



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

**Department of Environmental
Conservation**

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

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The Honorable Neal Foster
Chair, House Finance Subcommittee
State Capitol Room 410
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Representative Foster:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with a brief overview of the Department of Environmental Conservation's FY2019 operating budget request on February 8th. There were questions that arose following this meeting that required additional information. I have responded to this question below. If you would like additional information, or have additional questions, I am happy to assist.

What was the increase to the Department for absorbing the required air monitoring from the Fairbanks North Star Borough and Municipality of Anchorage?

In FY2017, the Department spent an additional \$631.2 on air monitoring work after taking on regulatory monitoring for the Fairbanks North Star Borough and the Municipality of Anchorage. \$327.5 of that was covered by federal grant funds previously passed through to the municipalities. The remaining \$303.7 was absorbed by existing funding sources, including unrestricted general funds and federal grant funds that would otherwise be spent on other work.

Is there a list of MOE obligations for the entire department divided up by component/RDU?

The only Maintenance of Effort (MOE) the Department has is in the Air Quality RDU/component. That MOE requires the State spend \$1,426.2 UGF in order to receive \$1.4 million of federal revenue. The rest of the Department's federal grants require various percentages of state match, which can fluctuate from year to year depending on federal award levels and specific grant requirements. The following state match requirements by RDU and component for the other RDUs and components are based on the FY2018 projected federal spending:

- Administration RDU* – \$483.4 required state match
- Environmental Health RDU – \$1,051.8 required state match
 - Environmental Health component – \$912.5 required state match
 - Laboratory Services component – \$80.8 required state match leverages
- Spill Prevention and Response RDU/component – \$150.0 required state match (as Prevention Account)
- Water Quality, Infrastructure Support & Financing RDU/component – \$2,012.6 required state match

* Note that the Division of Administration is funded proportionately to the Department's personal services spending by fund source, and it spends federal indirect receipts and general fund match in proportion to the Department's direct expenditures from those fund sources.

Provide a list of the regions impacted by the deregulation of Class C water systems.

Class C water systems are systems that fall outside of the federal definition of a public water system (i.e., those serving 25 people or more or having 15 service connections). Starting in 2013, the Department ceased activities related to Class C water systems, except for those specifically covered under a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services for residential care and assisted living facilities. When that MOA expired in 2015, all regulatory activities for those facilities ceased as well. The regulations regarding Class C systems were officially repealed in early 2017.

Just like homes and businesses on private wells, Class C systems are located in all regions of the state. Currently, unless a water system meets the federal definition of a public water system, the Department considers it a private water system. Guidance relating to private water systems is provided on the Drinking Water program's website (<http://dec.alaska.gov/eh/dw/dwp/private-wells.aspx>), including topics of interest to private water system owners like well decontamination, testing recommendations, and response to emergencies like flooding and earthquakes that may affect those private systems.

Currently, the Department regulates all public water systems throughout the state, which range from large municipal systems to small well-based systems that serve the minimum number of users. The smallest villages that have less than 25 residents would not typically have a regulated drinking water source. The Village Safe Water program also has a threshold of 25 residents to be eligible for a project. The Department's Remote Maintenance Worker (RMW) program provides assistance with drinking water systems to rural communities upon request. There are about 24 communities currently served by the RMW program that either have no public water system, or have a system that serves less than 25 individuals on a regular basis. The Rural Utility Business Advisor (RUBA) program in the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development also provides assistance to these communities upon request.

What is the Department's response to bed bug complaints from hotels not in organized boroughs and/or cities?

The Department provides information and technical assistance for bedbug questions and complaints via information on the Pesticides program's website (<http://dec.alaska.gov/eh/pest/bedbugs>). Complaints from hotel guests would first be referred to hotel management for resolution, or, if it exists, the local authority. Consumers may also have recourse through complaints to the Better Business Bureau. Bedbugs are not known to carry or transmit diseases and are an annoyance as opposed to a public health threat.

Sincerely,



Tom Cherian
Director, Division of Administrative Services

Cc: Alexei Painter, Legislative Finance Division
Samantha Gatton, Office of Management and Budget
Brodie Anderson, Staff to Representative Foster