

# Domestic Geographic Name Report

1 Use this form to recommend a feature name or to suggest a name change.

2. For features on Federal lands, coordinate requests with the agency (U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, etc.) For the administrative area in which the land is located.

3. On the reverse side of this form give information on the local usage and authority for recommended name.

4. For more information about the Geographic Names Information System or the National Gazetteer Program, contact the U.S. Board on Geographic Names at 703-648-4544.

5. Return this form to:

Executive Secretary for Domestic  
Geographic Names  
U.S. Geological Survey  
523 National Center  
Reston, VA 22092

### Action Requested

Proposed New Name:  **Recommended Name:** Nanvarpak  
Application Change:  **State:** Alaska  
Name Change:  **County or Equivalent:** Dillingham Census Area  
Other:  **Administrative Area:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Specific Area Covered:

Latitude: 59 ° 8 ' 9.32568 " N Longitude: 160 ° 5 ' 4.60032 " W  
Latitude: \_\_\_\_\_ ° \_\_\_\_\_ ' \_\_\_\_\_ " N.S. Longitude: \_\_\_\_\_ ° \_\_\_\_\_ ' \_\_\_\_\_ " W.S  
Center: \_\_\_\_\_ Heading End \_\_\_\_\_  
Section(s) 8, 9 Township(s) 12 S Range(s) 64 W Meridian Seward Elevation \_\_\_\_\_  
USGS Quadrangle: Goodnews A-3

**Type of Feature** (stream, mountain, populated place, etc.): Lake

**Is the Feature identified (including other names), in the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS)?**  
Yes  No  Unknown  If Yes, how is it listed? \_\_\_\_\_

**Description of feature (physical shape, length, width, direction of flow, etc.):**  
The lake is oriented roughly north to south, with the Negukthlik River running through it. It is 8 miles east northeast of the Twin Hills community, and directly east of a mountain feature. The lake is roughly oval in shape, and approximately 2.5 miles in length.

Maps and other sources using recommended name (including scale and date).	Other names (variants)	Maps and other sources using other name or application (including scale and date).
N/A	N/A	N/A

Name information such as origin, meaning of the recommended name, historical significance, biographic data (if commemorative), nature of usage or application, or any other pertinent information:

The lake with the proposed new name of "Nanvarpak" is currently un-named and is found eight miles east-northeast of Twin Hills village. According to the proposal submitted by the Bristol Bay Native Corporation (BBNC), "The lake has a traditional Yup'ik name that locals refer to it by and has been used by the local inhabitants for centuries." BBNC explained that for this new name: "We would like to raise awareness to the importance of Native place names that often exist even though a geographic location may appear to be unnamed."

According to the proposer, this geographic name proposal is an example of an Alaska Native name and local usage. According to the Geographic Names Guidelines, Alaska Native names ask the proposer to establish: (1) documented local use of the name; (2) a linguistically appropriate name to the area it is applied; (3) notification and opportunity to comment for landowners; and (4) consultation on spelling and use of diacritical marks with all Native groups in the area and with the Alaska Native Language Center, UAF. The proposer states that, in Yup'ik, "Nanvarpak" means "large lake," according to the local people of Twin Hills and Togiak, who have always used this name for the lake. They also state that the spelling of "Nanvarpak" comes from the Yup'ik Eskimo Dictionary compiled by Steven Jacobson (2012).

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**Is the recommended name in local usage?** Yes  No  If Yes, approximately how many years? Centuries

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**Is there local opposition to, or conflict with the recommended name (as located)?** None listed.

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**For proposed new name, please provide evidence that feature is unnamed:** The GNIS does not list a name for this lake feature, only the Negukthlik River that runs through the lake. GNIS does not show any other features with this name but does list this name as one of the many variants for Iliamna Lake. Not listed in Orth, 1971.

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**Additional information:**

The GNIS lists the name *Nanvarpak*, a variant name for Iliamna Lake, referencing the Yup'ik Eskimo Dictionary of 1984, compiled by Steven A. Jacobson and noted by the Alaska Native Language Center.

The land surrounding the lake is ANCSA lands, owned by the Twin Hills Native Corporation and the Bristol Bay Native Corporation. The river and lake itself are shown as contained in the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge according to their boundary map: <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/togiak/map>

**Organizations for Consultation:**

Alaska Native Language Center  
Dr. James Kari  
D. Roy Mitchell, with the Alaska Native Language Preservation Advisory Council  
Bristol Bay Native Association  
Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mining, Land, and Water  
Twin Hills Village Council  
Twin Hills Native Corporation  
Traditional Council of Togiak  
Togiak National Wildlife Refuge, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
C/O USFWS Alaska Region Regional Historic Preservation Officer (RHPO) Jeremy Karchut

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Copy submitted by: Name (first, M.I., last)	Title	Phone (day)	Date
			04/19/2023
Company or Agency	Address (city, State, and Zip)		
Bristol Bay Native Corporation	Anchorage, Alaska		
Copy Prepared by (if other than above)	Title	Phone (day)	Date
Judith E. Bittner	SHPO	(907) 269-8721	
Company or Agency	Address (city, State, and Zip)		
Alaska Department of Natural Resources/Office of History and Archaeology	550 West 7 <sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 1310, Anchorage, AK 99501-3565		
Authority for Recommended Name:	Mailing Address and Telephone	Occupation	Years in Area

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# Proposed Geographic Name: Nanvarpak

