

VILLAGE BACKGROUND

Introduction

Koliganek is a Yup'ik Eskimo village with Russian Orthodox practices.¹ Subsistence activities are an important part of the lifestyle. The village was first listed in the 1880 Census as "Kalignak." The name means "last or upper village,"² and was recorded by the U.S. Geological Survey in 1930. Since that time, the village has moved four miles downstream. The State Demographers estimate of population for 2004 is 187.



Village Location and Population Size

Koliganek is the uppermost community on the Nushagak River, located on the left bank of the Nushagak River, about 65 miles northeast of Dillingham. It lies at approximately 59.728610° North Latitude and -157.28444° West Longitude in (Sec. 21, T005S, R047W, Seward Meridian). Koliganek is located in the Bristol Bay Recording District and Dillingham Census Area. The village encompasses 12.5 sq. miles of land and 0.1 sq. miles of water.

According to the Bristol Bay Native Association web page,³ Koliganek has moved four times during the past 150 years. Residents moved in 1938 or 1940 because of a shortage of firewood at their original site at the mouth of the Nuyakuk River. This site is now referred to as "Middle Koliganek." Then in 1964, they moved downstream to their current location because of recurrent flooding problems in "Middle Koliganek." New homes and a new school were constructed in the summer of 1964.

Physical Setting and Habitat

The area is in a climatic transition zone on a high plateau on the banks of the Nushagak River. The village looks out over miles of tundra broken by small mountains. Herds of caribou migrate through the area. Moose, bear, and ptarmigan are common sights. Koliganek is in close proximity to Wood-Tikchiks State Park and Togiak National Wildlife Refuge.

In terms of weather, the primary influence is maritime, although a continental climate affects the weather. Average summer temperatures range from 37 to 66; winter temperatures range from 4 to 30. Bristol Bay drainages are the world's most productive area for sockeye (red salmon), but four other species of Pacific salmon also spawn in Bristol Bay drainages: Chinook, chum, pink, and Coho salmon. Marine fish in the region include herring, smelt, halibut, and flounder. A variety of

¹ This community profile draws on information from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, and the Alaska Community Database maintained by the Department

² Janet Schichnes and Molly Chythlook, *Contemporary Use of Fish and Wildlife in Ekwok, Koliganek, and New Stuyabok, Alaska*. Technical Paper No. 185, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence, Juneau, Alaska, October 1991.

³ Bristol Bay Native Association. <http://www.bbna.com/EarlyLearning/Koliganek/>

freshwater fish species, particularly rainbow trout, Dolly Varden, Arctic grayling, and northern pike are common in many drainages.

Access

Koliganek is located in a roadless area accessible only by air, boat, or snowmachine depending on the season. A new State-owned 3,000' long by 75' wide runway is available. Boats and ATVs are used in the summer; snow machines in the winter. Locals frequently travel down river to New Stuyahok. There are no docking facilities; goods are lightered from Dillingham on a regular basis during the summer.

Environmental Issues

The priority environmental issues for Koliganek include:

- Concerns about downstream effects from potential mining development in the Pebble Creek Area, at the head of the Koktuli River, which runs into the Mulchatna and the Nushagak.
- Drastic reductions in moose and caribou due to an increase in sport hunting in upriver drainages.
- Eliminating litter and keeping the village and river clean.
- Maintaining local control over Native allotments.
- Continuing to provide exemplary solid waste management in the village.
- Eliminating trespass on village corporation lands.

Subsistence Economy

In a village, much of the economic activity is at the household level, and consists of the basic needs of daily life – food, clothing, and shelter. In the past, there was little importation of food. Families depended on the subsistence harvest of fish, game, and wild plants, particularly berries. Even today, the cost of transportation makes imported food very expensive, and the distance from markets reduces the freshness and quality of imported foods. The protection of subsistence resources is essential for families to maintain adequate nutrition at a reasonable cost. And as the harvest of fish and game is shared within the village, it allows for an efficient use of labor. Truly fresh fruits and vegetables are a rare and expensive treat in remote villages. For at least a seasonal substitution of imported produce, families may choose to maintain home gardens. Even tomatoes may be grown in a sunny window during the long days of summer. Several very productive gardens can be found in Koliganek.

