

# SA-10 PRUDHOE BAY WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT



**CLIENT:** Alaska State

**PROJECT:** SA-10 Prudhoe Bay Wastewater Treatment Plant

**SERVICE:** Forensic Analysis

**PROJECT COST:** \$35k

**PROJECT TIMELINE:** Dec. 2014 – Jan. 2015

**COMPLETION DATE:** January 2015

## ■ BACKGROUND

In 2014, the North Slope Borough of Alaska began the construction of a wastewater treatment plant at Prudhoe Bay. As part of the project, the contractor was required to build and install multiple holding tanks (50'x13'x15') on the site. These tanks were designed, fabricated off-site and barged to the project site prior to approval of the final design drawings. After the first tanks were installed, their structural integrity came under question as concerns arose about the possibility of the tanks failing during operations. At heart was a disagreement between the installing contractor, the fabricator, the design engineer, and the owner.

## ■ CHALLENGE

There was a fundamental disagreement between the Owner's Representative and engineers engaged by the contractor around whether the tanks met the terms of the contract and met the appropriate code requirements. The cost implications were enormous; if the tanks in question did not meet the contract requirements, new tanks would have to be fabricated and barged 3,000 miles to the job site the following summer when the ice pack melted. North Slope Borough decided that an unbiased third party review of the tank's structural integrity was necessary and selected PlanB to undertake this task.

## ■ SOLUTION

From the investigation performed by the PlanB, project team was able to determine that the tanks were at risk of failure, but that field modifications could be implemented to rectify the structural concerns. This determination allowed the owner, contractor, and fabricators to work together to further develop an implementable solution and action plan to resolve the issue and allow construction of the plant to continue.

## ■ SO WHAT

The PlanB team was able to pull together a team of experts to analyze the tanks and all associated contract documents within 15 days. Our team developed a solution which minimized risk to the owner and cost impact to the Contractor. As a direct result of our team's efforts, a solution was found the plant is scheduled to come online in October 2015.