



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

**Department of Environmental  
Conservation**

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

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May 14, 2021

The Honorable Kelly Merrick  
The Honorable Neil Foster  
Co-Chairs, House Finance Committee  
State Capitol Room 511  
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Representatives Merrick and Foster:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information about the Department of Environmental Conservation's Village Safe Water program on May 12<sup>th</sup>. Several questions arose during this meeting that required additional information. I have responded to these questions below.

***What's the average bill for water and sewer service in rural Alaska? (Rep. Wool)***

Based on user rate data collected in March 2020, the average rate for combined water and sewer is \$86.42. Rates range from \$20 to \$250 per month.

***How many villages don't have an adequate source of raw water to serve the system? (Rep. Edgmon)***

All known sanitation improvement needs for rural Alaskan communities are entered into the Indian Health Service's (IHS) Sanitation Deficiency System (SDS) database and updated annually. At this time, 14 potential projects to address water source needs have been entered SDS. Of these, 13 proposed source water projects are for communities that have existing piped water and sewer, and one proposed project is for an unserved community. Additionally, one piped community and one unserved community were awarded IHS funding for water source projects in 2021.

If you would like more information or have additional questions, I am happy to assist.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ruth Kostik".

Ruth Kostik  
Administrative Services Director

Cc: Michael Partlow, Legislative Finance Division  
Jake Quarstad, Office of Management and Budget  
Tally Teal, Staff to Representative Merrick  
Brodie Anderson, Staff to Representative Foster