Koliganek Economy & Population

Subsistence is an important part of the local economy in Koliganek, particularly because of the limited opportunities for cash employment. As in much of the Bristol Bay area, most cash employment is seasonal with little year-round employment. Commercial fishing has been especially important as a source of jobs and income. Government is also an important source of jobs and income.

Income

As in many other Alaska villages, incomes vary considerably from year to year and household to household. Typically, income in villages is generally lower than those of urban Alaska. For example, the Koliganek median household income from the 2000 Census was \$44,583— 13.5% less than the State median household income of \$51,571 (U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000). In 1999, per capita personal income was only \$13,242 compared to \$16,021 for the Dillingham Census Area and \$22,660 for the state (see Table 1 below).



The lower per capita income is due in part to the larger household size, which was an average of 3.43 individuals in Koliganek in 1999 compared to an average 3.20 individuals for the Dillingham Census Area, and 2.74 for the state. However, both median household income and median family household income are higher in Koliganek than the median for the Dillingham Census Area, but lower than for the state. Almost 33 percent of all households and approximately 30 percent of family households have a cash income under \$35,000 per year (see Table 2 on the following page).

Table 1. Personal Income in 1999 for Koliganek, Dillingham Census Area, and Alaska

	Koliganek	Dillingham Census Area	Alaska
Median Household Income (\$)	44,583	43,079	51,571
Median Family Household Income (\$)	51,042	45,391	59,036
Per Capita Income (\$)	13,242	16,021	22,660

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, DP-3. Values calculated by Northern Economics, Inc.

Personal income is the income received by people from all sources—private sector and government wages, salary disbursements, other labor income, farm and non-farm self employment income, rental income of people, personal dividend income, personal interest income, and transfer payments. Personal income does not have taxes subtracted from it.

Per capita personal income is the annual total personal income of residents of an area divided by the number of residents. Per capita personal income is a measure of economic well-being.

Table 2. Koliganek Income Distributions for Family Households and all Households, 1999

	Number of Family Households	Percent Family	Number of Households	Percent Households
Less than \$10,000	2	4.3	4	7.3
\$10,000 to \$14,999	1	2.1	1	1.8
\$15,000 to \$24,000	9	19.1	11	20.0
\$25,000 to \$34,999	2	4.3	2	3.6
\$35,000 to \$49,999	7	14.9	11	20.0
\$50,000 to \$74,999	11	23.4	11	20.0
\$75,000 to \$99,999	11	23.4	11	20.0
\$100,000 and above	4	8.5	4	7.3
Total	47	100.0	55	100.0

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census 2000, DP-3. Values calculated by Northern Economics, Inc.

Poverty Rate

The poverty rate is a commonly used indicator of the level of economic need in a community. Almost every positive personal and community outcome is negatively affected by poverty. Community factors such as the status of resources like affordable housing, transportation, education and training, jobs providing a living wage, health insurance, and availability of child care determine to a large extent an area's poverty rate. Previous research has shown that poverty populations in rural communities are more likely to be long-term poor than poverty populations in urban areas.

The poverty rate for families in Koliganek is more than two times the poverty rate for families in Alaska as a whole (see Table 3 below). Individuals in Koliganek are more than two times likely to be classified as living in poverty than individuals in the State as a whole. However, the percent of families and individuals classified as living below the poverty line in Koliganek is lower than in the Dillingham Census Area as a whole.

Table 3. Percent Poverty Status in 1999

	Koliganek	Dillingham Census Area	Alaska
Families	14.9	18.3	6.7
With Related children under 18 Years	13.9	23.0	9.3
With Related Children under 5 Years	18.2	26.3	13.4
Individuals	19.3	21.4	9.4

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000. Values calculated by Northern Economics, Inc.

Employment

A community's labor force provides a measure of how much employment and economic activity a community may have. Labor force is defined as the number of persons 16 years of age or older, the age at which an individual is legally able to work. Table 4 (below) shows the number and percent of individuals 16 years and older, individuals in this age category in the civilian labor force, and employed and unemployed individuals.

