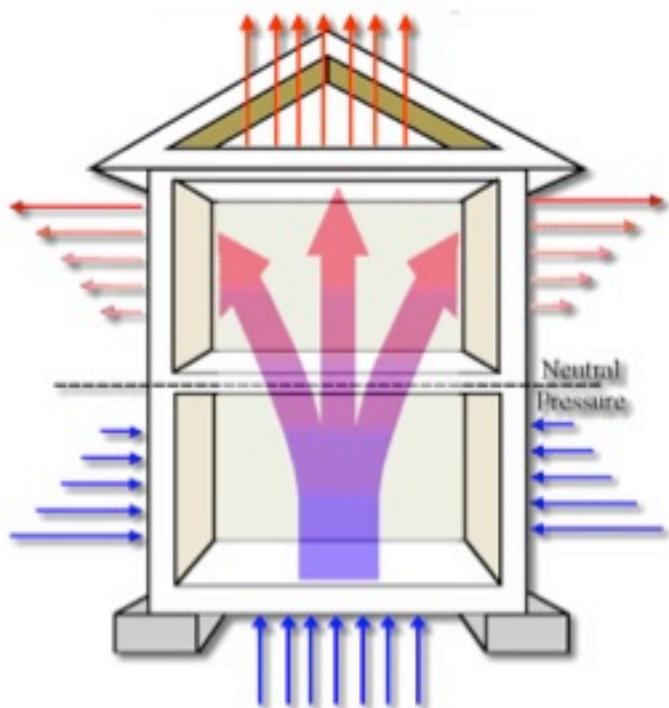
# Indoor Air Quality

- Testing for a variety of potential hazards:
  - Radon Gas
  - Volatile Organic Compounds;
  - Carbon Monoxide
  - Mold



# Occupant Comfort Levels

- Largest issues are:
  - Stack effect
  - heat stratification

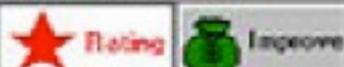


# AK WARM

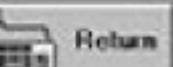


AkWarm - [SAMPLE.HOM: Energy Rating]

File View Help



Improvement Calculations Done!



Billing

Cost by Component Graph

Energy Flows

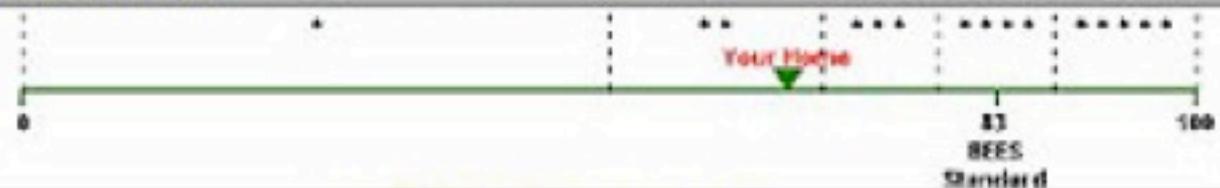
## Annual Energy Use:

Space Heating	\$805	1,265 kWh of Electricity, 1,490 ccf of Natural Gas
Water Heating	\$235	2,402 kWh of Electricity
Appliances / Lights	\$391	3,759 kWh of Electricity, 51 ccf of Natural Gas
TOTAL:	\$1,431	

Energy Rating:

85.2 Points, Two Stars Plus

Your Home



## Carbon Dioxide Emissions

26,843 Pounds per Year

Print...

Click or Use the Arrow Keys to the Select the Tab to View

# **EXISTING** Building



# **EXISTING** Building

<b>ESTIMATED ANNUAL ENERGY USE:</b>	<i>Current Building:</i>
Fuel use (gallons / year)	7,146
BTUs / year for fuel use	971,856,000
Electricity use (KWh / year):	59,541
BTUs / year for electricity use:	203,153,892
Total Combined BTUs / year:	1,175,009,892
<b>ESTIMATED ANNUAL ENERGY COSTS (\$ / year)</b>	
<b>Total Energy Costs:</b>	<b>\$56,422</b>
Space Heating:	\$27,185
<b>Water Heating:</b>	<b>\$18,938</b>
Ventilation Fans:	\$0
Lighting:	\$3,904
Refrigeration:	\$3,163
Other Electrical	\$1,867

