

CONFIRM.

MICHELE  
BROWN

DEC

COMMIS.  
1996



# Alaska State Legislature

## Senate Resources Committee

Official Business

State Capitol  
Juneau AK 99801

April 24, 1996

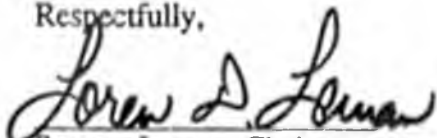
The Honorable Drue Pearce  
President of the Senate  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

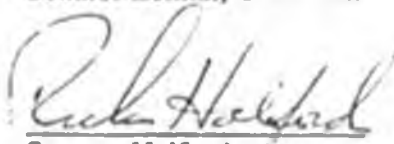
Dear Madam President:

The Senate Resources Committee reviewed the following with regard to confirmation of the Governor's appointment:

**Department of Environmental Conservation**  
Michele Brown - Juneau  
Appointed 1/24/96

Respectfully,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Senator Leman, Chairman

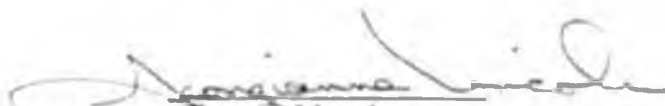
  
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Senator Halford

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Senator Taylor

  
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Senator Pearce

  
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Senator Frank

\_\_\_\_\_  
Senator Hoffman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Senator Lincoln



OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Alaska State Legislature  
Senate  
Office of the Secretary

STATE CAPITOL  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801-1102  
(907) 465-3701  
FAX: 465-2632

March 22, 1996

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Leman, Chair  
Resources Committee

FROM: Nancy Quinto *NQ*  
Secretary of the Senate

SUBJECT: Governor's Confirmations

Pursuant to AS 39.05.080, President Pearce has referred the following name for legislative confirmation to your committee for a hearing, recommendation and report:

Commissioner, Department of Environmental Conservation  
Michele Brown - Juneau  
Appointed: 1/24/96

NQ:vsw

Resume attached

## MICHELE D. BROWN

410 Willoughby Avenue, Suite 105, Juneau, Alaska 99801-1795

### Relevant Experience

- **Commissioner, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation**  
Juneau, Alaska. Appointed January 24, 1996
- **Deputy Commissioner, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation**  
Juneau, Alaska. January 30, 1995 to January 23, 1996
- **Senior Environmental Advisor, United States Agency for International Development,**  
Moscow, Russia, June 1993 to January 1995
- **Executive Director, Alaska State Legislature's Citizens' Oversight Council on Oil and Other Hazardous Substances**  
Anchorage, Alaska, February 1991 to August 1992
- **Regional Administrator, Southcentral Region, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation**  
Anchorage, Alaska, March 1990 to February 1991
- **Assistant Attorney General, Alaska Department of Law**  
Anchorage, Alaska, October 1978 to February 1990

### Credentials

Published law journal articles on the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill and addressed many conferences on various topics, including environmental development programs in Russia, oil spill response, oil pipeline regulation, and public participation in environmental decision-making.

Law Clerk to Justice Roger G. Connor, Alaska Supreme Court, and to Chief Justice Donald R. Wright, California Supreme Court

J.D. Degree, University of California, Davis, 1977  
Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society; American Jurisprudence Award

A.B. Degree, University of California, Berkeley, 1973  
Honor Society

DEC

Tony Knowles, Governor

APR 03 1996

Michele Brown, Commissioner



# Update

Vol. 2, Issue 1, February — March 1996

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

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## Governor appoints Brown

DEC has a new commissioner. Citing her experience in working with the public and industry, Governor Tony Knowles on January 24 named Michele Brown as his new commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation. Brown replaces Gene Burden, who stepped down earlier in January for family reasons.

Brown, 45, has extensive experience working with Alaska environmental issues, as an assistant attorney general, executive director of the Alaska Citizens Council on Oil and Other Hazardous Substances, and deputy commissioner of DEC until her appointment as commissioner. She was also a senior environ-

mental advisor in Moscow to the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Governor Knowles said, "Michele Brown has a record of working with industry and the public to find solutions to protect our precious environment, but also keep Alaskans working."



The new commissioner said, "Gene Burden set the tone for this administration in seeking partnerships between industry and environmental groups, and he was highly successful. Governor Knowles and I think this approach is the right direction for Alaska. Protecting the cleanliness and beauty of our home is part of our message when we tell the world that Alaska is open and ready for business."

## Letter to Alaskans

by Michele Brown

I felt distinctly honored when Governor Knowles asked me to serve as DEC Commissioner, especially after my long association with the department. I'm very pleased to be able to continue with the positive developments underway at DEC.

A quick glance back at the first year

of the Knowles administration reveals an astonishing number of accomplishments by DEC staff. With direction and support of the Governor, we installed a new management by objectives package — workplan, organizational restructuring

*Please turn to back page*

## NOAA to clean up Pribilofs

In early February, Governor Knowles announced an agreement between state and federal agencies to clean up pollution left over from the years of federal management of fur seal harvests on the Pribilof Islands.

The agreement to clean up long-standing pollution problems on St. Paul and St. George Islands was hammered out between the state and the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, after former DEC Commissioner Gene Burden took a special interest in the issue and pushed for quicker action.

The fur seal harvest was halted in the early 1980's and ownership of much of

the islands was transferred from the federal government to local entities, but the agencies involved did not clean up their leftover wastes.