Unemployment rates do not take into account individuals who are underemployed or discouraged workers who have given up hope of finding a job and are not actively seeking employment. Approximately 62.4 percent of the population age 16 years and over is in the labor force in the Dillingham Census Area (U.S. Census 2000). In Koliganek, a higher percentage (69.7 percent) of individuals age 16 and over participates in the labor force as compared to the census area. At the time of Census 2000, no one from Koliganek was serving in the Armed Forces.

Table 4. Employment Status of Population 16 Years and Over, Alaska, Dillingham Census Area, and Koliganek, 1999

Employment Status	Alaska		Dillingham Census Area		Koliganek	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Population 16 Years and Over	458,054	100.0	3,216	100.0	109	100.0
In Labor Force	326,596	71.3	2,007	62.4	76	69.7
Civilian Labor Force	309,485	67.6	1,995	62.0	76	69.7
Employed	281,532	61.5	1,765	54.9	66	60.6
Unemployed	27,953	6.1	230	7.2	10	9.2
Armed Forces	17,111	3.7	12	0.4	0	0
Not in Labor Force	131,458	28.7	1,209	37.6	33	30.3

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, DP-3. Values calculated by Northern Economics, Inc.

Table 5 (on the following page) shows the occupation of the employed civilian population 16 years of age and older in Koliganek in 1999. Census data often do not adequately capture employment in the fishing industry. According to the U.S. Census, no individuals age 16 years and older reported fishing as their primary occupation. Management, professional, and related occupations accounted for almost 41 percent of the employed workforce, followed by production, transportation, and material moving occupations at almost 17 percent, then service occupations and construction, extraction, and maintenance occupations at just about 15 percent.

This disparity about employment in the fishing industry is most likely due to the timing of the census, which occurs in April every ten years, and asks respondents what they did for employment in the previous week. Thus, the census does not account for those involved in fishing at other times of the year, including the important summer salmon season.

Table 5. Occupation of Employed Civilian Population 16 Years and Over, Koliganek, Census 2000

Occupation	Number	Percent
Management, Professional, and Related Occupations	27	40.9
Service Occupations	10	15.2
Sales and Office Occupations	8	12.1
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations	0	0
Construction, Extraction, and Maintenance Occupations	10	15.2
Production, Transportation, and Material Moving Occupations	11	16.7

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, DP-3. Values calculated by Northern Economics, Inc.

Table 6 (below) shows the percentage of four different classes of workers: private wage and salary workers, government workers, self-employed workers in their own business who are not incorporated, and unpaid family workers. The government sector is a very significant source of employment in Koliganek, accounting for over 83 percent of workers. Private wage and salary workers account for just over 15 percent of workers. In contrast government workers account for around 48 percent of employment in the Dillingham Census Area as a whole.

Table 6. Class of Worker Koliganek, 1999

Employment Class	Number	Percent
Private Wage and Salary Workers	10	15.2
Government Workers	55	83.3
Self-Employed Workers (Not Incorporated Business)	1	1.5
Unpaid Family Workers	0	0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, SF-3. Values calculated by Northern Economics, Inc.

Table 7 (on the following page) shows the percent of employment in Koliganek by industry. Educational, health and social services account for almost 35 percent of employment, while public administration accounts for just over 24 percent of employment.

Table 7. Percent Employment by Industry in Koliganek, Census 2000

Industry	Number	Percent
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting, and Mining	1	1.5
Construction	8	12.1
Manufacturing	1	1.5
Wholesale Trade	0	0
Retail Trade	0	0
Transportation and Warehousing, and Utilities	9	13.6
Information	0	0
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate, and Rental and Leasing	6	9.1
Professional, Scientific, Management, Administrative, and Waste Management Services	0	0
Educational, Health and Social Services	23	34.8
Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation and Food Services	0	0
Other Services (except Public Administration)	2	3.0
Public Administration	16	24.2

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, DP-3. Values calculated by Northern Economics, Inc.

Participation in Commercial Fishery

Between 1990 and 1997, individuals from Koliganek held permits and participated in both the herring and salmon commercial fisheries (see Table 8 on the following page). Between 1998 and 2002, Koliganek community members continued to hold permits in both fisheries, but only fished in the commercial salmon fishery.

