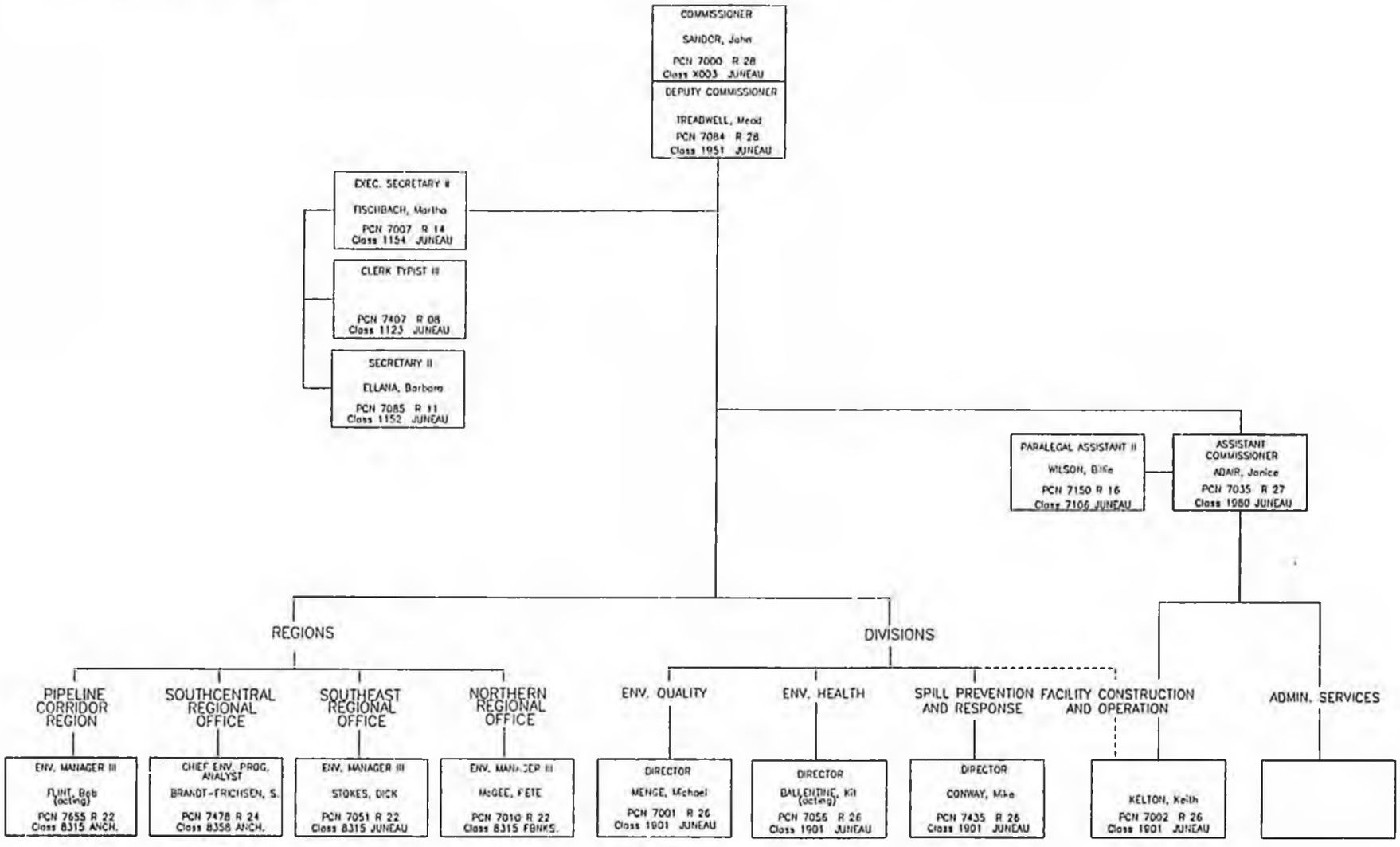
Overview

Dept. of Env. Conservation

1-20-93

STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER



WALTER J. HICKEL, GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
410 WILLOUGHBY AVE., #105, JUNEAU, AK 99801-1795

Phone: (907) 465-5050
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DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

January 25, 1993

JAN 27 1993

The Honorable Bill Williams
Alaska State House
State Capitol, Room 128
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Williams:

During the House Resource Committee's overview of the programs administered by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, there were two questions asked for which we wanted to provide further information.

Representative Mulder asked about the funding available to support water quality enhancement projects within the Municipality of Anchorage. As shown on the enclosed table, the Department has administered $12,300,000 in 50% matching grants to the Municipality in the last four years. Of this total, Anchorage has chosen to allocate $276,400 toward projects that directly benefit the water quality of local streams. Since the Municipality also contributes an equal share of project costs, actual expenditures exceed $550,000. Projects administered by the Anchorage Water/Wastewater Utility, which recovered the largest portion of the funding, also contribute to improved water quality every time new areas are sewered and septic tanks are eliminated.

Representative Davies asked how much of the Department's annual operating budget is funded by the federal government. For fiscal year 94, the federal government will contribute $8,694,900 while the State will contribute in general fund and general fund match $21,169,100. In fiscal year 93, the federal portion was $10,264,600 and the State's was $20,697,100. These figures do not include the Oil and Hazardous Substance Response Fund.

Representative Bunde expressed an interest in a briefing on the Project Chariot radiation cleanup at Point Hope. We will be sure to let you know when that information is available.

We are looking forward to working with you and the other members of the Resources Committee on a productive legislative session. Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can provide you with any information, or be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Janice Adair
Assistant Commissioner

JA/KK/vr (fco\clerical\legislat\williams)

Enclosure

cc: Kris W. Lethin, Legislative Liaison, Office of the Governor
House Resources Committee:
Representative Con Bunde
Representative Pat Carney
Representative John Davies
Representative David Finkelstein
Representative Joe Green
Representative Bill Hudson
Representative Jeannette James
Representative Eldon Mulder

Anchorage Capital Project Breakdown
(through ADEC) 1/20/93

	SB 483 ***Ch 5 SLA 92***	***HB 15*** ***Ch 96 SLA 91***	***HB 463**** ***Ch 208 SLA 90***	***HB 163*** ***Ch 117 SLA 89***	***TOTALS***
Total Appropriation	**$4,500,000**	**$2,900,000**	**$3,900,000**	**$1,000,000**	**$12,300,000**
Anchorage Water/ Wastewater Utility	$2,668,000	$1,939,500	$3,900,000	$750,000	$9,257,500
Health/Human Svcs (Water Quality)	$171,400	$65,000	$0	$40,000	$276,400
Solid Waste Svcs	$1,660,600	$895,500	$0	$210,000	$2,766,100

*This was a direct line item appropriation entitled "Girdwood WID"

December, 1992

the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

DEPARTMENTAL GOALS AND SUMMARY OF PROGRAMS

December, 1992

the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

DEPARTMENTAL GOALS AND SUMMARY OF PROGRAMS

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

410 Willoughby Ave, Suite 105
Juneau, AK 99801-1795
(907) 465-5050

Mission: To protect public health from environmental threats, and to conserve, protect and improve Alaska's environment for present and future generations.

Environmental Quality Division 465-5260

Ensures compliance with air, land and water pollution laws to protect public health and the environment.

- ❑ pollution prevention office
- ❑ public drinking water
- ❑ industrial wastewater control
- ❑ domestic wastewater control
- ❑ air quality management
- ❑ solid waste management
- ❑ hazardous waste management
- ❑ environmental analysis laboratory
- ❑ water quality management

Spill Prevention and Response Division 465-5250

Improves the state's capability to prevent, respond to, and clean up pollution incidents involving oil and hazardous substances.

- ❑ government preparedness and response
- ❑ industry preparedness
- ❑ contaminated sites remediation
- ❑ underground storage tanks

Facilities Construction and Operation Division 465-5180

Provides financial and technical assistance to local communities for construction and operation of water, sewer, and solid waste projects.

- ❑ Village Safe Water program
- ❑ 50% matching grants for facility construction
- ❑ Alaska Clean Water Fund administration
- ❑ operator training and certification
- ❑ remote maintenance worker assistance

Environmental Health Division 465-5280

Through education and regulation assures wholesome fish, meat, and dairy products for consumers and enforces basic standards of sanitation in public facilities.

- ❑ seafood inspection
- ❑ pesticide program
- ❑ laboratory monitoring operations, lab certification
- ❑ meat/poultry/animal health & dairy program
- ❑ environmental sanitation

Information & Administrative Services Division 465-5010

Provides overall financial, employee and informational services within the department and to the public.

