

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 342(O&G)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON OIL AND GAS

Offered: 3/22/96

Referred: Resources

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVE ROKEBERG

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to water quality."

2 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 * **Section 1.** AS 16.05.050 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

4 (b) The commissioner may not require a higher discharge water quality
5 standard for water used than the existing quality of water received for the use.

6 * **Sec. 2.** AS 38.05.020 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

7 (c) The commissioner may not require a higher discharge water quality
8 standard for water used than the existing quality of water received for the use.

9 * **Sec. 3.** AS 46.03 is amended by adding a new section to read:

10 Sec. 46.03.085. WATER QUALITY STANDARDS. (a) If, in considering the
11 discharge of water and establishing criteria for water quality for discharged water, the
12 commissioner finds it necessary to establish a discharge standard for sediment, the
13 measurement of the sediment shall be by the volumetric Imhoff Cone method or by
14 another method approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for the
15 measurement of sediment.

1 (b) In applying the water quality criteria and limits authorized under this
2 chapter, the commissioner may require a person who uses water to meet a discharge
3 standard that is compatible with downstream uses at the point of the downstream uses
4 if the standard

5 (1) reflects a range of values that are satisfactory for the other
6 downstream uses;

7 (2) is not more restrictive than current applicable federal water quality
8 standards; and

9 (3) does not require a higher discharge water quality standard than the
10 existing quality of water received for the use.

11 (c) If federal water quality standards change, the commissioner shall promptly
12 adopt regulations that amend the state's water quality standards so that the state's water
13 quality standards remain consistent with, and not more restrictive than, applicable federal
14 water quality standards.