

House Resources Committee

Environmental Conservation Overview

Emma Pokon, Commissioner
Megan Kohler, Administrative Services Director
January 29, 2025



DEC's Mission

Conserving, improving, and protecting Alaska's natural resources and environment to enhance the health, safety, and economic and social well-being of Alaskans.

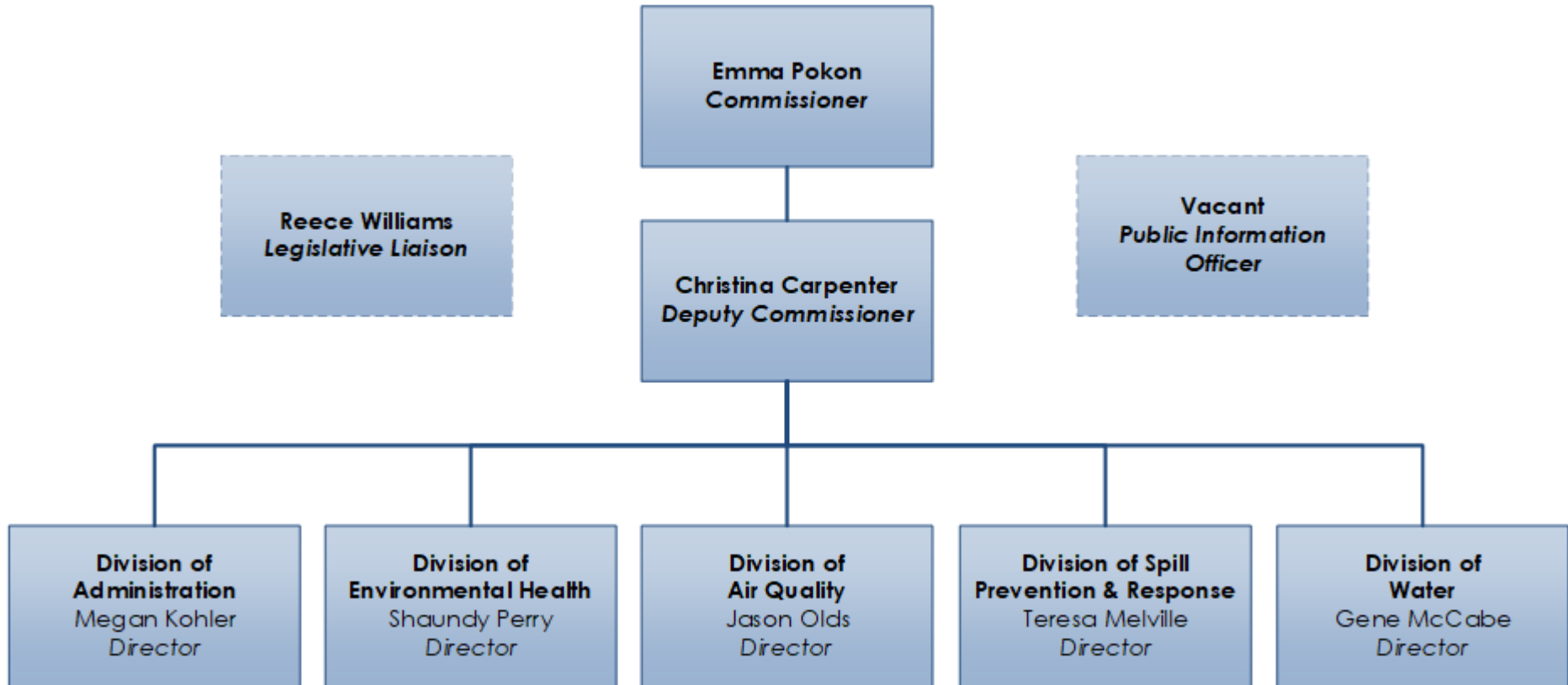


DEC Goals

- Protect human health and the environment while providing timely, science-based, legally defensible permits/approvals
- Improve employee retention and develop our employees
- Leverage technology and workflow improvements to create efficiencies, reduce our environmental footprint, and increase the transparency and visibility of DEC's efforts.