# NOW WHAT?



# ***NEW CONSTRUCTION*** Model



# **NEW CONSTRUCTION** Model

## 2012 BEES Standard

International Energy Conservation Code (IECC)

### Alaska Climate Zones

	Zone 6
	Zone 7
	Zone 8
	Zone 9

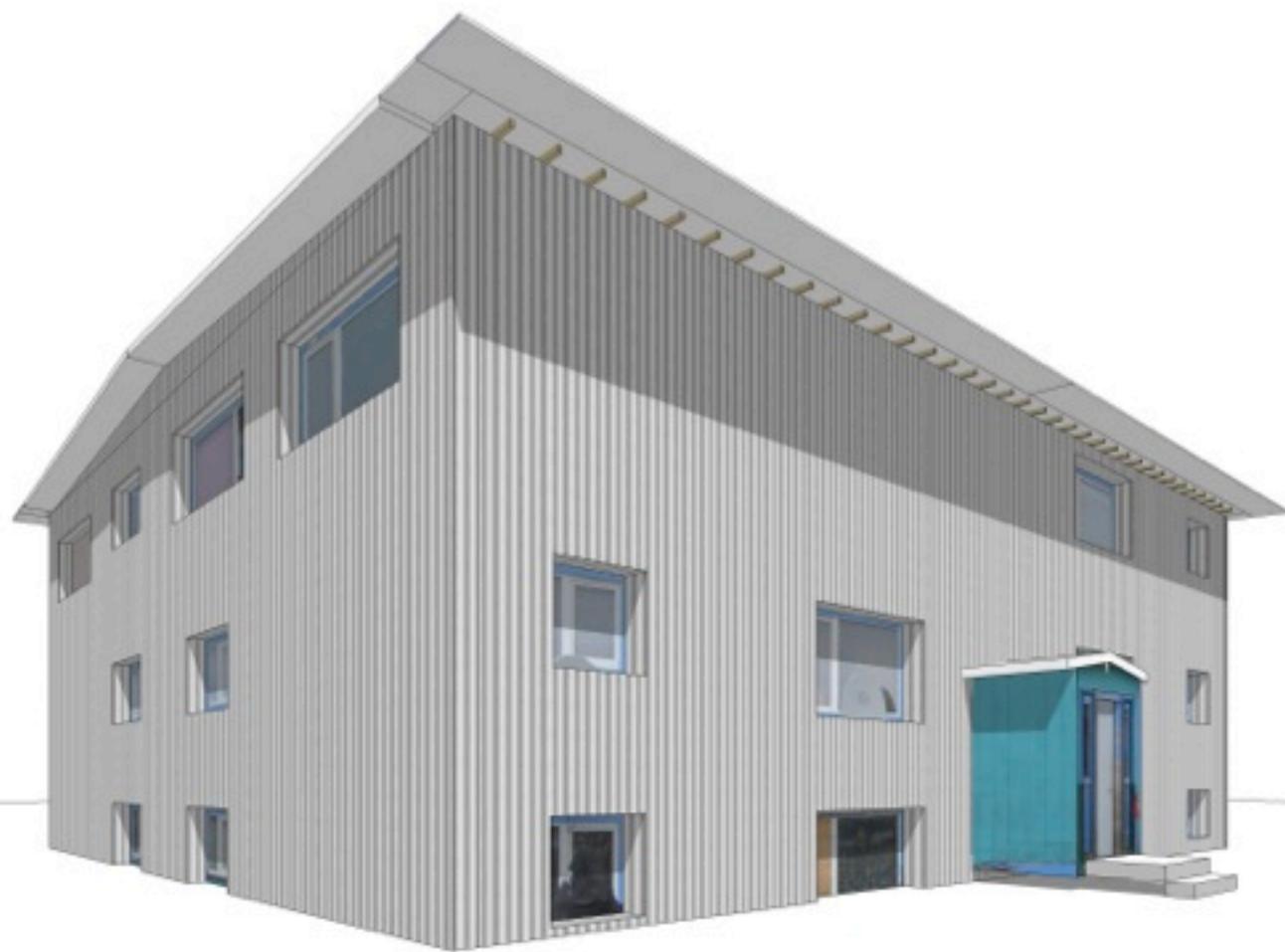


Climate Zone	8 Group R	All
Insulation entirely above deck	R-35ci	
Metal Buildings (with R-5 thermal blocks) <sup>a, b</sup>	R-30+	
Attic and other	R-11LS	
Mass	R-49	
Metal building	25ci	
Metal framed	R-21+ R-10ci	
Wood framed and other	R-13+ R-16.7ci	
Below grade wall <sup>c</sup>	R-15ci	
Mass	R-18.8ci	
Joist/framing <sup>c</sup>	R- 38/43	
Unheated slabs	R-15 for 48" below	
Heated slabs <sup>c</sup>	R-20 for 48" below	
Swinging	U-0.37	
Roll-up or sliding	R-4.75	

# **NEW CONSTRUCTION** Model

<b>ESTIMATED ANNUAL ENERGY USE:</b>	<i>New Construction, meeting BEES</i>
Fuel use (gallons / year)	6,097
BTUs / year for fuel use	829,192,000
Electricity use (KWh / year):	49,482
BTUs / year for electricity use:	168,832,584
Total Combined BTUs / year:	998,024,584
<b>ESTIMATED ANNUAL ENERGY COSTS (\$ / year)</b>	
<b>Total Energy Costs:</b>	<b>\$47,544</b>
Space Heating:	\$20,500
Water Heating:	\$18,706
Ventilation Fans:	\$102
Lighting:	\$3,686
Refrigeration:	\$1,318
Other Electrical	\$1,867

# ***CCHRC RETROFIT*** Model



# **CCHRC RETROFIT** Model

- **Reasons to RETROFIT:**

- Building is structurally sound
- Investment already in the ground
- *Logistic costs greatly reduced*
- Site/land issues have been resolved already
- People can continue to inhabit their places while construction takes place