- ❑ financial services
- ❑ personnel
- ❑ media/publications/library
- ❑ information systems and data management
- ❑ supply and procurement

12/92

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

Local offices:

Southcentral Region

3601 "C" Street, Suite 1334
Anchorage, AK 99503
phone 563-6529
FAX 562-4026

Anchorage District	349-7755
Kenai District	262-5210
Matanuska Susitna District	376-5038
Valdez Field Office	835-4698
Cordova Field Office	424-4385
Western District	349-7755
Bethel Field Office	349-7755
Kodiak Field Office	486-6760
Unalaska Field Office	581-1822

Southeast Region

410 Willoughby Ave., Suite 105
Juneau, AK 99801
phone 465-5350
FAX 465-5362

Juneau District	465-5340
Ketchikan District	225-6200
Sitka District	747-8614

Northern Region

1001 Noble Street, Suite 350
Fairbanks, AK 99701
phone 451-2360
FAX 451-2187

Northern Alaska District	451-2172
Nome District	443-2600
Tok District	883-4381

Pipeline Corridor Region

411 W. 4th Ave., Suite #2-C
Anchorage, AK 99501
phone 258-5400
FAX 272-0690

Prince William Sound/ Valdez	835-4698
Fairbanks/North Slope	451-2155

Southeast Region — Environ. Health

410 Willoughby Ave., Suite 105
Juneau, AK 99801
phone 465-5280
FAX 465-5292

Juneau District	465-5280
Sitka District	747-8614
Ketchikan District	225-6200

Anchorage Region — Environ. Health

800 East Dimond Blvd., Suite 3-455
Anchorage, AK 99515
phone 349-7343
Fax 349-4715

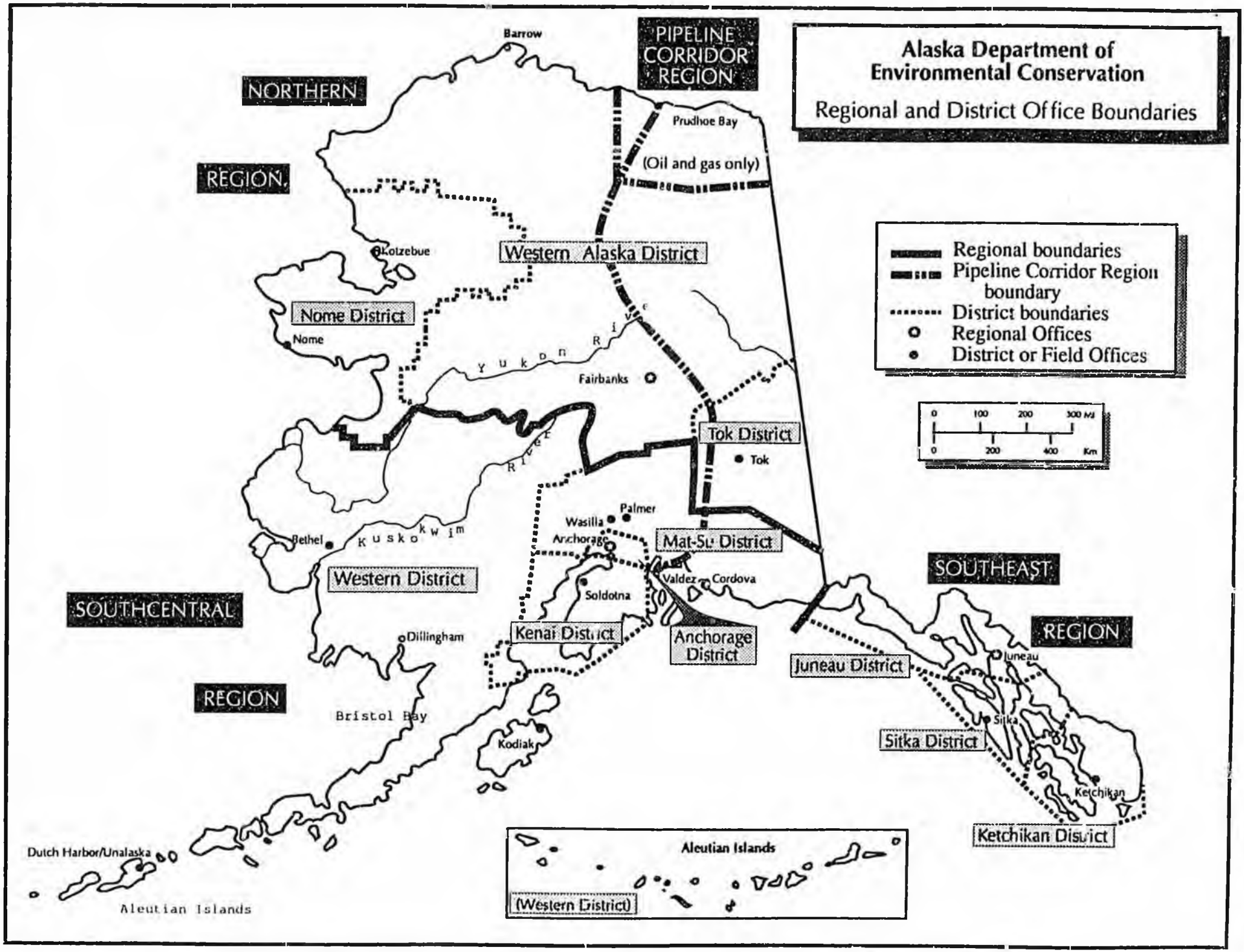
Kenai District	262-5210
Cordova District	424-5585
Palmer District	745-3236
Kodiak District	486-3350
Bristol Bay District	246-6636
Dutch Harbor District	581-1822

Fairbanks Region — Environ. Health

1001 Noble Street, Suite 350
Fairbanks, AK 99701
phone 451-2360
FAX 451-2187

City of Fairbanks	456-6450
Interior District Office	451-2360
Tok District Office	883-4382
Nome, through Norton Sound Health Corporation	443-5411

Alaska Law requires the reporting of all
Oil and Hazardous Substance Spills
Spills should be reported to the nearest district office of the department during normal working hours, or after hours for
1-800-478-9300


Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Regional and District Office Boundaries
NORTHERN REGION
PIPELINE CORRIDOR REGION
SOUTHCENTRAL REGION
SOUTHEAST REGION
Barrow
Prudhoe Bay
(Oil and gas only)
Kotzebue
Western Alaska District
Nome District
Nome
Yukon River
Fairbanks
Tok District
Tok
Kuskokwim River
Bethel
Palmer
Wasilla
Anchorage
Mat-Su District
Western District
Valdez
Cordova
Soldotna
Kenai District
Anchorage District
Dillingham
Bristol Bay
Kodiak
Juneau District
Juneau
Sitka
Sitka District
Ketchikan
Ketchikan District
Dutch Harbor/Unalaska
Aleutian Islands
Aleutian Islands (Western District)
Regional boundaries
Pipeline Corridor Region boundary
District boundaries
Regional Offices
District or Field Offices
0 100 200 300 Mi
0 200 400 Km

MAJOR STATE & FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS

State

- Water, Air, Energy and Environmental Conservation (Title 46)
- Oil Pollution Control
- Oil and Hazardous Substance Release Control
- Wastewater Disposal
- Drinking Water
- Water Quality Standards
- Hazardous Waste
- Environmental Sanitation
- Food Service
- Fish Inspection
- Alaska State Emergency Response Commission
- Underground Petroleum Storage Tanks
- Certification of Water and Wastewater Operators
- The Alaska Coastal Management Program
- Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management
- Dairy, Meat and Poultry Inspections
- Animal Health
- Pesticide Control
- Recycling and Reduction of Litter
- Village Safe Water Act
- Management and Use of Water in Mining
- Smoking in Public Places

Federal

- Clean Air Act
- Clean Water Act
- Coastal Zone Management Act
- Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)
- Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation & Liability Act (CERCLA)
- Safe Drinking Water Act
- Toxic Substance Control
- Endangered Species Act
- Marine Mammal Protection
- International Migratory Bird Treaty
- Oil Pollution Control Act
- Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide
- Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- Solid Waste Regional Act

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation 12/92

Mission: To protect public health from environmental threats, and to conserve, protect and improve Alaska's environment for present and future generations.

Top Eleven Goals:

STRATEGIC PLANNING UNIT

- Establish a strategic planning unit within DEC that will assist management in setting priorities within programs based on comparative risk analyses.
- Ensure that the work to be done drives the funding and is supportive of other agencies' goals.
- Help flesh out new ideas or initiatives from both within and without the Department.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND COST/BENEFIT-BASED PRIORITIES

- Expand comparative risk assessment capabilities and manage to reduce risk in a cost effective way.
- Emphasize those environmental goals that are achievable by the state and local governments.

CONSISTENT AND STREAMLINED PROCEDURES

- Provide clear administrative direction on the budget and insure efficient and value-added activities, appropriate delegations, and approvals within the Department.
- Ensure, to the greatest extent possible, consistency between regions.

QUALITY PARTNERSHIPS

- Establish workable methods for creation and operation of quality partnerships; that is, partnerships that identify and reach for achievable environmental objectives.
- Enter into a few comprehensive community agreements or enter into many with less detail — all with realistic expectations.
- Identify ways to cost-effectively utilize resources from other divisions, departments, agencies, and local governments to achieve environmental goals.

RURAL ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

- Place a high priority on improvement of water, wastewater, and solid waste facilities in rural communities.
- Establish an Affirmative Action Program specifically targeted to Alaska Natives as well as volunteer programs like Water Watch.

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

- Establish a system of public education about ways to prevent pollution and how to address it in a cost-effective way.
- Educate Alaskans on risks, and seek out and listen to their views on priorities.
- Make more use of RATNET.

MODIFY AND REVIEW REGULATIONS AND PERMITS

- Modify and review all regulations and permit conditions to "de-hassle" the process while keeping the integrity of the permit.
- Be sure requirements are clearly stated and understandable.

COMMITMENT TO IMPROVED TECHNOLOGY

- Support the development of improved technology for prevanting and solving environmental problems, such as geographical information systems.
- Explore ways to easily use and share the data collected in each region.

ENFORCEMENT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- Clarify the roles and distinction between enforcement responsibilities and the need to offer technical assistance.
- Develop guidelines to provide cost-effective solutions to environmental problems which, if not addressed, may involve violations of regulations.

TEAM SPIRIT

- Improve morale and team spirit through success, training opportunities, career path development, and mutual trust and respect.

PRESERVE INTEGRITY AND MISSION IN FACE OF CONFLICTING RESOURCE DEMANDS

- Through a well-coordinated planning effort, preserve the integrity, mission, and core values of the Department while resources decline but demands for those resources increase.