DEC's Leadership



What We Do

Air Quality

- Permit industrial air emissions
- Monitor & assess air quality
- Address small & mobile air pollution sources
- Conduct inspections & ensure compliance

Water

- Permit water discharges
- Oversee water quality standards, assessment & restoration
- Provide technical assistance
- Finance sanitation improvements
- Conduct inspections & determine compliance

Environmental Health

- Ensure safe food & drinking water
- Oversee landfills & pesticide applicators
- Provide animal care & importation standards
- Conduct analytical testing
- Conduct inspections & ensure compliance

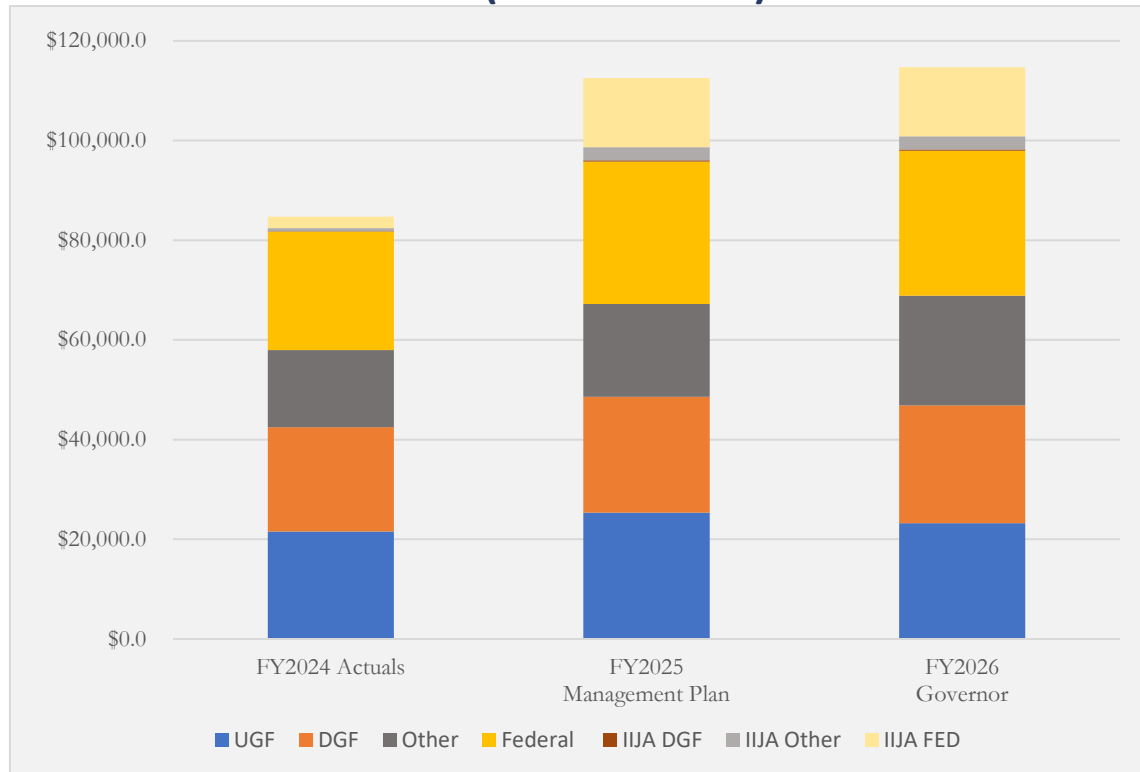
Spill Prevention & Response

- Respond to spills
- Require spill prevention & response plans
- Evaluate response drills
- Manage cleanup of contamination
- Conduct inspections & ensure compliance



DEC FY2026 Operating Budget:

