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POTENTIAL BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES OF ESTABLISHING TWO-WAY COMMUNICATION BETWEEN GEOSCIENTISTS AND COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS IN RURAL ALASKA

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In this case study, I analyze and critique disaster response and recovery in Galena, a small village in Interior Alaska. In May 2013, a massive ice jam on the Yukon River caused flooding that destroyed much of the community's infrastructure and forced the long-term evacuation of over 66 percent of the residents. Within two months, a major disaster declaration was issued. A range of federal and nonprofit agencies rushed to Galena to assist state, local, and tribal agencies in disaster response and recovery operations. Logistical and cultural features of the far north, as well as bureaucracy significantly challenged the rebuilding of the village. Opportunities to establish two-way communication with small Arctic communities on climate change and hazard research planning will be discussed during the presentation.