Since 1990, the total number of permits held by Koliganek community members has slowly declined. This is a trend experienced in other Bristol Bay communities as well. In 1990, individuals from Koliganek held 33 permits - including 21 in the commercial salmon fishery and 12 in the commercial herring fishery. In 2002, these numbers declined to a total of 19 commercial permits – all but one was held in the commercial salmon fishery. The total decline in salmon permits held was roughly 15 percent between 1990 and 2002.

In addition to the decline in the number of permits held, there has been sharp decline in the percentage of permits that were actually fished. In 1990, five herring permits were fished out of a total 12 herring permits held. In comparison, in 2002, no herring permits were fished and only one herring permit was held. In the commercial salmon fishery, all but one of the salmon permits held were fished. Comparatively, in 2002, only half of the salmon permits held were fished.

Table 8. Fishing Permits and Fishing Participation, 1990-2002, Koliganek

Species	Permits	Year													
		1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	
Halibut	Fished	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Held	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Herring	Fished	5	5	5	0	0	2	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	
	Held	12	9	11	7	6	7	8	7	3	2	3	2	1	
Salmon	Fished	20	17	17	18	15	15	15	14	14	13	13	14	8	
	Held	21	20	19	19	19	19	18	17	18	19	17	17	18	
Total	Fished	25	22	22	18	15	17	19	17	14	13	13	14	8	
	Held	33	29	30	26	25	26	26	24	21	21	20	19	19	

Source: Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission, 2004. Values calculated by Northern Economics, Inc.

Population Trends

Information about population trends and characteristics helps describe the general nature of a community or area. An analysis of population trends can help determine if changes are occurring for specific groups defined by age, gender, race, or education level. These types of changes describe the nature of social and economic relationships in the community. The Dillingham Census Area realized a large population increase between 1990 and 2000. Table 9 (below) shows the population of Koliganek compared to the Dillingham Census Area at 10-year intervals. Between 1950 and 1990, the population in Koliganek doubled.



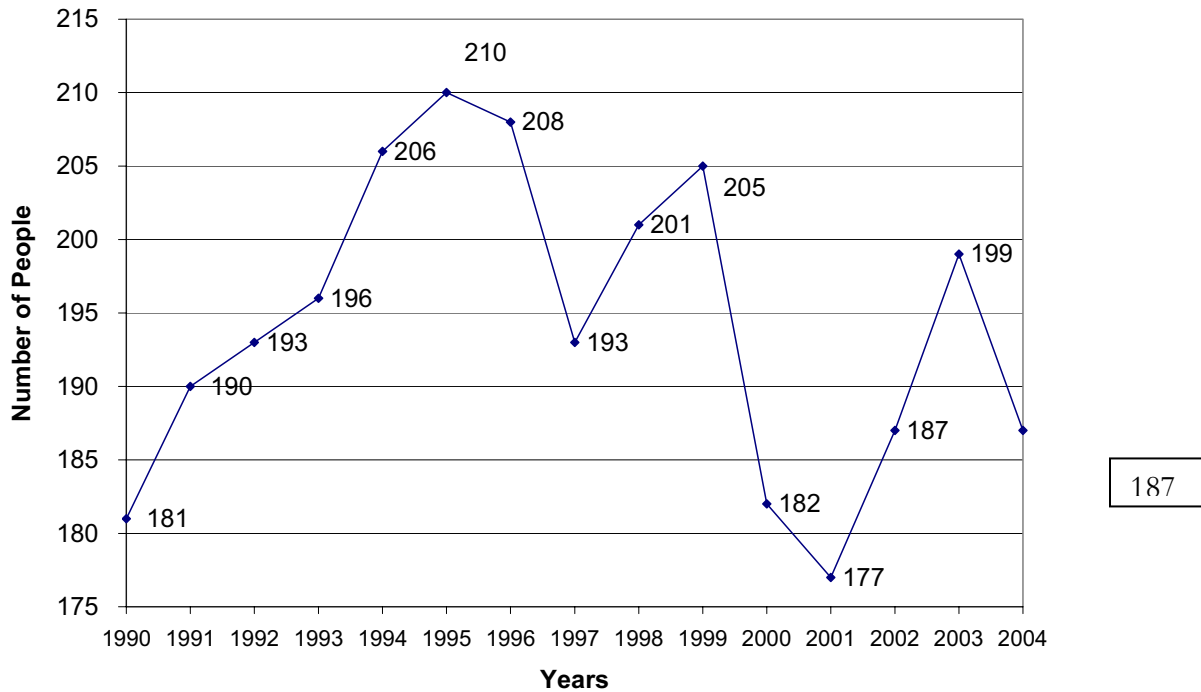
Table 9. Population of Koliganek and Dillingham Census Area, 1880-2000

