

II. INTRODUCTION

Gustavus is located in Southeast Alaska near Glacier Bay National Park. The community has grown in recent years because of the availability of land and the economic activities associated with tourism at the park. The community presently dumps solid waste at a site located near the center of the community, and waste is being managed about as well as can be expected from a community the size of Gustavus. However, the site does not have a permit from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), and the site does not meet State or federal regulations. It is not known whether the site contains hazardous waste, although it is likely that waste from airport construction activities in the 1940's is buried at the site. A site investigation and monitoring should be undertaken to determine whether the site contains hazardous waste and whether groundwater contamination has occurred.

This study is organized into several sections, the first of which is an overview of the physical and socio-economic setting of the community. Siting limitations due to land use and the proximity of a national park, airport, and a critical habitat area are summarized. The amount of solid waste produced by Gustavus and Bartlett Cove are calculated and a population growth rate is used to determine the size of a landfill needed for a 50-year period. Waste reduction and recycling are discussed as a means of

reducing the volume of solid waste that must be disposed of. Solid waste disposal requirements are discussed in detail. Finally, alternatives and capital and operating costs are presented.

Authorization: This study is a result of a request by the community for ADEC, Village Safe Water Program (VSW) to investigate alternatives for managing solid waste and septic tank sludge. \$40,000 was appropriated under Senate Bill 144 (Ch. 172, SLA 88) to conduct various sanitation feasibility studies in Alaska communities statewide. Part of this money was used to conduct this solid waste study for Gustavus.