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

Division of Environmental Quality

Pollution Prevention Office

410 Willoughby Avenue,
Suite 105
Juneau Alaska 99801
465-5050

John A. Sandor
Commissioner

Mead Treadwell
Deputy Commissioner

Janice Adair
Assistant Commissioner
Legislative Liason

Mike Menge
Director, Division of
Environmental Quality

David Wigglesworth
Chief, Pollution
Prevention Office
563-6529

Goal

To protect public health and environmental quality by eliminating or reducing pollutants at their source rather than controlling pollutants through response mitigation, treatment, and disposal.

Background

In 1989, the Department of Environmental Conservation was awarded a federal grant from the US EPA to develop a pollution prevention program. In 1990, the Alaska Legislature passed House Bill 478 which established a waste reduction and recycling technical assistance program (now called the Pollution Prevention Office) within the Department (AS 46.06.031). In 1992, DEC Commissioner Sandor reinforced department commitment and resolve for pollution prevention by creating a senior managers Pollution Prevention Policy Council to advance efforts to incorporate pollution prevention within department programs. Moreover, EPA and DEC recently signed an agreement to build a sustained pollution prevention program by directing federal resources to the Pollution Prevention Office.

Issues

Pollution prevention offers environmental quality with economic benefits. Managing pollution after it has been created is an enormous financial burden to the state. Millions of dollars are spent annually to clean up contaminated sites. About $1.3 billion has been spent in an effort to resolve rural sanitation issues. Many pollution problems fall "outside" currently regulatory jurisdiction or cannot be solved by regulation alone. Public demand for information on methods to reduce waste and increase efficiency is growing. Innovative non-regulatory incentives are needed to augment traditional regulatory activities. New approaches are needed to address problems that fall outside regulatory program jurisdiction. Partnerships with the public, industry, communities, and other sectors must be fostered to meet the overall state objectives in the area of pollution prevention and to provide the resources necessary to meet these objectives. The Pollution Prevention Office is established to meet these new challenges.

Major Features

- Provide non-regulatory technical assistance to business, communities, government agencies, and the general public (AS 46.06.031).
- Issue pollution prevention incentive grants and recognition programs for small business, communities, and schools (AS 46.03.317, 46.11.070, 46.03.045).
- Conduct non-regulatory on-site pollution prevention opportunity assessments for business (AS 46.06.031).
- Coordinate department-wide pollution prevention activities and provide staff support to the DEC Pollution Prevention Policy Council (AS 46.06.031).
- Maintain a pollution prevention technical assistance information clearinghouse and conduct training (AS 46.06.031).

Program Benefits

Preventing pollution is good business. It offers environmental quality with economic benefits. Businesses can enjoy cost savings by reductions in raw materials, more efficient waste handling and disposal, improved worker safety, and reduced litigation and legal fees. Residents and visitors alike benefit from a cleaner, safer environment. The pollution prevention office of DEC seeks to protect public health and the environment by eliminating or reducing pollutants at their source rather than controlling pollution later on.

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Environmental Quality

Public Drinking Water Project

410 Willoughby Avenue,
Suite 105
Juneau Alaska 99801
465-5050

John A. Sandor
Commissioner

Mead Treadwell
Deputy Commissioner

Janice Adair
Assistant Commissioner
Legislative Liason

Mike Menge
Director, Division of Environmental Quality

Deena Henkins
Chief, Wastewater and Water Treatment Section
465-5300

Goal

To ensure that drinking water supplied for public consumption in Alaska is safe.

Program Background

The statewide Public Drinking Water Project is responsible for ensuring that water supplied for public consumption meets minimum health standards including those of the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 (SDWA). The SDWA directed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to develop and enforce regulations to ensure that drinking water supplies meet certain health standards. Congress also recognized that states could administer a drinking water program and provided that the program could be delegated to state government entities under certain conditions. Primacy (primary enforcement responsibility) can be delegated to a state providing the state: 1) adopts regulations that are no less stringent than federal requirements, 2) adopts and implements enforcement procedures, 3) performs adequate record keeping and reporting, 4) provides for variances and exceptions, 5) performs planning for provision of safe water in emergencies. Alaska applied for and was granted primacy in 1978.

Issues

The SDWA mandates a very ambitious program of additional regulations to improve the long-term safety of public water supplies. Congress has not, however, provided federal grant funding commensurate with the increased work load, and EPA consistently underestimates the cost of new federal regulations to public water suppliers. Alaska would like to retain primacy of the federal drinking water program because the state runs a more comprehensive program that EPA would run, including technical assistance, plan reviews, and sanitary surveys to locate and eliminate deficiencies in the water system. The state will continue to adopt new federal regulations and to negotiate the implementation of the regulation in the annual State/EPA agreement. Without additional state resources in the program, however, at some point EPA may have to withdraw primacy.

Major Features

- Maintain regulations that prescribe minimum health standards and procedures fo. gn, construction and operation of Alaska's 1,680 public drinking water systems and a data base that contains information on each system.
- Adopt Phase II and V regulations, which include maximum contaminant levels for additional chemical and monitoring schedules tailored for each public water system.
- Annually inspect over 100 major public water systems, including collecting and analyzing water samples for contaminants.
- Annually assist designers and review plans for 450 new or modified public water systems to ensure designs meet minimum standards to protect health.
- Respond to approximately 185 complaints annually about drinking water from consumers, identify contaminants and specify corrective measures.
- Review results of water quality testing conducted by public water suppliers, specify

corrective measures where contamination is indicated, and ensure that suppliers conduct required testing.

- Work with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to negotiate reasonable and workable drinking water regulations that acknowledge conditions unique to Alaska, and secure federal grant funding.
- Develop and implement a rural drinking water strategy to assist rural Alaskan water systems in providing safer drinking water.
- Provide a broad range of assistance on water treatment processes to communities and other water system owners, operators, and designers.
- Annually or biannually certify 29 laboratories for bacteriological analyses of public water supplies.
- Certify approximately 24 laboratories every three years for chemical analyses of public water supplies.

Program Benefits

Alaska has some 2,500 public water systems. Chemical and biological contamination of drinking water supplies have occured over the years. The public drinking water program helps ensure that public water systems are properly built and maintained, and that the water meets health standards.

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Environmental Quality

Industrial Wastewater Control

410 Willoughby Avenue,
Suite 105
Juneau Alaska 99801
465-5050

John A. Sandor
Commissioner

Mead Treadwell
Deputy Commissioner

Janice Adair
Assistant Commissioner
Legislative Liason

Mike Menge
Director, Division of
Environmental Quality

Deena Henkins
Chief, Wastewater and
Water Treatment Section
465-5300

Goal

To ensure that industrial wastewater is treated and disposed of in a manner that protects public health and the environment.

Program Background

The Federal Clean Water Act Amendments of 1972 set up the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) to permit point source discharges of pollutants to the waters of the United States. The State of Alaska has not accepted delegation of the NPDES permit program, and in Alaska the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issues NPDES permits. The Clean Water Act requires the state to certify that NPDES permits will not cause violations of the state water quality standards. Alaska statutes also provide that the state-certified NPDES permit becomes the state waste disposal permit. If the EPA declines to issue an NPDES permit, the department will issue a state permit. The department also reviews plans of industrial waste water treatment systems as provided by state statute.

Issues

In Alaska industrial wastewater point source discharges are controlled principally by NPDES or state waste disposal permits, with effluent limits required to meet the water quality standards in the receiving water. There are industrial activities, however, particularly the emerging hard rock mining industry, that may result in waste rock and tailings disposal sites that can affect ground waters and which are not covered by NPDES permits. In fiscal year '93 the department's solid and hazardous waste section is studying the various kinds of waste issues associated with mining (acid rock formation, tailings ponds, cyanide leaching heaps and tailings, etc.) and will make recommendations on how, and by whom, the issues could be addressed most efficiently. This study could result in the drafting of regulations specific to the mining industry to prevent pollution of the lands and waters of the state.

Major Features

- Review plans for industrial wastewater treatment systems, including placer mining plans of operation.
- Annually conduct 300 inspections of industrial wastewater treatment and disposal systems.
- Provide technical assistance to individuals and companies in the design, installation and operation of industrial wastewater systems.
- Monitor wastewater system effluent and receiving water quality to ensure that public health and the environment are being protected.
- Annually certify 20 federal permits for major industrial wastewater discharges to ensure that water quality will be protected.
- Annually issue ten state waste disposal permits to minor industrial discharges.

Program Benefits

The program helps prevent the untreated release of wastewater, thus improving the environment and protecting the health of Alaskans who otherwise could be affected by water-borne disease.

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Environmental Quality

Domestic Wastewater Control

410 Willoughby Avenue,
Suite 105
Juneau Alaska 99801
465-5050

John A. Sandor
Commissioner

Mead Treadwell
Deputy Commissioner

Janice Adair
Assistant Commissioner
Legislative Liason

Mike Menge
Director, Division of
Environmental Quality

Deena Henkins
Chief, Wastewater and
Water Treatment Section
465-5300

Goal

To ensure that domestic wastewater is treated and disposed of in a manner that protects public health and the environment.

Program Background

In 1973 the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) adopted wastewater regulations, 18 AAC 72. These regulations set minimum standards for the design of sewage collection, treatment and disposal systems. The regulations also implement the department's statutory authority to review plans for wastewater collection, treatment and disposal systems and to review plans for sewage disposal for subdivisions.