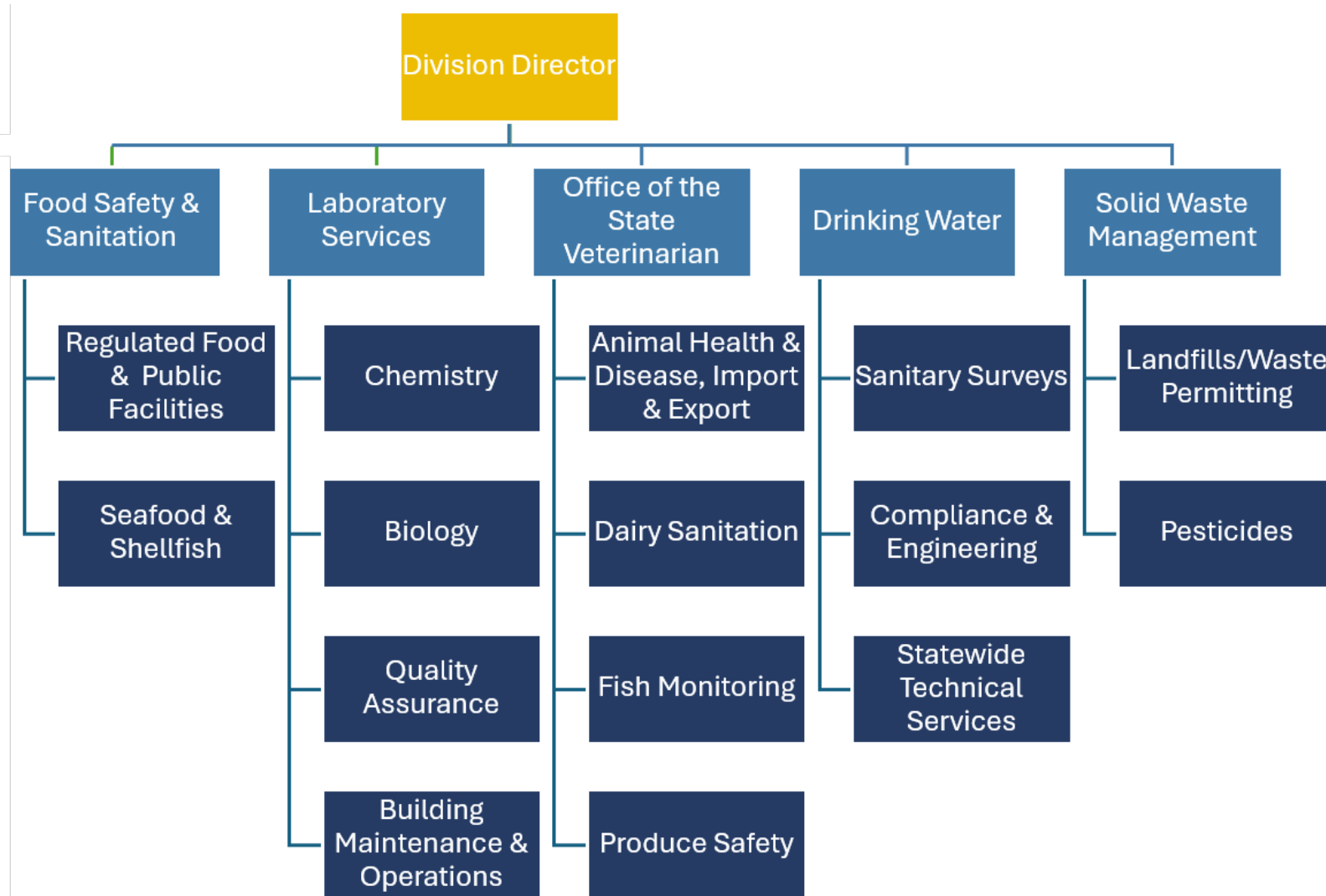
Department Overview (in thousands)