## **THINGS to RETROFIT:**

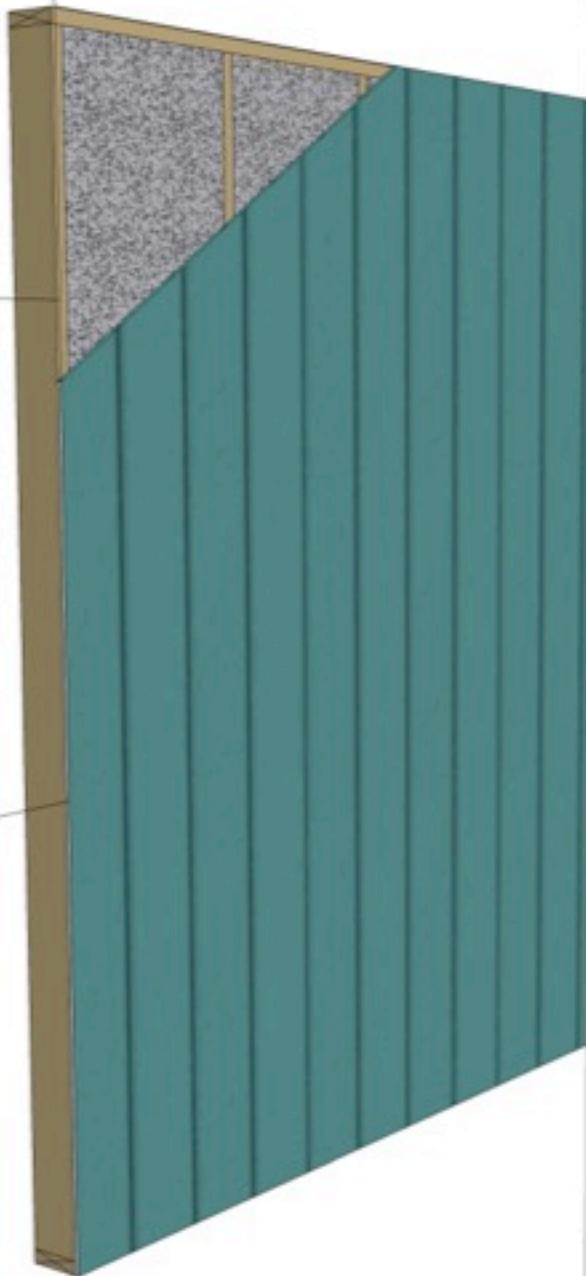
**Envelope;** walls, windows, roof

**Mechanical;** boilers, HRV, appliances

# **CCHRC RETROFIT** Model

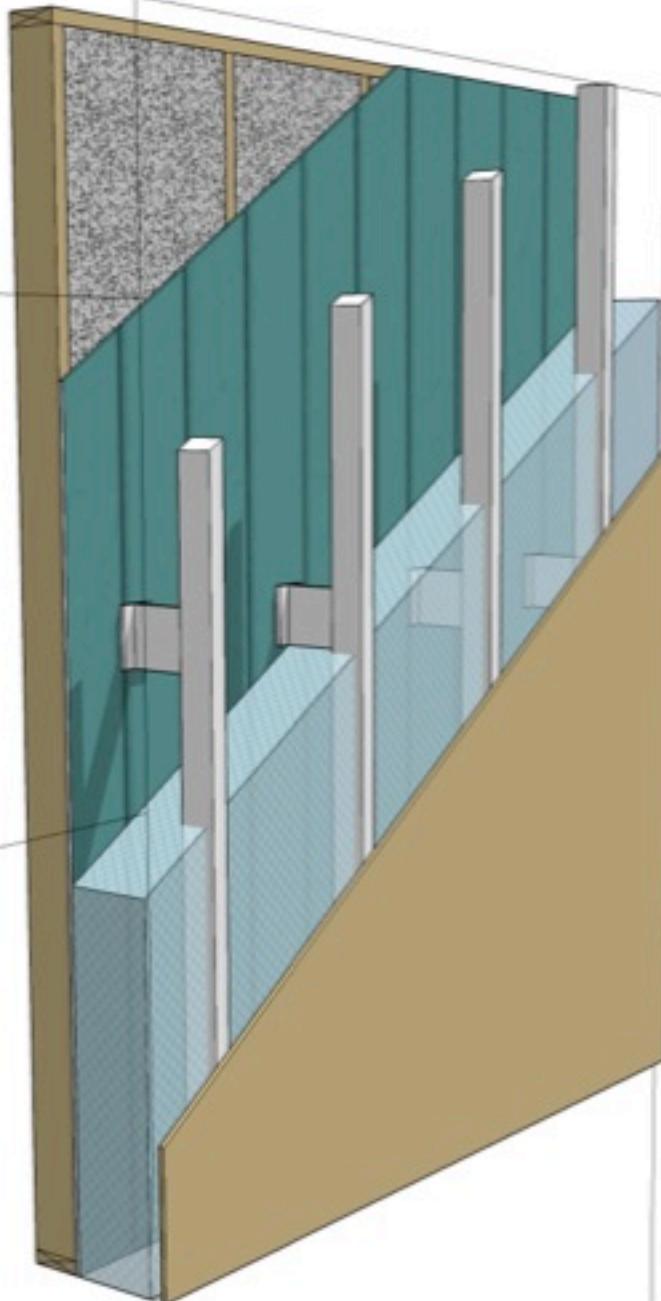
<b>ESTIMATED ANNUAL ENERGY USE:</b>	<i>CCHRC Retrofit:</i>
Fuel use (gallons / year)	4,476
BTUs / year for fuel use	608,736,000
Electricity use (KWh / year):	65,786
BTUs / year for electricity use:	224,461,832
Total Combined BTUs / year:	833,197,832
<b>ESTIMATED ANNUAL ENERGY COSTS (\$ / year)</b>	
<b>Total Energy Costs:</b>	<b>\$40,449</b>
Space Heating:	\$10,881
<b>Water Heating:</b>	<b>\$18,160</b>
Ventilation Fans:	\$1,109
Lighting:	\$3,904
Refrigeration:	\$3,163
Other Electrical	\$1,867