Issues

In Alaska very few local governments (principally the Municipality of Anchorage and to a lesser extent the cities of Valdez and Wasilla) regulate sewage collection, treatment or disposal, and most of the burden state-wide falls on DEC. As budgets decline, the department has to streamline its programs, such as plan review, by clearly defining the scope of DEC review and what will be left to the consulting engineer preparing the plans. The department will also continue the effort to pass the certification of on-lot water and sewer systems for bank loans to private consulting engineers trained by DEC. The bank loan certifications are not required by state statutes or regulations.

Major Features

- Maintain and update the wastewater disposal regulations and guidance.
- Annually review plans for 800 domestic wastewater disposal systems.
- Annually review plans for 200 subdivisions to ensure adequate means are available to dispose of wastewater.
- Annually inspect 400 wastewater disposal systems.
- Respond to complaints on inadequate sewer systems—an estimated 800 annually.
- Provide technical assistance to individual companies and municipalities on the design, installation and operation of domestic wastewater systems.
- Monitor wastewater system effluent and receiving water quality to ensure that public health and the environment are being protected.
- Annually certify 10 federal permits for major sewage treatment systems to ensure that water quality standards will be met.
- Annually issue 25 state waste disposal permits to sewage dischargers.
- Certify single-family septic systems so that home buyers may secure financing—approximately 2,500 annually.
- Investigate and implement viable means of septic waste treatment and disposal in remote communities.
- Establish permit issuance guidelines and enforcement procedures, and update a permit data base for surveillance of permitted discharges statewide.

Program Benefits

The program helps prevent the untreated release of wastewater, thus improving the environment and protecting the health of Alaskans who otherwise could be affected by water-borne disease.

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Environmental Quality

Air Quality Management

410 Willoughby Avenue,
Suite 105
Juneau Alaska 99801
465-5050

John A. Sandor
Commissioner

Mead Treadwell
Deputy Commissioner

Janice Adair
Assistant Commissioner
Legislative Liason

Mike Menge
Director, Division of
Environmental Quality

Len Verrelli
Chief, Air Quality
Program
465-5100

Goal

Safeguard public health from air pollutants harmful effects, fostering the use of technology which enables economic development to have minimal reduction in air quality, and to preserve the high level of existing air quality for the enjoyment and well-being of all.

Program Background

The 1970 Clean Air Act established air quality programs nationwide. The act is designed to regulate Air emissions from stationary, mobile and other sources which pose a risk to human health and the environment. The State of Alaska established a program in the early 70's which went far beyond the federal mandate. This was done to protect the pristine environment unique to Alaska. The Air Quality Management project controls significant sources of air contaminants to protect and enhance air quality and abate impacts on public health and the environment. Major activities include permitting; inspections; assisting industry in preparing permit proposals; assisting local governments with air quality monitoring and transportation control issues and requirements; developing and supporting related air quality standards and emission management programs; and verifying and reporting improvements to the federal government.

Issues

There are four areas in Alaska that violate a National Ambient Air Quality Standard. Anchorage and Fairbanks exceed the standard for carbon monoxide, while Eagle River and the Mendenhall Valley of Juneau exceed the standard for airborne particulate matter. Through the 1990 Clean Air Act amendments, Congress requires Eagle River and the Mendenhall Valley to attain the standard by December 31, 1994, and Anchorage and Fairbanks to attain the standard by December 31, 1995. Failure to attain the standards would result in continued jeopardy of public health and may result in federal sanctions. Also, the air pollution permitting program must undergo major revisions to comply with the Clean Air Act amendments. However, new statutory authority is necessary before compliance can be achieved. Failure to develop an adequate program may result in forfeiture of the air quality program to EPA.

Major Features

Administration of Air Quality Management:

- Annual development of federal grant requests and the State/EPA Agreement (SEA).
- Develop and administer memoranda of understanding/agreements with local governments.

Stationary Sources:

- Issue, renew, and amend Air Quality Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) permits to new and existing Alaska facilities in accordance with state regulations.
- Monitor compliance with existing regulations and air quality standards through annual inspections and uniform enforcement procedures.
- Streamline applications and review procedures for all affected facilities.

- Maintain and revise as necessary AQM regulations.
- Certify and train air inspectors.

Transportation Control:
- Mobile Sources
  - Submit an approvable Carbon Monoxide State Implementation Plans (SIPs) for Anchorage and Fairbanksto EPA.
  - Manage an effective and efficient oxygenated fuels program.
  - Oversee and audit local-run inspection and maintenance programs.
  - Develop contingency plans for assumption of Inspection/Maintenance or other locally-run transportation programs should any local government default to a state-run program.
  - Maintain and revise as necessary all "Conformity" agreements to assure compliance with Federal Highways requirements.
  - Submit approvable PM-10 (particulate matter) SIPs for the nonattainment problems in Eagle River and Mendenhall Valley.
- Ambient Monitoring
  - Operate statewide monitoring program to assure state air quality standards are met.
  - Provide quality assurance/quality control of statewide monitoring equipment.
  - Perform investigative monitoring of suspected emission releases.

Air Toxics Program:
- Continue development and implementation of a state-wide air toxic program.
- As necessary develop air toxic regulations for pollutants suspected to be injurious to humans, plants and animals.
- Develop project plans for evaluating potentially harmful industrial by-products.

Small Business Assistance:
- Develop and implement a cost effective small business assistance program.
- Technically assist small businesses and municipalities through the new permit program.
- Provide for a Compliance Advisory Panel.
- Provide independent auditing of emission sources with small businesses.

Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 (CAAA90) Compliance Program:
- Develop regulations and statutes consistent with the intent of Congress and state needs.
- Manage an EPA-approvable fee program sufficient to maintain a reasonable work force to provide timely service to permit clients.
- Create a Draft Permit Format and General Permit structure to provide assistance to permit clients by streamlining and simplifying the permit process.

Train Regional permit liaisons.
- Develop an Inspector Certification Program.
- Establish a Quality Control/Quality Assurance Program.

Program Benefits

By controlling emissions that can be harmful to humans, animals and plant life, DEC's Air Quality Management Program is working to prevent any further degradation of the state's air quality and to clean up past air pollution problems.

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Environmental Quality

Solid Waste Management

410 Willoughby Avenue,
Suite 105
Juneau Alaska 99801
465-5050

John A. Sandor
Commissioner

Mead Treadwell
Deputy Commissioner

Janice Adair
Assistant Commissioner
Legislative Liason

Mike Menge
Director, Division of
Environmental Quality

Heather Stockard
Manager, Solid and
Hazardous Waste
Management
465-5150

Goal

To protect public health and the environment from the potential dangers of improper solid waste disposal.

Program Background

Solid waste management was one of the first functions undertaken by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) in the early 1970's. Solid wastes regulated by DEC include both municipal and industrial wastes. In October 1991, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued new requirements for municipal solid waste landfills in response to the 1984 Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). During the fall of 1992, DEC is revising state solid waste regulations to incorporate the new federal provisions.

Issues

The most significant issue facing the Solid Waste Program is the need to receive program approval from EPA. New federal requirements for municipal solid waste landfills take effect in October 1993, including provisions which will be difficult, if not impossible, for many Alaskan communities to meet. Additional flexibility to administer the federal requirements is granted states with approved programs. Areas of increased flexibility include siting of landfills in wetlands, fault areas and seismic impact zones. The director of an approved state may also temporarily waive daily cover requirements, approve alternative landfill designs based on site-specific conditions, and approve alternate requirements for groundwater monitoring and post-closure care. To receive program approval DEC must adopt revised solid waste regulations, and show a commitment to the permitting, inspection and enforcement activities necessary to ensure compliance with these requirements.

Major Features

- Issue permits for solid waste disposal facilities, including municipal landfills, landspreading of sewage sludge, disposal of contaminated soils, and land disposal of industrial wastes such as oilfield drilling muds.
- Inspect landfills for compliance with permit conditions and regulations.
- Provide technical assistance to facility owner/operators to help them comply with state and federal laws.
- Review closure plans for inactive reserve pits which were previously used for the land disposal of drilling muds.
- Set standards for landfill location, operation, design, monitoring, closure and financial assurance.

Program Benefits

The solid waste management program is a preventative program: it requires proper management and disposal of solid waste in order to prevent health and environmental hazards and the need for costly environmental cleanup efforts of improperly disposed waste. It cuts total costs since waste management is 10 to 100 times cheaper than cleaning up contaminated sites.

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

Division of Environmental Quality

Hazardous Waste Management

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Heather Stockard
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465-5150

Goal

To protect public health, property and the environment from the harmful effects of improper hazardous waste management and disposal.

Program Background

In 1976, Congress passed the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), which directed EPA to establish regulations for handling a range of dangerous substances when they become wastes. RCRA established a "cradle-to-grave" management and tracking of hazardous waste, from generator to transporter, treatment, storage and disposal. In 1981, DEC started to implement the RCRA requirements. In 1984 Congress strengthened the RCRA laws by passing the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments (HSWA). These amendments imposed new requirements, including the restriction of land disposal of hazardous waste, corrective action for releases of hazardous waste, and deadlines for the issuance of facility operating permits.

Issues

The Hazardous Waste Management Program faces significant issues and challenges. State law directs DEC to take all actions necessary to receive authorization from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to administer the RCRA hazardous waste program in Alaska in lieu of the federal government. DEC is working toward achieving authorization, including development of an application package and a program that EPA will approve. The program will include a commitment to provide sufficient resources, a proficient permitting program, a qualified compliance monitoring and enforcement program, corrective action capability, legal and regulatory authorities equivalent to federal requirements, and a sound data management system. Other issues include promoting the siting of hazardous waste management facilities in-state, assisting communities to safely dispose of household hazardous waste, encouraging facilities to reduce their generation of hazardous waste, and integrating pollution prevention into all program activities.