	FY2024 Actuals	FY2025 Management Plan	FY2026 Governor	Difference FY25 and FY26	% Difference FY25 and FY26
UGF	\$21,579.8	\$25,323.6	\$23,217.8	(\$2,105.8)	-8.3%
DGF	\$20,921.0	\$23,240.1	\$23,672.1	\$432.0	1.9%
IIJA DGF	\$31.5	\$250.0	\$250.0	\$0.0	0.0%
Other	\$15,466.3	\$18,643.1	\$21,972.1	\$3,329.0	17.9%
IIJA Other	\$661.6	\$2,668.8	\$2,668.8	\$0.0	0.0%
Federal	\$23,796.5	\$28,574.6	\$29,084.4	\$509.8	1.8%
IIJA FED	\$2,314.6	\$13,828.6	\$13,828.6	\$0.0	0.0%
Total	\$84,771.3	\$112,528.8	\$114,693.8	\$2,165.0	1.9%

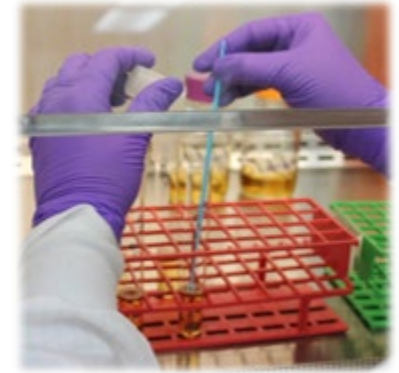


Division of Environmental Health Organization

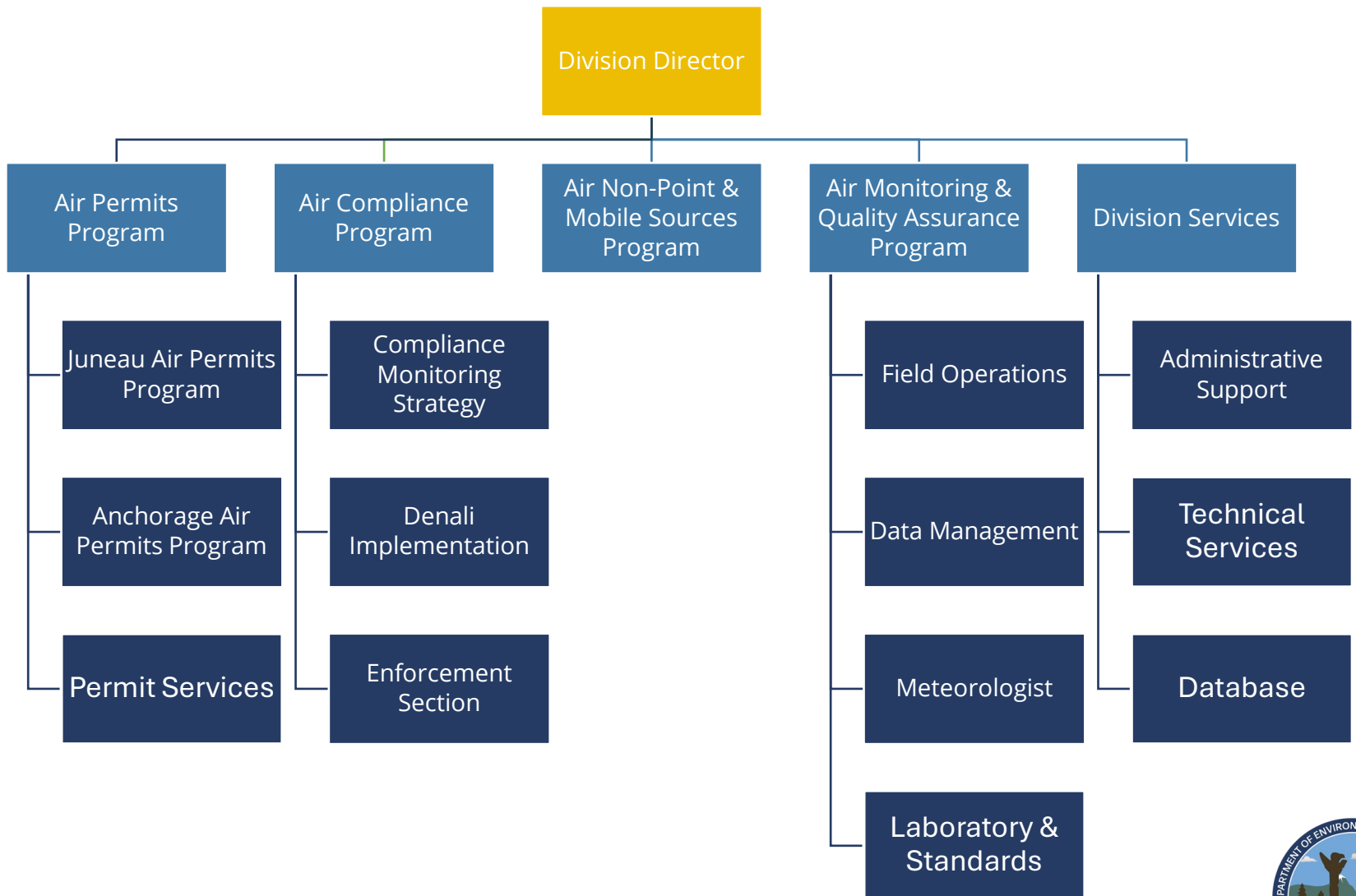


Division of Environmental Health Highlights

- **Advancing Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Testing** - Developing in-state testing to reduce reliance on external labs and meet EPA monitoring requirements
- **Lead Service Line Inventories** - Supporting public water systems in creating inventories to comply with EPA's Lead and Copper Rule Revisions
- **Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) Project** - Identifying Alaska's recyclable and compostable materials and addressing waste diversion challenges
- **Homemade Foods** - Repealing regulations to allow homemade food sales without permits or inspections, supported by HB 251
- **Avian Influenza Response** - The EH Office of the State Veterinarian collaborates with agencies to monitor outbreaks and provide guidance to concerned parties