- EXISTING Wall
  - 2x6 Wood studs
  - Batt Insulation
  - T1-11 Cladding



- RETROFIT OPT #1

- 2x6 Wood studs
  - Batt Insulation
  - T1-11 Cladding
- +
- Standoff wall
  - Polyurethane Spray Foam
  - Cladding

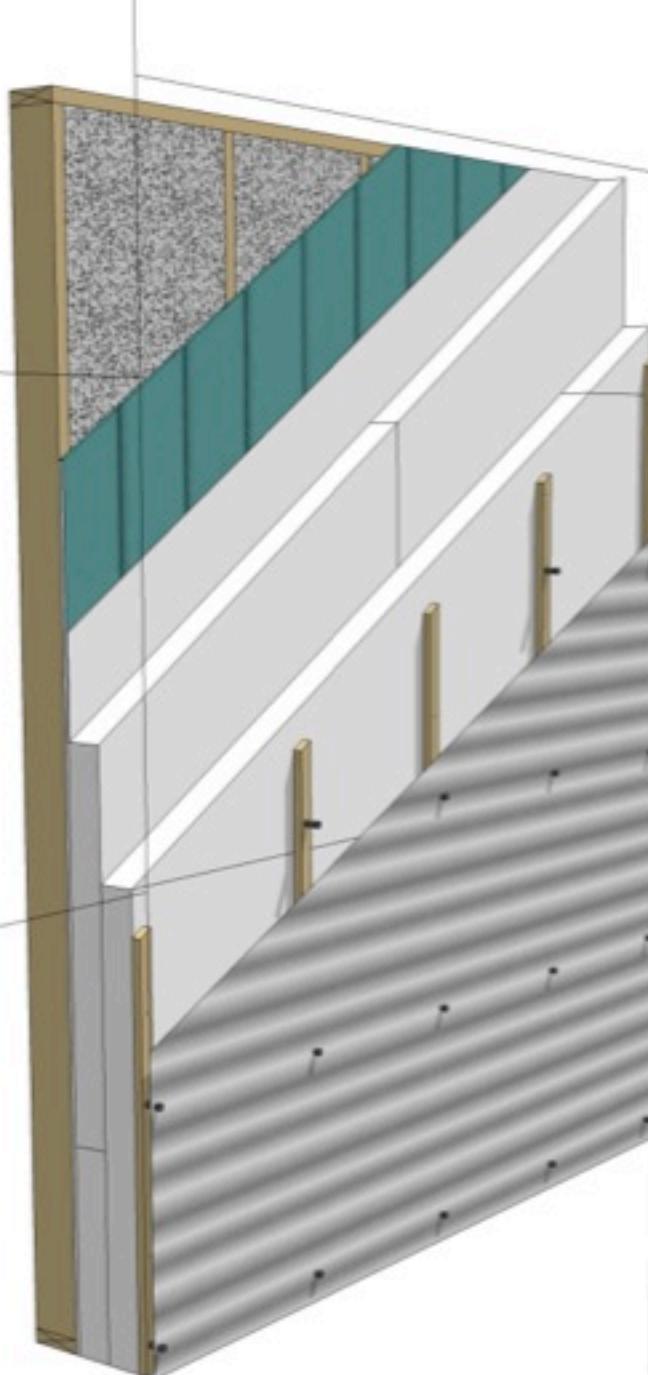


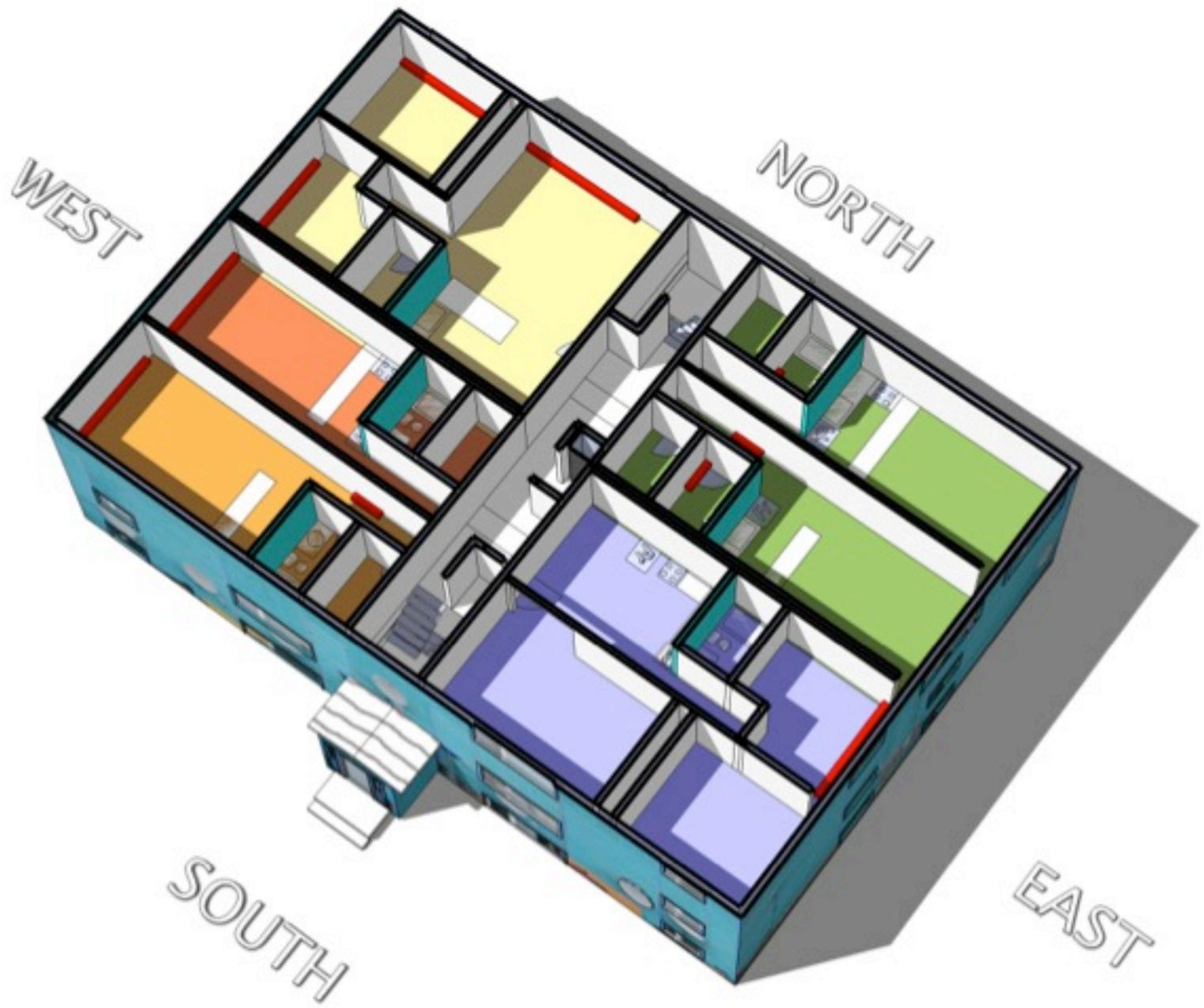
- RETROFIT OPT #2

- 2x6 Wood studs
- Batt Insulation
- T1-11 Cladding

+

- REMOTE Wall
- Drain wrap (air barrier)
- Rigid XPS Foam
- Wood strapping
- Metal sheathing





# AT WHAT COSTS?



# DO NOTHING

O&M costs continue to rise with gas prices

[Current gas usage at **7,146** gallons per year]

*At ~ \$6.50 per gallon it wont be long until the  
O&M costs more than rent can accommodate*

What happens at \$10 per gallon?



# PRELIMINARY COST ESTIMATES

## ***NEW CONSTRUCTION***

US Department of Education costs per sq.ft. : + ~80% of Anchorage costs

New residential construction  
ranges from **\$400 to \$500 per  
square foot** in Nome

(150 miles from Unalakleet)

NAME

BSRHA - Paul Whipple

BSDC - Tony Parsons

	Price (sq.ft.)	Building Area (sq.ft.)	TOTAL Cost
New construction - high	\$ 500.00	11,229	\$ 5,614,450.00
High	\$ 500.00	11,229	\$ 5,614,450.00
Low	\$ 450.00	11,229	\$ 5,053,150.00
Privately financed/large scale	\$ 400.00	11,229	\$ 4,491,600.00