Community	1880	1890-1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000
Koliganek	91	-	90	100	142	117	181	182
Dillingham Census Area	-	-	-	4,024	3,485	4,616	4,012	4,922

Source: DCED community profiles. <http://www.census.gov/population/cencounts/ak190090.txt>. Population for 2003 and 2004 from AKDOLWD Provisional Estimate. Values calculated by Northern Economics, Inc.

Figure 2 (on the following page) shows the annual population of Koliganek from 1990 to 2004. As noted in the introduction, the village moved down river to its current location in 1942. The first BIA school was built in 1961 and the population grew 40 percent during the 1960s.

Figure 2. Population of Koliganek, 1990 through 2004



Source: Northern Economics, Inc., 2005. "Alaska Population Annual Database". Compiled from ADOLWD Annual Population Estimates; ADOWLD data from 2000-2004 is available on the Internet at <http://www.labor.state.ak.us/research/pop/estimates/04t4-3.xls>.

Race

U.S. Census figures show that in 2000, 70.1 percent of residents in the Dillingham Census Area were Alaska Native or American Indian. Comparatively, 87.4 percent of the residents of Koliganek were Alaska Native during the 2000 Census. This is fairly typical of rural Alaska Native villages.

Table 10. Percent of Population by Race Koliganek and Dillingham Census Area, Census 2000

Geographic Area	White	Alaska Native	Black	Asian	Other race	Two or More
Koliganek	10.4	87.4	-	-	2.2	0.0
Dillingham Census Area	21.6	70.1	0.4	0.6	0.5	6.7

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, SF-3. Values calculated by Northern Economics, Inc.

Age & Gender

Age distribution gives an indication of whether the population of a community is generally younger or older, and if the population is growing or declining. The age distribution for a community helps to determine likely future needs as those age groups grow. It is often used as a predictor of future school enrollments, and helps to indicate what resources and programs the community may need for specific age groups. Age distribution provides one source of useful information about trends in the available labor force.

Table 11 shows the total population, the percent of the population under age 18, the median age, and gender for Alaska, the Dillingham Census Area, and Koliganek. The median age for the Dillingham Census Area and Koliganek is lower than the median age for the state as whole. The median age in Koliganek is very young at 26 years. In contrast, the median age for the state is 32.4 years while the median age of the U.S. in 2000 was 35.3.

In Koliganek, 45.1 percent of the population is under 18 compared to only 30.4 percent of the population of the State as a whole. The economic reality in many rural communities in Alaska is a lack of jobs or income producing activities, but at the same time a younger and growing population suggests that many more jobs or income producing activities are needed above and beyond current levels. As the median age of a community decreases and the percentage of residents under 18 increases, each adult carries a greater proportion of the community’s need for productive labor including subsistence activities, bringing cash income into the community, providing child care and serving as teachers, providing leadership for the community, and helping to maintain the community’s infrastructure. In Koliganek, 54.9 percent of the population was male and 45.1 percent female at the time of Census 2000.

Table 11. Total Population, Age and Gender Alaska, Dillingham Census Area and Koliganek, 2000 Census

Geographic Area	Total Population	Percent			
		Under 18	Median Age	Male	Female
Alaska	626,932	30.4	32.4	51.7	48.3
Dillingham Census Area	4,922	38.1	28.9	52.2	47.8
Koliganek	182	45.1	26.0	54.9	45.1

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, DP-1. Values calculated by Northern Economics, Inc.