Division of Air Quality Organization

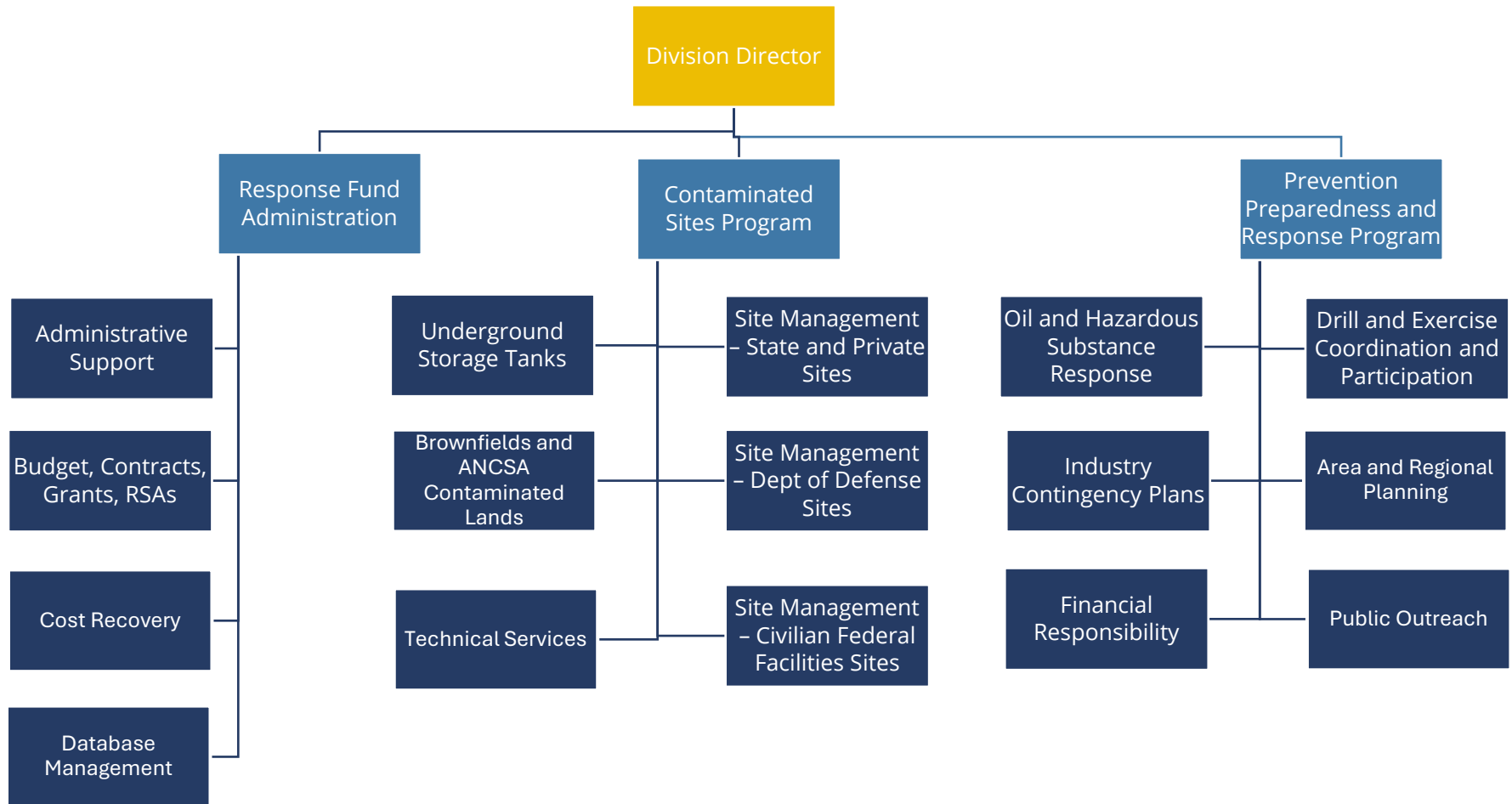


Division of Air Quality Highlights

- **Fairbanks State Implementation Plan (SIP) signed by EPA for approval**
 - Sanctions stop
 - \$150M transportation funding available
 - \$250M in power plant controls avoided
- **Rural Monitoring Network**
 - 40 communities statewide
 - Public information about air quality
- **Ongoing Permitting, Compliance, and Public Support for Clean Air**
 - State Primacy over Clean Air Act Permitting
 - Compliance assistance focused
 - Attentive to public complaints
- **Southeast Conference awarded \$38M for heat pumps**
 - Coordination with the Municipal League
 - Enabled through Sustainable Energy Action Plan



