



# Kodiak Island Borough ENGINEERING & FACILITIES DEPT.

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Davis Hovey  
News Director, KMXT Radio  
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## RE: Landfill Fence Repair Project Sees Progress in Kodiak

Mr. Hovey,

Thank you for taking the time to meet with me and discuss the history on the landfill fence repairs. As a follow-up to our discussion, a comprehensive inspection and repair project at the Kodiak Island Borough (KIB) landfill electric fence has made substantial progress since issues were first identified in roughly October 2024, according to Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) staff.

In late 2024, ADFG representative Bill Dunker met with then-Environmental Specialist and Landfill Manager Jena Hassinger to walk the perimeter of the landfill's electric fence. During the inspection, they identified multiple weak points and areas in need of immediate attention. Two major faults were discovered that significantly reduced the fence's voltage, putting the landfill at risk of bear intrusion. At the time, the voltage averaged only 5–6kV—well below the recommended 8–10kV needed to effectively deter bears. Multiple bear penetrations were also observed.

Thanks to the efforts of KIB maintenance staff and guidance from ADFG, many of the recommended repairs were completed by November 2024. Improvements included clearing vegetation, replacing damaged insulators, raising grounded hotwire strands, and reinforcing poorly supported fence sections—especially in areas vulnerable to wildlife breaches.

On August 11, 2025, ADFG officials, including biologist Nate Saboda, met with the KIB Engineering & Facilities Director and Interim Project Manager to revisit the landfill and discuss ongoing concerns. Despite past efforts, the voltage remained around 6kV. After troubleshooting, it was determined that the existing energizer was underpowered. A more robust Speedrite 46000W energizer has since been ordered and is expected to maintain the higher voltage needed, even during periods of heavy summer foliage. New fence penetrations were observed very close to the previous penetrations, which will now need additional repair.

Additionally, while summer foliage had been cut back earlier in the season, it was cleared again just prior to the August meeting. This has now been implemented as a routine preventative maintenance task to help ensure the fence does not short out due to vegetation contact.

Looking ahead, the focus shifts to larger structural repairs, which fall into three main categories:

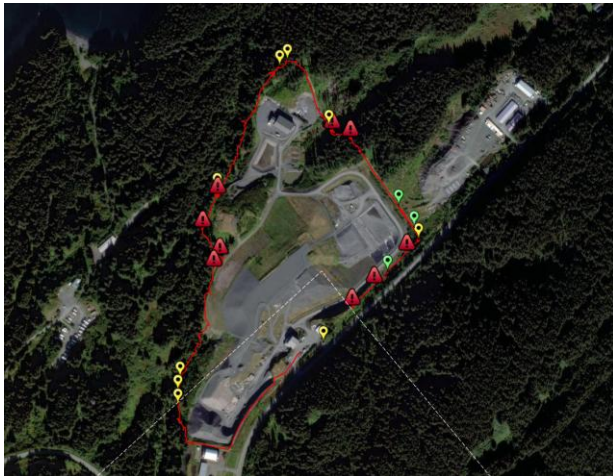
1. **Waterways** – Areas where water flows into or out of the landfill require reinforcement to prevent bear access. Planned solutions include the use of expanded metal panels, culverts, and rip rap to secure these areas while still allowing for natural water flow.
2. **Digging** – In spots where bears have dug under the fence, large metal panels will be buried at a 45-degree angle, layered with compacted soil and rock, and connected to the grounding system. Temporary fencing will also be installed in these zones as a further deterrent.
3. **Bracing and Line Poles** – Damaged fiberglass line poles will be replaced, and additional bracing (e.g., H-bracing or double H-bracing) will be installed, particularly in areas where the fence changes slope or direction. This will help maintain proper wire tension and spacing, reducing the risk of shorts.

KIB initially planned to complete these repairs by September 2025 through a new facilities contract; however, that contract award was vetoed by the mayor, resulting in delays. Some repairs are now being addressed in-house, but structural upgrades will likely be pushed into November.

ADFG and KIB continue to coordinate periodic inspections and improvements as needed. Additional meetings are scheduled for early September to evaluate the project's progress and to explore the possibility of constructing a secondary perimeter fence.

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#### ARC GIS Map of Current Repairs:



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Respectfully,

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