Major Features

- Continue work toward development of a program that will be capable to assume administration of the RCRA program currently administered by EPA in Alaska.
- Ensure that operating waste storage facilities in Alaska not seeking final permits are properly closed.
- Inspect facilities that produce, or otherwise handle hazardous waste, to make sure they comply with hazardous waste regulations and permit conditions.
- Respond to citizen complaints about hazardous waste activities.
- Provide information and technical assistance to the public and the regulated community on hazardous waste management issues.
- Develop permits for hazardous waste management facilities.
- Assist communities in an annual collection and proper disposal of hazardous wastes from households and small businesses.

- Maintain and update regulations that prescribe standards for managing hazardous wastes, and for the siting of hazardous waste management facilities in-state.

Program Benefits

The hazardous waste management program is a preventative program. It requires producers to properly manage and dispose of hazardous wastes, preventing health hazards and the need for later costly environmental cleanup efforts of improperly disposed waste. Since waste management is 10 to 100 times cheaper than hazard cleanups, cleanup prevention is the only reasonable alternative.

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

Division of Environmental Quality

Environmental Analysis Laboratory

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Jim Powell
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Acting Director,
Monitoring and
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790-2169

Goal

Laboratory: to provide error-free, high-quality analytical services for samples submitted in support of Department programs, and to manage the state's Drinking Water Certification Program for chemical laboratories.

Monitoring program: to protect Alaska's water quality through monitoring.

Quality assurance project: to ensure that all environmental data generated for the Department will be scientifically valid, defensible and of known quality.

Toxicology: to determine potential impact to humans and ecological systems from exposure to chemicals in the environment.

Program Background

Before DEC was created in 1971, most scientific work was handled by a laboratory run by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. That lab continued to support DEC programs for the Department's first 10 years. In 1981, however, the state assumed full control of the laboratories, with the Palmer facility specializing in microbiological tests and the Juneau laboratory concentrating on chemical analysis. Since then, the Juneau lab has set up a quality assurance project to check the performance of private contract labs in the state; a monitoring program to devise proper sampling strategies; and a toxicology program to determine adverse human health effects from exposure to wastes, toxic substances, and pesticides in the environment. DEC's Environmental Analysis Laboratory is now a shared facility with the University of Alaska.

Issues

The laboratory's major issue concerns maintaining proficiency and a high level of quality control in order to certify private laboratories in the state. The Environmental Analysis Laboratory establishes and improves high standards for private labs through assistance and certification. Keeping abreast of the potential impact of new pollutants to human health and the environment is another concern, as is anticipating monitoring needs and trends related to water quality.

Major Features

Laboratory Services:

- Provide analytical testing for heavy metals, volatiles (VOCs) and semi-volatile organic chemicals, pesticides, and petroleum in soil, water, and sludge. The lab also performs radiological tests for nitrates and fluorides.
- Manage certification of in-state and out-of-state laboratories for chemical analysis of drinking water.
- Maintain state-of-the-art equipment and capability to provide analytical lab support.
- Perform test samples for hazardous wastes, needed for enforcement of the Resource Conservation Recovery Act.
- Perform tests needed for enforcement of water quality permits, of soils and waters around sites and industrial facilities, and the sites of leaking underground storage tanks.

Quality Assurance Project:

- Review and make quality assurance plans to insure that data quality meet a project's measurement objectives.
- Validate the data on all tests to assure the data's usability.

Toxicology:

- Identify environmental and human pathways of exposure to contaminants.
- Determine the relationship between potential adverse human health and chemicals/ hazardous wastes.
- Determine how chemicals change and their potential adverse effects on human health and the environment.

Monitoring Project:

- Help develop and implement an effective ambient water quality monitoring program.
- Develop sampling methods, standard operating procedures, field sampling and analytical guidelines, and maintain a training capability to instruct field staff.
- Maintain equipment for loan to field staff and coordinates field sampling.
- Develop and implement a system to store and retrieve water quality information needed by DEC.

Program Benefits

Through accurate testing for pollutants and results produced on a timely basis, the lab helps the Department protect the health and safety of Alaskans.

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Environmental Quality

Water Quality Management Project

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Doug Redburn
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Management Project
465-5310

Goal

To enhance and protect surface and groundwater quality throughout Alaska.

Program Background

Congress passed the Water Pollution Control Act of 1972, establishing baseline water quality programs nationwide. The Clean Water Act (CWA) Amendments of 1987 added a number of strengthened and new provisions. In addition to maintaining water quality standards, states were required to prepare management plans for Nonpoint Source (NPS) pollution control. Groundwater protection received new attention in both the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act amendments of 1987. Reauthorization of the Coastal Management Act in 1990 required stronger links between coastal planning and nonpoint source pollution control. The Water Quality project ensures coordination and performance of Department efforts to control water pollution through water quality standards, forest practices and other nonpoint source pollution control efforts, groundwater protection, and coastal planning and permitting. The WQM project administers four water quality protection strategies, publicly reviewed and approved by EPA, to guide agency water quality protection priorities. Major activities in the strategies include public involvement, regulation development, permitting, enforcement, technical assistance, training and planning.

Issues

The Water Quality Management project faces several significant challenges. A top priority is to develop scientifically-supportable revisions to the water quality standards and including full public involvement in that process. A long-term citizen advisory group has been formed for this purpose. Providing expanded technical guidance on the implementation of water quality standards is needed. Increasing the level of statewide water quality monitoring to allow the department to verify water quality problems and prepare recovery plans for polluted waterbodies is essential. An added challenge is implementing newly-adopted forest practices regulations to ensure best management practices (BMPs) fully protect water uses on federal, state and private forested lands. Improving water quality through enhanced citizen stewardship of waterbodies is another issue, as is better protection of groundwater by fostering more efficient networking of various local, state and federal efforts. Additional issues are completing revisions to the coastal management regulations to make procedures consistent with the department's oil spill regulations and ensuring more efficient computer management of water quality information to aid decisions.

Major Features

- Administer four strategies to protect water quality: the Water Quality Standards, Nonpoint Source Pollution Control, Groundwater, and Volunteer Water Watch Strategies.
- Maintain the Alaska water quality standards to limit the amount of pollution introducted into state waters.

- Integrate pollution prevention into all projects.
- Issue water quality certifications for federal discharge permits.
- Monitor the effectiveness of forestry BMPs in protecting water quality.
- Coordinate groundwater protection efforts with local and state governments and staff four local groundwater task forces.
- Develop cooperative agreements to expand efforts in water quality protection.
- Maintain working groups to provide recommendations on policy issues.
- Publish a statewide assessment of water quality every two years.
- Help local governments prepare coastal management plans, ordinances and other water pollution controls.
- Complete water quality assessments of impaired surface waters, and implement control and recovery plans.
- Implement the forest practices enforcement policy.
- Maintain a computer information system for tracking water quality trends.

Program Benefits

The program can help solve water pollution problems in Alaska and thus avert the greater expense of cleaning up new areas of contaminated waterbodies to protect the environment and public health of Alaskans.

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Spill Prevention and Response

Government Preparedness and Response

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Lynn Kent
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Preparedness and
Response Program
456-5220

Goal

To protect public health and the environment by ensuring a planned and safe response to releases or threatened releases of oil or hazardous substances.

Program Background

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is responsible for responding to all oil and hazardous substance spills and ensuring their containment, control and cleanup. DEC also defines the extent of contamination and assesses damages and recovery of costs to the state. Title 46 of the Alaska Statutes and Title III of the federal Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) tasked DEC with facilitating local, regional and statewide response preparedness for oil and hazardous substance releases in order to minimize the impact on human health and the environment. DEC's Government Preparedness and Response program facilitates this planning and also prepares, reviews and revises the state and regional plans for oil and hazardous substance discharge prevention and response. The program provides staff support to the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) and funding, staff support, and administration to Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs).

Issues

DEC must work with local government agencies and the public to establish 26 LEPCs. Training and guidance will be provided to the LEPCs for the development of response plans for oil and hazardous substance releases. The Department will develop State and Regional plans to insure responding personnel from all state and local agencies understand their roles and responsibilities when responding to a release. In addition, the Department must train response teams and improve the response resources available for a major spill.

Major Features

- Develop regulations and guidelines for the SERC and LEPCs and hold quarterly meetings with each.
- Ensure that up to 26 local plans under development are coordinated and integrated with other relevant plans and comply with requirements specified in state and federal law.
- Complete compilation of hazards analysis for the state.
- Revise the State and Regional response plans and conduct drills to test adequacy.
- Identify the Department's responsibilities and establish a response structure to safely carry out those responsibilities.
- Mobilize the Department resources upon request to support regional response activities.
- Establish and maintain minimum training standards for responders and the positions in the Incident Command System (ICS).

Program Benefits

Prevention and response plans constructed on the local, regional and state level, as well as response training for responders, help prevent spills and improve the response quality, time, and cost.

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Spill Prevention and Response

Industry Preparedness Program

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Response

Mike Mansker
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Preparedness and
Response Program
456-5250

Goal

To safeguard the environment by ensuring that oil industry operators take specific steps to prevent and respond to releases or threatened releases of oil.

Program Background

Title 46 of the Alaska Statutes and Title 18, Chapter 75 of the Alaska Administrative Code set forth requirements for oil spill prevention, financial responsibility and oil discharge prevention and contingency planning for the oil industry. The requirements apply to oil terminal facilities, oil tank vessels and barges, crude oil pipelines and onshore and offshore oil exploration and production facilities throughout the state. The Department of Environmental Conservation, through the Industry Preparedness Program, applies and enforces these statutes and regulations. Primary program services include administration and development of the oil discharge prevention and contingency plan review program, facility and vessel spill drill and inspection programs, and a financial responsibility program.

