



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

Department of Environmental
Conservation

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

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November 29th, 2013

Ms. Amanda Ryder
Senior Fiscal Analyst/Operating Budget
P.O. Box 113200
Juneau, AK 99811-3200

Dear Ms. Ryder:

This is in response to the September 27th email from Ildiko Nylen requesting a written response to statements of legislative intent in the FY2014 operating, mental health, capital, and supplemental appropriation bills. Our response follows:

Operating Budget (Ch 14, SLA 2013 (CCS HB65))

SPILL PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Ch 14, SLA 13, Page 13, line 19

It is the intent of the legislature that the Department of Environmental Conservation provide recommendations to the legislature on or before the start of the second session of the Twenty-eighth Alaska State Legislature, January 21, 2014, that identify ways to finance and manage the oil and hazardous substance release prevention and response fund as a viable, long-term funding source for the state's core spill prevention and response initiatives. The plan should include an analysis of prior expenditures from the fund for the remediation of state-owned contaminated sites, a proposal to expeditiously remediate state-owned contaminated sites, and a report on the Department's effort to achieve program efficiencies to restrain a draw on the oil and hazardous substance release prevention and response fund.

Department of Environmental Conservation Response:

The Department has continued to work with the Office of Management and Budget to explore options to address the declining balance of the fund. As requested, the Department will provide recommendations to the Legislature by January 21, 2014 for sustaining the Prevention Account of the Response fund.

WATER

Ch 14, SLA 13, Page 14, line 8

It is the intent of the legislature that the Department of Environmental Conservation make information regarding cruise ship mixing zones, including geographical areas, available to the public on the agency's web site.

Department of Environmental Conservation Response:

During the 2013 legislative session, the Legislature passed House Bill 80, which changed state statute to allow the Department to approve mixing zones in future cruise ship wastewater discharge permits. Shortly after the session, the Division of Water posted a frequently asked questions (FAQ) page on its website containing general information about mixing zones and information about House Bill 80 (http://dec.alaska.gov/water/cruise_ships/faq.htm). A web page showing area maps of cruise ship routes where discharges occur (http://dec.alaska.gov/water/cruise_ships/maps.htm) was posted online before the 2013 session. In addition, the Cruise Ship Program has had a web presence for many years (http://dec.alaska.gov/water/cruise_ships/index.htm); this website is routinely updated including updates of lists of ships authorized to discharge in Alaska.

Since passage of House Bill 80, the Division of Water has worked on drafting the next general permit which includes mixing zones as authorized by the legislation. During this permit process, the Department has developed and posted additional informative web pages describing the process for authorizing mixing zones. DEC will continue to update these pages as the permit development process generates more information.

When this general permit is publicly noticed, the permit and associated information sheet will include greater detail about the cruise ship mixing zones, including the areas where mixing zones will be authorized. The permit and fact sheet will be available on the Department's website, and the Department will also develop additional web pages with user-friendly mixing zone information.

After permit issuance, the website will continue to be updated as the Division of Water collects information required by the permit. The Department intends to routinely and continuously update the website, providing more useful web pages as resources and technology allow.

Thank you for your opportunity to respond.

Sincerely,



Tom Cherian
Director, Division of Administrative Services

Cc: Senator Dunleavy, Chair, Senate Finance Subcommittee
Representative Muñoz, Chair, House Finance Subcommittee
Danith Watts, Legislative Finance Division