Education

At the time of Census 2000, 76.9 percent of residents age 25 years and over were high school graduates and/or had achieved a higher level of education (see Table 12 on the following page). 11.6 percent of the population age 25 years and over had a bachelor’s degree or higher during the 2000 Census. In Alaska, as a whole, 88.3 percent of the population age 25 years and over were high school graduates and/or had obtained a higher level of education - 24.7 percent had a bachelor’s degree or higher level of education. Koliganek is part of the Southwest Regional School District and has a K-12 school with 65 students enrolled for FY2005.⁴



⁴ Southwest Regional School District web page can be accessed at <http://dlg.swrsd.org>.

Table 12. Koliganek, Educational Attainment of Population, 25 Years and Over, Census 2000.

Attainment	Number	Percent
Less than 9th Grade	19	20.0
9th to 12 grade, No Diploma	3	3.2
High School Graduate (includes equivalency)	45	47.4
Some college, No Degree	17	17.9
Associate Degree	-	-
Bachelor's Degree	11	11.6
Graduate or Professional Degree	-	-

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census 2000, DP-2. Values calculated by Northern Economics, Inc.

Households

Table 13 (below) shows the number of individuals living in households and group housing, the total number of households, the average household size, total number of family households, average family size, and the number of individuals not living in a household. Both the average household size and average family size in the Dillingham Census Area are larger than in Alaska as a whole, and the average household and family size in Koliganek is larger still. The average household size in Alaska is 2.74 individuals and the average family size is 3.28 individuals. In Koliganek, the average household size is 3.43 individuals and the average family size is 4.44 individuals.

Table 13. Households in Dillingham Census Area and Koliganek, Census 2000

	Dillingham Census Area	Koliganek
Population in Households	4,889	182
Population in Group Quarters	33	-
Total Number of Households	1,529	53
Average Household Size	3.20	3.43
Number of Family Households	1,106	36
Average Family Size	3.84	4.44
Number of Non-family Households	423	17

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, DP-1. Values calculated by Northern Economics, Inc.

Number of Small Businesses and Types

The records in Table 14 (below) reflect current business licenses on file with the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, Division of Occupation Licensing, Business Licensing Section. These licenses may not represent actual business activity.

Table 14. Current Business Licenses in Koliganek

Business Licenses	SIC Codes - Primary, Secondary
Berry Patch Alaska	4543 (Direct Selling Establishments)
Bobby's Bed & Breakfast	7211 (Traveler Accommodations)
Grandma's	6244 (Child Day Care Services)
Jasmine's Day Care	6244 (Child Day Care Services)
Johnson & Sons	4881 (Air Transportation Support Activities)
Ketok Lodge	7140 (Fishing Guides & Fishing Charters), 7000 (<i>Unknown SIC Code</i>)
Koliganek Co-Op Store	4451 (Grocery Stores)
Koliganek Sport Adventures	7140 (Fishing Guides & Fishing Charters)
Kristie's Daycare	6244 (Child Day Care Services)
Lee's Lodging	7211 (Traveler Accommodations)
M And H Variety Store	4529 (Other General Merchandise Stores), 5900 (<i>Unknown SIC Code</i>)
Mccanna's Fish On Lodge	1141 (Fishing – commercial, not guides), 1142 (Hunting & Trapping – commercial, not guides)

Source: Alaska Department of Commerce and Community Economic Development, Community Database Online, Rural Business Licenses. Values calculated by Northern Economics, Inc.

Facilities, Utilities, Schools and Health Care

At the time of Census 2000, 50 percent of the 69 housing units in Koliganek did not have complete plumbing, while 40.7 percent did not have a complete kitchen, and 3.7 percent lacked telephone service. At that time, 25.9 percent heated with wood and 70.4 percent heated with fuel oil or kerosene. This census data is derived from a sample which is one reason it may not match the information from the Department of Commerce and Community Economic Development Community Profile Database.

Koliganek has operated a piped water system for over 25 years. Water is derived from a well and is treated. Thirty three homes and facilities are connected to the piped water and a community septic tank. Eight homes have individual wells and septic system. Koliganek owns its own power supply system. Electricity is provided by the New Koliganek Village Council.