Issues

The effective implementation of revised statutes and regulations relating to oil pollution prevention and response is a continuing program priority. Regulations are being written to implement and administer a Response Action Contractor Registration Program mandated by House Bill 540 (1992). The final adoption of revised 18 AAC 75 regulations has compelled development of comprehensive new guidelines to prepare, apply for and review oil discharge prevention and contingency plans. New requirements for these industry-prepared plans ensure that industry has taken proper steps to prevent oil spills and is sufficiently prepared to respond in the event of a spill. Changes in the financial responsibility requirements have resulted in the need for rigorous review of existing and proposed insurance policies to ensure that they meet new and stricter requirements.

Major Features

- Provide technical assistance, conduct program development and monitoring, and ensure statewide consistency in:
  - the review by regional office staff of approximately 175 oil discharge prevention and contingency plans for oil operations statewide;
  - facility and vessel inspections and spill drills, including participation in major Department- and industry-initiated drills; and
  - the application of prevention requirements to oil industry operations and the use of prevention credits to modify the response planning standard for contingency plan holders.
- Administer the statewide Financial Responsibility program to ensure that oil operators in the state demonstrate sufficient proof of financial resources to respond to releases or threatened releases of oil.
- Provide interagency coordination in activities relating to oil pollution control, including implementation of the Federal Oil Pollution Act of 1990, cooperative review of

contingency plans with other State and federal resource agencies, monitoring of the activities of citizens' advisory councils and oil spill response cooperatives, and other concerns.

Program Benefits

By upgrading the state's regulation and inspection of oil and hazardous substances facilities, and review of industry contingency plans, the program can prevent spills, improve response and reduce cleanup costs.

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Spill Prevention and Response

Contaminated Sites Remediation

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Response

Rich Cormack
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Sites Remediation
Program
456-5200

Goal

To abate threats to human health and the environment posed by sites contaminated by past improper disposal or discharges of hazardous substances.

Program Background

The Contaminated Sites program was enabled in 1986, when House Bill 470 established the Oil and Hazardous Substance Release Response Fund and broadened the use of the previously existing response fund to hazardous substances. The program had ad hoc beginnings as the department began to draw information on known contaminated sites from various programs and began to compile an inventory database in 1988. The program was officially designated in January 1990, when it was split from the Oil and Hazardous Substance Spill Response Section. The program also now encompasses activities under cooperative agreements with the Department of Defense and EPA, which allow funding of staff oversight of military restoration activity and Superfund site projects respectively. The universe of historical contaminated sites under the jurisdiction of the program are defined using the contaminated sites database inclusion criteria, excluding leaking underground storage tanks, which are managed under a separate program.

Issues

The Contaminated Sites program faces the reality of a large and increasing universe of contaminated sites and the likelihood of diminishing human and fiscal resources over time to address these sites. A "Certified Service Provider" initiative will be developed to allow licensing of assessment and cleanup contractors to conduct work on low priority sites without direct department oversight, thereby freeing staff to oversee high priority sites posing imminent and substantial threat. The program is currently operating with guidance documents and has not promulgated hazardous substance cleanup regulations that would help to solve some of the ambiguity currently experienced by the regulated community. The program will be putting major focus on development of regulations to address cleanup standards and program structure. The regulations will also stress cost-effectiveness, encourage innovative technologies, and ensure public involvement.

Major Features

- Identifiy and assess sites to determine their potential threat to public health and the environment and rank sites to determine the priority in which they should be addressed.
- Ensure that contaminated sites undergo investigation and cleanup in a priority order.
- Use term contractors and the Oil and Hazardous Substance Spill Response fund to assess or clean up sites of imminent and substantial threat where a responsible party is not available.
- Develop hazardous substance cleanup regulations and standard operating procedures for all phases of contaminated sites work.
- Negotiate cooperative agreements with the Department of Defense and EPA to enable staff oversight of DOD and CERCLA (Comprehensive Environmental Restoration,

Compensation & Liability Act — federal) sites and participation of staff in assessment of sites within the Superfund system.

- Chairs the State agency MOA working group.
- Negotiate and oversee term contracts.

Program Benefits

The rapid cleanup of contaminated sites before pollutants have reached aquifers is vital to the health of Alaskans and our wildlife.

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Spill Prevention and Response

Underground Storage Tank Program

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Storage Tank Program
456-5200

Goal

To protect public health and the environment from the consequences of leaking fuel from underground storage tanks and to assist underground storage tank owners and operators in tank cleanup, upgrade, and closure by providing state-funded grants and loans.

Program Background

In 1984, Subtitle I of the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act established a regulatory program for the control of underground storage tanks (USTs). The governor of Alaska designated the Department of Environmental Conservation to participate in the program and to receive federal grants to support both the prevention of spills and the cleanup of leaking underground storage tanks. The federal regulations require that new tank installations meet national standards and that tanks already in operation "phase-in" to meet those standards. Additionally, each facility must show that they have some form of "financial responsibility" in the event of a spill, and must follow standard procedures for reporting and cleanup of spills. Alaska's Petroleum Underground Storage Tank Bill (HB 220) became effective in 1990, and the following year Alaska UST regulations were approved (18 AAC 78). The state law and regulations mirror the federal program but also established the State Tank Assistance program, which offers grants and loans to owners and operators of UST facilities to test, cleanup, upgrade and close their facilities.

Issues

The Underground Storage Tank Program has a diverse set of objectives, funding sources, standards and regulations, and interested parties making a number of issues relevant. Prevention of leaking tanks is a great priority, accomplished through upgrading existing tanks to new standards and making the Financial Assistance program accessible to tank owners. The processing of grant applications has recently been streamlined to expedite grant dollars to the owners/operators. Financial assistance also includes providing tank owners with the financial capability to clean up and upgrade tanks, as well as perform tests on their tanks which will allow them to obtain insurance and thus meet financial responsibility requirements. Response to leaking tanks is the program's other main focus, through cleanup of leaking tank sites. Also important is training of personnel to perform work on tanks according to state and federal regulations while following all standard safety practices. Regulations are currently being developed for approval of private testing laboratories. DEC is now seeking program delegation from the federal government: although DEC has its own regulations, EPA still has full authority in Alaska, particularly for enforcement.

Major Features

- Immediately respond to reports of leaking underground tanks and set their priority for further departmental action.
- Provide financial assistance grants and loans to upgrade/close, cleanup and test tanks and facilities.
- Conduct annual tank registration/invoicing program, including late fee collection.

- Facilitate worker certification/training/testing with the Alaska Department of Commerce and Economic Development.
- Maintain UST database of all tanks in operation and their current status.
- Provide public and technical information concerning installation, closure, upgrading of tanks as well as up-to-date information on the latest cleanup technologies. Mechanisms include UST hotline, quarterly newsletter, lending library (13 locations) and to day-to-day technical assistance.
- Conduct expedited enforcement pilot project.
- Coordinate with the Board of Storage Tank Assistance.
- Promote, develop and participate in numerous workshops for the public and tank owners/operators.

Program Benefits

Underground storage tanks which leak oil and other hazardous substances endanger the safety, health and well-being of humans and other life which live in or visit the area. Prevention of leaks and the spread of contamination help prevent protect aquifers vital to the health of Alaskans and environment.

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

Division of Facility Construction & Operations

Village Safe Water Program

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Greg Capito
Manager, Village Safe Water Program
465-5180

Goal

To provide water, sewerage and solid waste facilities to rural residents, fulfilling statutory requirements of AS 46.07.

Program Background

When the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) was created in 1971, most funding for water and sewer capital improvements in rural areas was provided by the U.S. Public Health Service. In 1970, however, state voters began approving a series of bond issues to fund capital improvements. This caused the state legislature to set up continuing programs funneling aid to local areas for water and sewer projects. While in urban areas a matching grant program was established, lawmakers in 1972 created the Village Safe Water Program for design and construction of sanitation projects in rural areas. The program provides grants of up to 100 percent of project costs. Unincorporated villages with populations of 25-600, second class cities, or first class cities with a population under 600 are eligible. These grants generally provide a safe water source at a central location, a place to dispose of honeybucket wastes, and in some cases, laundry, sauna and shower facilities. The VSW engineer assists the community by acting as the "city engineer." This program also develops proposals and secures Federal Indian Set-Aside funding for planning, design, and construction of wastewater treatment facilities in Alaskan villages.

Issues

Alaska has always led the nation in sanitation problems and the need for public water-sewer system improvements. According to a report to Congress on Indian Wastewater Treatment Needs, Alaska has the highest concentration of Native sanitation needs in the nation. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 1989 estimated that upgrading Alaska's sanitary system to modern standards would cost $1.2 billion, two-thirds of the total national need for sanitation improvements. According to a 1989 survey by the Division, of the state's 220 villages, 80 have piped sewage collection and treatment facilities. In many of the rest residents use outhouses (privies), but in the vast majority, 104 of them, people haul their sewage in "honey buckets" or plastic bags. These are dumped into pits, ponds or lagoons. According to the congressional report, 190 of Alaska's 220 rural villages have "inadequate" sanitation systems, with 165 of them termed "substandard." Without adequate sanitation facilities, personal hygiene in a closely populated area is difficult or impossible. Lack of facilities to dispose of human waste, combined with insufficient quantities of safe water for washing, often threaten public health. Village residents have experienced a number of waterborne and communicable diseases that could be avoided if means for improved personal hygiene were available. Hepatitis A is a prime example.

Major Features

- Assist villages with planning, design, construction, operation and maintenance of water, sewer and solid waste facilities.