Cost range for reproducing a 14-Plex in Unalakleet  
today: **\$4 to 5.6 Million dollars**

# **PRELIMINARY COST ESTIMATES**

## ***RETROFIT to EXISTING***

### **Taking into consideration**

Transportation of limited materials

Envelope – \$300 – 400k

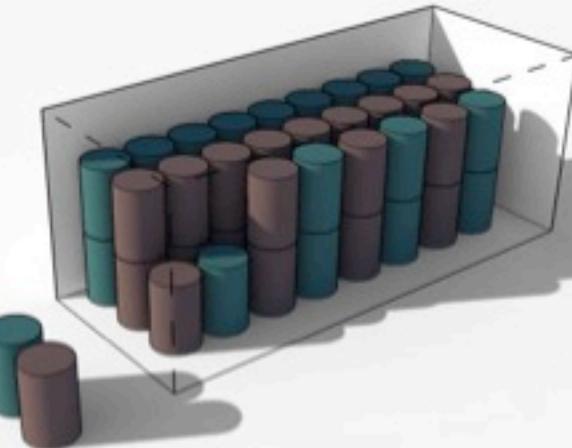
Mechanical –

Labor -

# Logistic Implications

## SPRAY FOAM (x)

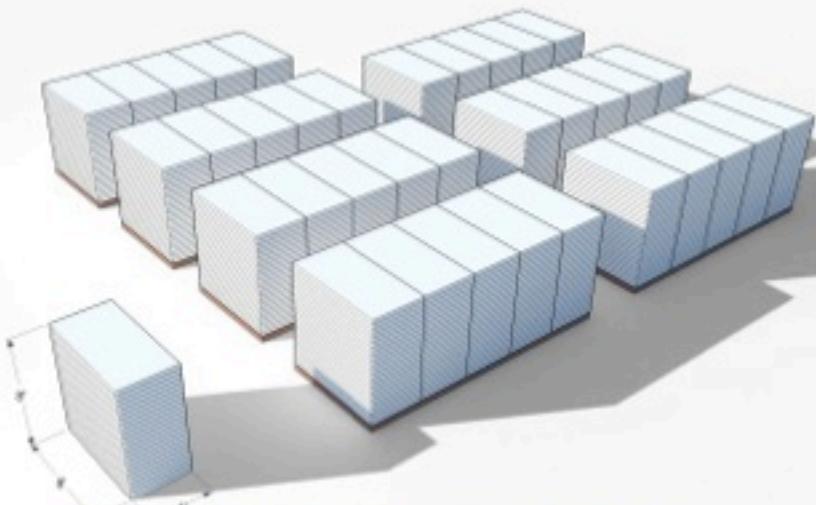
	Cost (per set)	Number of Sets	Cost
Material	\$ 2,000.00	20	\$ 40,000.00
Labor-equip etc			\$ 70,000.00
TOTAL			\$ 110,000.00
LOGISTICS (Barge)	Number	Container Cost (per)	Cost
20' SLC Container	1	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00
Fuel Surcharge (28%)			\$ 3,360.00
TOTAL COST			\$ 125,360.00



**SPRAY FOAM  
25 SETS**

## RIGID FOAM (Insulfoam)

	Price (sq.ft.)	Area (sq.ft.)	Cost
WALLS: 8" Thick	\$ 3.20	6,000	\$ 19,200.00
ROOF: 12" Thick	\$ 4.80	4,800	\$ 23,040.00
TOTAL			\$ 42,240.00
LOGISTICS (Barge)	Number	Container Cost (per)	Cost
20' SLC Platform	7	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 98,000.00
Fuel Surcharge (28%)			\$ 27,440.00
TOTAL COST			\$ 167,680.00