Spill Prevention and Response Organization

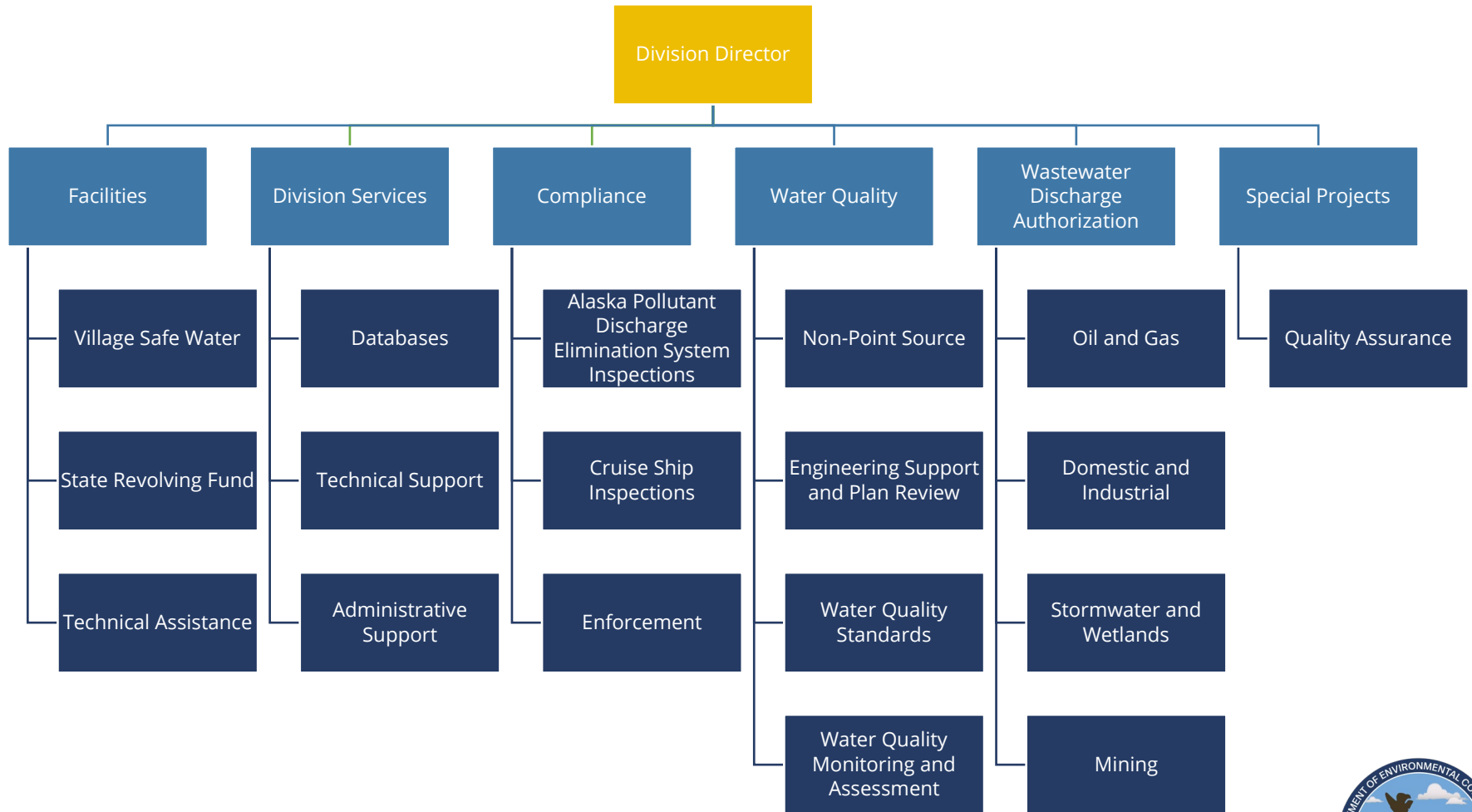


Spill Prevention and Response Highlights

- **Response to spills and releases**
 - Response, technical assistance, and oversight
 - Implementation of Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency planning regulations
- **Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) response**
 - In coordination with other divisions
 - Open application period for the Firefighting Substances Disposal Reimbursement Program per SB 67
- **Launch of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) Contaminated Lands Unit**
 - \$7M multi-year cooperative agreement
 - Identification and verification of sites



Division of Water Organization



Division of Water Highlights

- **Community Infrastructure Funding and Project Support**
 - State Revolving Fund (SRF) – \$60.9M in new grant funds in SFY25
 - Capital Improvement Program – Awarded \$80M in SFY25
 - Village Safe Water (VSW) – \$585M in active project funding
- **Regulations Updates**
 - Intake Credits
 - Salinity
 - Natural Condition
 - Wastewater Discharge
- **Water Quality**
 - 2024 Integrated Report
 - Over \$1M awarded to local communities to address nonpoint source pollution over the next two years through the Alaska Clean Water Act
- **Waters of the United States (WOTUS)**



Questions?



Commissioner

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