- Provide technical assistance including:
  - management of capital project funds,
  - engineering studies to determine the technical and economic feasibility of projects and alternatives,
  - emergency response in the event of a disaster,
  - purchasing and specification of equipment.
- Help design cold climate utility systems compatible with extreme environmental conditions.
- Assist in troubleshooting engineering problems associated with water and sewer conditions in cold climates.
- Help rural communities plan, design, and construct systems they support and can afford. The program offers a partnership in providing the community with systems. This insures community acceptance and continued operation and maintenance.

Program Benefits

While there is still a long way to go, the program has installed hundreds of sanitation facilities in rural Alaska. It has helped improve rural health conditions, even in the face of rising populations.

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Facility Construction & Operations

Municipal Grants and Loans

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Dick Marcum
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Grants and Loans
465-5180

Goal

To provide water, sewerage and solid waste facilities to urban residents, fulfilling statutory requirements of AS 46.03.030 and AS 03.032.

Program Background

In urban areas, the 50 percent Municipal Matching Grant Program provides up to 50% of the non-federally financed costs for water, sewerage and solid waste improvements. These grants are used to pay for engineering, construction, legal, administrative and equipment costs. Grants are available only to incorporated municipalities. The program has funded over 600 projects in 45 communities since 1970. This program also administers federal funds for construction of sewerage facilities. Administration of these funds is governed by the Clean Water Act and regulations promulgated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The state has been delegated authority from EPA to administer the federal funds. The program also administers the Alaska Clean Water Fund, through which communities may receive low-interest loans for planning, design, and construction costs associated with water, sewerage and solid waste management projects.

Issues

According to EPA, the state will need to spend at least $107 million on just sewage treatment plants in urban areas over the next 18 years. These costs will continue to grow, assuming the state's population grows. The estimates do not include the cost of water system expansions required by the surface water treatment rule or new treatment techniques that will be required in future years. As provided by Congress, EPA will "seed" the state revolving loan program with annual grants until 1994. In order to capture the federal grant, however, the state has contributed a 20% match. The fund has received a total of $28,519,592 in federal capitalization. Additionally, the Legislature has appropriated $10,236,000 to the program for required state match. An additional $23,200,000 remains to be granted by the federal government. Unless Congress appropriates more money than was initially authorized, no further match requests to the Legislature are expected.

Major Features

50% matching grants:

- Conduct an annual needs assessment each fall of the facility improvements sought by communities. The division then compiles an annual capital budget needs request for review by the state Office of Management and Budget.
- Review all of the state's water and sewage needs, considering the level of anticipated funding. Then the Governor submits a funding request to lawmakers in January.
- Award grants and begin project construction after legislative appropriation.

Alaska Clean Water Fund:

- From the Federal Account—

- ✦ Loan money only for wastewater projects.
- ✦ Prioritize loans according to the severity of pollution problems, public health needs, available money, readiness to proceed, and each community's ability to repay.
- ✦ Make loans for 20 years with interest rates of 75 percent of the current Municipal Bond Index rate, as of July 1, 1992. Loans can be awarded for 100% of eligible costs, including planning, design, and construction.
- ✦ Ensure loans meet more stringent federal requirements. These will relax somewhat as the second generation of loans are made later in the 1990s.

● From the State Account—

- ✦ Make loans for projects other than just wastewater improvements, including solid waste facilities.
- ✦ Allow payments to municipalities to be made on a pre-negotiated schedule based on a community's forecasted cash flow needs, rather than on a reimbursement-only basis. State Account loans do not need to meet federal standards. To date, this account has not been capitalized by the Legislature. Loans may be fully capitalized only by state general fund appropriations.

Program Benefits

By improving Alaska's wastewater treatment facilities and drinking water systems, the Municipal Grants and Loans program has reduced the incidence of water-borne disease in many parts of the state. It has helped ensure compliance with wastewater discharge standards, thus providing water of better quality for public use. Construction of solid waste facilities has helped improve litter containment and better overall disposal of trash. While Alaska 's public facilities are some distance from the level found routinely in other states, the program has made significant improvements in urban areas during the past two decades. The revolving loan concept offers the promise of a dependable source of funding for sanitation projects in future years when communities' financing options narrow. As costs rise there is an increased danger that towns might have to forego construction projects, either endangering public health, or threatening the community with sizable federal fines for violations of federal water quality standards. The loan fund is a step toward preventing such problems.

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

Division of Facility Construction & Operations

Operations Assistance Program

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Operations

Bill Fagan
Manager, Operations
Assistance Program
465-5180

Goal

Ensure that operators and managers of water treatment, water distribution, wastewater treatment and wastewater collection systems have the necessary education, experience and training to competently operate and maintain the systems under their responsibility.

Program Background

The operations assistance program, in existence since 1976, provides essential training of water and wastewater system operators. The training program includes hands-on training by Department personnel, contracted workshops in central locations, and a lending library of audio-visual material, books, and correspondence courses. This helps prepare operators for the certification exams, also given by this program. In 1981 it became clear as more projects were built in rural areas that the state would need to establish a system to train local residents to run and maintain the systems and to protect the state's investment in expensive facilities. In that year, the Remote Maintenance Worker Program was started with a single employee in St. Mary's. It spread to the Bristol Bay and Norton Sound in Fiscal Year 1984. There are now eight RMWs working for six regional non-profit health corporations.

Issues

Alaska's geographically and culturally diverse populous has unique water and wastewater needs. Unique and innovative systems are often required to overcome climatic and geographical constraints. Sanitation systems require significant operation and maintenance expenditures. Frequent system failures, often preventable by adequate operator training and utility management, result in service interruptions and community health concerns.

The Remote Maintenance Worker program provides skilled assistance to communities to keep their water and sewer systems running, and provides on-the-job training for local operators. When emergencies occur, a remote maintenance worker works with the local operator to solve the problem and train the operator in trouble-shooting. The maintenance workers are funded through state grants to non-profit corporations around the state. The program's employees make a number of emergency trips yearly to thaw lines or repair heating systems. They also fix boilers, waterlines, pumps, electrical equipment and conduct formal training and testing of local operators. They also help train village residents in the mechanical skills of boiler maintenance, pump repairs and troubleshooting of electrical control panels.

Major Features

- Establish and maintain regulations for statewide operator certification with the advice of the Governor's Waste/Wastewater Works Advisory Board.
- Provide training to urban and rural operators in all areas of the state.
- Maintain a library of training videos, textbooks and reference materials for operators.
- Produce new training materials specific to Alaska conditions.

- Provide correspondence courses for operator advancement and CEU documentation.
- Offer certification exams twice a year in numerous locations statewide.
- Develop new exam questions and validate them with the assistance of the advisory board.
- Provide technical assistance and system troubleshooting.
- Assist communities to develop and implement local training programs and approve them for the state.
- Write and distribute quarterly newsletters to over 1,500 operators, engineers, utilities and co mmunities. The newsletter relates upcoming training opportunities, pertinent tec.nical articles and information, industry news and exam dates.

Program Benefits

Trained, qualified operators ensure that water and wastewater systems perform properly. Knowledge of maintenance procedures and process theory enables systems to run efficiently and last longer before rehabilitation or replacement becomes necessary. The Remote Maintenance Worker program has saved the state millions of dollars: for every dollar spent on remote maintenance, the program saves the state at least $10 in capital investments yearly. With the construction of new sanitation systems in the rural areas, health conditions have improved. The health of the systems, however, is directly tied to the Remote Maintenance Worker Program.

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

Division of Environmental Health

Seafood Inspection

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Goal

To guarantee the wholesomeness and safety of all Alaska seafood caught for commercial sale, in order to protect the reputation, and thus marketability, of the state's seafood for the benefit of the nearly 35,000 people who make their livings from the sea.

Program Background

While the state has had a seafood inspection program since the 1970's, it was expanded in spring 1982 after a Belgian man died of botulism from eating a single tainted can of salmon processed in Alaska in 1981. Since 1982 the program has been upgraded, standardized and expanded. It now employs 21 inspectors to monitor over 700 floating and shore-based seafood processing plants.

Issues

With Alaska fishermen and women now harvesting more than a billion pounds of seafood a year, the main issue is ensuring the proper care of the seafood after harvest, its transport, and especially its processing - often into value-added products. The goal is to guarantee the fish remain free of any chemical or biological contamination. The program concentrates on inspections of salmon canneries and firms that smoke salmon and vacuum-pack product — processes which if performed incorrectly are capable of producing unsafe product — and the processing of some types of shellfish: notably oysters, mussels and razor clams, which are subject to contamination by Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP) and domoic acid.

Major Features

- Review all construction and facility plans to check for design problems that could result in sanitation-processing lapses.
- Issue permits that require processors to follow state seafood regulations, and for canneries and other value-added processors, to follow specific approved plans of operation.
- Conduct the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) facility inspection program to identify critical points in processing operations where failures would result in unacceptable public health, food hygiene, or economic hazard.
- Make routine, spot check and thermal processing inspections based on public health risk associated with process method.
- Inspect processing plants and fish tenders to insure that proper procedures are followed and training received.
- Maintain FDA-certified shellfish program which adopts requirements of the National Shellfish Sanitation Program.
- Use enforcement actions, from warnings to issuance of notices of violation in the case of more serious problems. The program also can detain contaminated or adulterated seafood. These are all steps to ensure that only healthy seafood reaches market.

Program Benefits

The program guarantees the wholesomeness and safety of seafood produced in Alaska and by doing so promotes improved product quality which ensures that Alaskan seafood products remain competitive.

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

Division of Environmental Health

Pesticides Program

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Goal

To monitor the proper and safe use of pesticides to prevent adverse effects on human health, wildlife and the environment.