**RIGID FOAM  
7 Platforms**

# ENERGY COMPARISONS

## ***EXISTING vs. NEW CONSTRUCTION***

Current Unalakleet 14 plex vs. New Construction				
ESTIMATED ANNUAL ENERGY USE:	Current Building:	New Construction, meeting BEES	AMOUNT SAVED:	PERCENT CHANGE
Fuel use (gallons / year)	7,146	6,097	-1,049	-15%
BTUs / year for fuel use	971,856,000	829,192,000	-142,664,000	-15%
Electricity use (KWh / year):	59,541	49,482	-10,059	-17%
BTUs / year for electricity use:	203,153,892	168,832,584	-34,321,308	-17%
Total Combined BTUs / year:	1,175,009,892	998,024,584	-176,985,308	-15%
ESTIMATED ANNUAL ENERGY COSTS (\$ / year)				
Total Energy Costs:	\$56,422	\$47,544	\$8,878	16%
Space Heating:	\$27,185	\$20,500	\$6,685	25%
Water Heating:	\$18,938	\$18,706	\$232	1%
Ventilation Fans:	\$0	\$102	(\$102)	
Lighting:	\$3,904	\$3,686	\$218	6%
Refrigeration:	\$3,163	\$1,318	\$1,845	58%
Other Electrical	\$1,867	\$1,867	\$0	0%

**TOTAL ANNUAL ENERGY COST REDUCTION OF 16%  
(~\$9,000 savings per year)**

# ENERGY COMPARISONS

## ***EXISTING vs. RETROFIT***

Current Unalakleet 14 plex vs. CCHRC Retrofit				
ESTIMATED ANNUAL ENERGY USE:	Current Building:	CCHRC Retrofit:	AMOUNT SAVED:	PERCENT CHANGE
Fuel use (gallons / year)	7,146	4,476	-2,670	-37%
BTUs / year for fuel use	971,856,000	608,736,000	-363,120,000	-37%
Electricity use (KWh / year):	59,541	65,786	6,245	10%
BTUs / year for electricity use:	203,153,892	224,461,832	21,307,940	10%
Total Combined BTUs / year:	1,175,009,892	833,197,832	-341,812,060	-29%
ESTIMATED ANNUAL ENERGY COSTS (\$ / year)				
Total Energy Costs:	\$56,422	\$40,449	\$15,973	28%
Space Heating:	\$27,185	\$10,881	\$16,304	60%
Water Heating:	\$18,938	\$18,160	\$778	4%
Ventilation Fans:	\$0	\$1,109	(\$1,109)	
Lighting:	\$3,904	\$3,904	\$0	0%
Refrigeration:	\$3,163	\$3,163	\$0	0%
Other Electrical	\$1,867	\$1,867	\$0	0%

TOTAL ANNUAL ENERGY COST REDUCTION OF **28%**  
 (~\$16,000 savings per year)

# ENERGY COMPARISONS

## ***NEW CONSTRUCTION vs. RETROFIT***

New Construction vs. CCHRC Retrofit				
ESTIMATED ANNUAL ENERGY USE:	New Construction, meeting BEES	CCHRC Retrofit:	AMOUNT SAVED:	PERCENT CHANGE
Fuel use (gallons / year)	6,097	4,476	-1,621	-27%
BTUs / year for fuel use	829,192,000	608,736,000	-220,456,000	-27%
Electricity use (KWh / year):	49,482	65,786	16,304	33%
BTUs / year for electricity use:	168,832,584	224,461,832	55,629,248	33%
Total Combined BTUs / year:	998,024,584	833,197,832	-164,826,752	-17%
ESTIMATED ANNUAL ENERGY COSTS (\$ / year)				
Total Energy Costs:	\$47,544	\$40,449	\$7,095	15%
Space Heating:	\$20,500	\$10,881	\$9,619	47%
Water Heating:	\$18,706	\$18,160	\$546	3%
Ventilation Fans:	\$102	\$1,109	(\$1,007)	
Lighting:	\$3,686	\$3,904	(\$218)	-6%
Refrigeration:	\$1,318	\$3,163	(\$1,845)	-140%
Other Electrical	\$1,867	\$1,867	\$0	0%

*Bottom line: Spend significantly less money and end up with a building that is more efficient.*

# Project Follow through

- Fine tune the retrofit plan
  - Water, renewable energy?
- Construct detailed budget projections for retrofit
- Outline the education opportunities
- Finalize report
- [potentially] Assist village in seeking out additional funding to make project a reality



Unalakleet 14-Plex; the devil you know

# THANK YOU

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