

## **Greenland Aluminium Smelter and Hydroelectric Project EIA Social and Health Baseline Study**

Alcoa and the Greenland Self-Government propose to build a state-of-the-art aluminum smelter in Maniitsoq, West Greenland; hydropower developments at Tasersiaq and Imarsuup Isua; transmission lines connecting the smelter to the hydroelectric facilities; and an industrial harbor at the smelter site. These facilities are collectively referred to as the Project.

Alcoa has commissioned ERM, an international consulting firm, to act as an independent consultant to conduct the environmental, social, and health impact assessment (EIA) for the Project and to facilitate public involvement in the EIA process. ERM is cooperating with several Greenland government and non-government partners on the EIA.

Field studies are an important part of the EIA process and are necessary to collect accurate information on the environment and people in the vicinity of the proposed Project. Field studies on Arctic char and aquatic biodiversity, archaeology, caribou movements, geology, and meteorology began in 2008 and are ongoing. New field studies for 2009 include, among others, baseline studies for social and economic conditions and human health.

### *Social Conditions Field Study*

The purpose of the social conditions field study is to describe the social conditions in towns and settlements within the Project's region of influence, including the towns and settlements that could be directly or indirectly affected by one or more components of the Project. These towns and settlements include Maniitsoq, Sisimiut, Kangaamiut, Atammik, Napasoq, Itilleq, Sarfannguit, Kangerlussuaq and Nuuk.

The field team will consult with several groups, including national and municipal government authorities, social services personnel, police, researchers/academics, community leaders, teachers, elders, youth, and hunting and fishing groups, and will observe socio-economic conditions; land and natural resource use; livelihoods, employment, and income; infrastructure and services; local administration and planning processes; and perceptions, concerns, and expectations of local populations on the potential impact of the Project.

### *Human Health Baseline Assessment*

The purpose of the human health baseline assessment is to provide an overview of the public health conditions in towns and settlements within the proposed Project's region of influence. The human health study team will consult with many of the same groups as the social study team, but the health baseline assessment will document the state of health in the Project's region of influence, focusing on the incidence and prevalence of disease; health risk factors and social determinants of health; the state, capacity, and challenges of

the health care system; the population's perceptions on their own health; and the potential Project-related effects on public health.

For further information on these or other EIA related studies being conducted for the project, please contact Julia Tims of ERM at [julia.tims@erm.com](mailto:julia.tims@erm.com) or 001-610-745-0764.