Program Background

Congress in 1976 passed the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) which set up a pre-manufacturing review process, as well as regulation, of the manufacturing, processing, distribution and use of all new chemicals. The act is designed to regulate the risks posed by the more than 65,000 existing chemicals and the thousands of new chemicals created yearly. Nationally, Americans use about 3 billion pounds of pesticides yearly. Improper use can cause the chemicals to pollute soil, kill vegetation and animals and contaminate the nation's and state's groundwater supplies. The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) since the mid 1970's has carried out the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) pesticide regulations.

Issues

The Pesticide Program faces several significant challenges including: adequate training programs for commercial applicators and applicators of restricted used pesticides; developing a comprehensive strategy regarding pesticide use to prevent groundwater contamination; and integration of a pesticide groundwater management strategy into a comprehensive state groundwater management program. Other challenges are maintaining cooperation and communication between state, federal and local governments and developing a pesticide database and coordination to ensure access to existing databases and GIS systems. More issues include inventory and control of pesticide products used in Alaska; disposal of canceled or old pesticides and containers; assessment of impacts of biocide use on the Alaskan worker and environment; integration of pollution prevention into program activities; and establishing guidelines and training for protection of workers and endangered species impacted by pesticide application.

Major Fectures

- Train and certify pesticide applicators and persons using restricted use pesticides such as TBT based paints and wood preservatives.
- Issue permits for aerial and aquatic, right-of-way, and public project pesticide applications.
- Conduct marketplace and use/misuse pesticide applications cross utilizing division staff.
- Implement and monitor plan for protection of groundwater, endangered species, and workers.
- Enforcement laws to ensure that pesticides are applied and disposed of properly.
- Integrate pollution prevention measures in use, application and disposal of pesticides.

Program Benefits

The state's pesticide program works to prevent environmental damage to vegetation, crops, wildlife or humans from the improper use of pesticides.

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

Division of Environmental Health

Palmer Laboratory

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Goal

Provide nonduplicative services which support regulatory and enforcement actions aimed at protecting public health and ensuring Alaskan food products are safe and wholesome.

Program Background

When Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) was created in 1971, meat and dairy sample evaluations were conducted by the state Division of Agriculture. That lab continued to support DEC programs for the first 10 years of the Department's life. In 1981, however, the state assumed operation of the laboratory, which then focused on supporting environmental health programs.

Issues

The Palmer lab is involved in most major health issues which affect the public's health and safety in Alaska. It performs chemical and biological tests on all meat raised in the state, on state dairy products, all state fish and shellfish stocks and even on Alaskans' pets. It performs a host of chemical checks on questionable samples, searches for the cause of outbreaks of illness, monitors the quality of water testing labs and deals with diverse health issues from human illness to brucellosis in cattle. The laboratory's major challenge is to develop programs which comprehensively monitor various chemical and biological contaminants in seafood products, ensuring that product is safe and wholesome.

Major Features

Cross Utilization:

- Cross train laboratory staff in various testing programs to maintain program efficiency.

Seafood:

- Conduct product and water sampling required by the National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP) to ensure that bivalve shellfish can be marketed.
- Evaluate and randomly sample finfish or chemical and bacterial contaminants.
- Routinely test commercial bivalve shellfish for marine toxins (PSP and domoic acid) responsible for paralytic shellfish poisoning and domoic acid poisoning.
- Test imported products to ensure acceptable quality.
- Evaluate product for the presence of parasites.
- Evaluate finished products for quality and container integrity.
- Train division staff utilized in seafood inspection program in product evaluation and container integrity.

Animal Health/Meat and Poultry Inspection:

- Support animal health surveillance programs essential to healthy and viable livestock industry including testing required to support importation or exportation of domestic animals.
- Perform animal testing required for maintenance of USDA brucellosis and TB free certification.

- Conduct meat inspection chemistries required by USDA.
- Test for equine infectious anemia in horses intended for interstate shipment or entered in state fairs or other special events.

Dairy:
- Evaluate raw and finished dairy products for bacterial contamination, antibiotics, butter fat content, and efficiency of pasteurization.

Drinking Water Laboratory Certification:
- Conduct on-site evaluations of, and certify, over 50 drinking water laboratories statewide.
- Train certified laboratory operators.
- Evaluate drinking water samples from the Alaska Departments of Natural Resources and Transportation facilities.

Other:
- Perform PSP, food product and trichinosis testing for the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services in association with investigation of human disease outbreaks.
- Evaluate miscellaneous samples submitted by the public, including lead paint, ceramic pottery, and animal feed.
- Give technical assistance and evaluate feed, fertilizers, forages and grains to support the agricultural industry.

Program Benefits

The laboratory testing program is essential to ensuring that food products, especially seafood, produced in Alaska are safe and wholesome, and that other program elements of the Environmental Health Division are able to carry out their missions to protect public health.

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Environmental Health

Meat & Poultry/Animal Health & Dairy

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Goal

To protect human health by regulating the purity of meat and poultry and the sanitation of dairy products produced in Alaska, as well as preventing the introduction or spread of livestock disease.

Program Background

Before Statehood, the U.S. Department of Agriculture was responsible for programs that monitored the health of Alaska's livestock and poultry farms and inspected the purity of its dairy industry. Since the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) was created in 1971, those programs have been assigned to the Department. The legislature in the spring of1990 also allocated funding to permit a reindeer meat inspection program to be conducted.

Issues

The program is challenged to prevent the sale of unwholesome, adulterated meat products or improperly labeled, misbranded or illegal meat products to the consumer. Prevention is accomplished through inspection of animals at slaughter and during processing and marketing. The control of diseases in domestic animals is critical to ensuring protection of public health from such diseases as psittacosis, rabies, brucellosis and tuberculosis, as well as supporting the development and economic viability of the agricultural industry. The program is constantly challenged to maintain the state's TB and Brucellosis-free status, which facilitates the export of Alaska livestock and farmed animals such as reindeer.

Major Features

Animal Health

- Monitor and issue permits for the import and export of domestic animals and control animal-to-animal diseases.
- Provide for quarantines and/ or compliance with laws calling for disposal of diseased livestock.
- Monitor domestic livestock to ensure maintenance of Brucellosis and TB free status.
- Provide technical assistance to agricultural industry and Department of Natural Resources regarding dairy sanitation and animal disease control.
- Approve importation of veterinary vaccines (biologicals) into Alaska.
- Issue joint state/federal accreditation licenses to licensed veterinarians.

Dairy Sanitation

- Oversee the producers and processors of milk and frozen desserts and inspect the sanitation conditions and equipment at the state's dairy farms and its milk processing plant.
- Issue permits to dairy farms, processing plants, haulers, and importers.
- Sample to ensure the wholesomeness of Alaska milk products.
- Provide technical assistance to farmers and processors.

Meat and Poultry

- Inspect all state slaughter houses and processors, including reindeer operations, to ensure that state and federal sanitation standards are met in the processing of meat and poultry.
- Sample for wholesomeness and net weight.
- Issue permits to operate to ensure facilities operate within guidelines of the Federal Wholesome Act.

Program Benefits

The program protects public health and an Alaskan industry by assuring the wholesomeness of Alaskan-raised meat, poultry and dairy products. It also assures the health of imported and exported farm animals and horses, an important factor in their sale.

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Environmental Health

Environmental Sanitation Program

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Goal

To ensure the production of safe and wholesome food and ensure that public facilities maintain sanitary conditions which protect the health and safety of Alaska residents and visitors.

Program Background

Until 1980, the public facilities inspection program was part of the Division of Public Health, Department of Health and Social Services. In an effort to reduce duplication of inspection efforts and reduce the number of agencies that public operators needed to deal with, then Governor Hammond by executive order transferred the public facility inspection program into the Department of Environmental Conservation. The program remained in the Division of Environmental Quality Operations until 1984, when all functions were transferred to the newly created Division of Environmental Health.

Issues

The Environmental Sanitation program is challenged to maintain and enforce standards of cleanliness, sanitation, and safety during the construction, operation and maintenance of public facilities. Prevention, the key to achieving the mandate, requires not only a strong inspection and enforcement program, but also a strong education and technical assistance program.

Major Features

- Inspect over 6,000 public facilities of 11 types statewide, each with different statutory and regulatory requirements: permanent and temporary food service facilities and bars, food stores and markets, warehouses and food processors, schools, public accommodations, pools and spas, barbershops/beauty shops, tattoo parlors, day care/ preschool, child and adult residential care centers, compressed air providers, and public toilets.
- Monitor and enforce the Smoking in Public Places Law and Vehicle Law.
- Carry out program goals by education, voluntary compliance and enforcement.
- Provide in-depth technical assistance in design, operation and maintenance of pools and spas; school safety; indoor air quality; food service operations; and epidemiological investigations.
- Offer annual pool/spa operator training classes.
- With a staff of 19 Environmental Health Officers, conduct plan reviews and facility inspections, issue permits and approvals, investigate complaints regarding public facilities and foodborne-waterborne illness, and respond to disasters and product recalls.
- Issue field directives, policies and guidelines, and provide training to assist public facilities operators and the public.
- Work closely with other agencies in providing inspection information, facility approval, investigative support and interagency coordination.

- Publish local monthly food service inspection scores.
- Participate in division cross-utilization activities and conduct pesticide, drinking water, wastewater, and solid waste inspections at public facilities. Assist in pollution prevention activities.

Program Benefits

The ultimate benefit of the Environmental Sanitation Program is that an acceptable level of basic sanitation is maintained in public facilities, through surveillance, education and prevention, to protect the health of both Alaskans and visitors and to prevent the occurrence of major disease outbreaks associated with the use of public facilities.