Islanders are concerned about possible hazardous materials in old dumps, numerous old fuel spills, and tons of rusting tanks and piping.

Island residents wish to develop their fishing and tourism industries, but want hazardous and solid wastes cleaned up and need improved waste disposal and transportation facilities.

"This agreement will finally provide for a quick and complete effort by the federal agency to clean up their waste," said DEC Commissioner Michele



Photo by Ray Dronenburg, DEC

Buried drums like this one were unearthed in August 1995 next to St. Georges' school playground.

Brown. She said residents of both island communities helped in reaching the final agreement and will continue to participate in decisions and the cleanup.

Contact: Ray Dronenburg, DEC  
Anchorage, 269-7518,  
rdronenb@envircon.state.ak.us

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Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation  
Administrative Services  
410 Willoughby Avenue, Suite 105  
Juneau, AK 99801-1795  
(907) 465-5010

Michele Brown  
Commissioner

Kurt Fredrikson  
Acting Deputy Commissioner

Juneau Offices  
(907) 465-5010

Anchorage Offices  
(907) 299-7500

Fairbanks Offices  
(907) 451-2663

**DEC's Internet home  
page address:**

<http://www.state.ak.us/dec/home.htm>

## Exemptions won for remote landfills

DEC-initiated federal legislation that passed the U.S. House on March 7 will give the state the discretion to exempt remote landfills from certain federal requirements and thereby prevent steep operational cost increases, while still protecting the environment and human health, according to Heather Stockard, DEC solid waste program manager.

"We've been working hard on this for a long time. It makes way for more state and local control, and is the pay-off of more than a year's work by DEC, the Governor's Washington, D.C. office, and Alaska's congressional delegation," said Stockard.

She explained that the legislation will

allow EPA approval of Alaska's regulations which provide for Class III landfills and other exemptions required by Alaska's unique conditions.

"Alaska will be able to make realistic decisions based on actual environmental risks and allow communities to do what makes sense at their landfills," said DEC Commissioner Michele Brown.

Contact: Heather Stockard, DEC  
Juneau, 465-5162,  
hstockar@envircon.state.ak.us

## Air force to clean up King Salmon sites

Twenty-five contaminated sites at King Salmon will be evaluated for cleanup by the U.S. Air Force under innovative three-party agreements being negotiated by DEC, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Air Force.

The agreements will address contamination from historic military fuel spills and disposal areas at King Salmon Air Station. Present at the facility are old dumps, fuel-contaminated soils and groundwater, drums, and other contamination and debris — all of great concern to the community.

All parties are expected to sign a crucial consensus document shortly, which addresses the most visible of the

sites, North and South Barrel Bluffs. The other sites and contaminated groundwater will be dealt with in one or more additional agreements.

The Air Force has already started cleanup preliminary work, and an aggressive schedule has been set for this summer, including wetlands monitoring, installation of monitoring wells, property or rights acquisition needed for construction work at the bluffs, limited recontouring and installation of preliminary base soil at North Barrel Bluff, limited removal of drums at South Barrel Bluff needed for slope stabilization, and drum removal in King Salmon Creek.

*Please turn to page 4*

## Are your children at risk from lead-based paint?

If you have children age six or younger, and your house was built before 1978, you may qualify for a free lead-based paint test. It's part of a survey funded by the federal government to see how widespread the problem of lead-based paint is in Alaska.

Since children are especially susceptible to health-damaging effects of lead-based paint, the survey will be done in homes, day care centers, and other buildings where young children gather.

If your home is selected for the survey, an environmental technician will make an appointment to do the test. Painted surfaces are checked with equipment that does not damage the paint but can detect lead, even if it is painted over. The test is free and the confidential results are reported to the resident.

To participate in the survey, call DEC

at 800-478-7798. Participation will be limited to the funding available.

There is no requirement to remove or cleanup lead that is detected, but residents will be given information about protecting their children from any further exposure. Funding for the survey will pay for the tests, but does not cover removal and cleanup of the lead-based paint.

Tests are being done only on buildings constructed before 1978 because the sale of lead-based paint was banned in the U.S. after that. DEC will consider all requests

received for testing, but volunteers not selected because of budget constraints will still be given ample information about how to have their homes tested.

**Call  
800-478-7798  
lead survey**

Contact: David Pikul, DEC Anchorage,  
269-7696.  
dpikul@envircon.state.ak.us

## Source found in Pribilofs spill

On February 16, DEC's Prevention and Emergency Response Program received notice from the Coast Guard of

a Panamanian-registered freighter, the M/V Citrus, anchored at Saint Paul Island and taking on water. The Coast Guard helped stabilize the ship, but at the time officers in charge observed no sheen or other evidence of any spilled fuel.

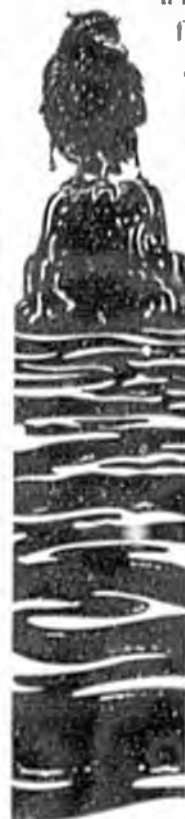
About a week later, subsistence hunters on St. Paul Island reported oiled birds on the beach. This prompted a response to an incident that, by February 27, involved an estimated 1500 oiled birds — mostly King Eiders — on St.

Paul and nearby St. George Islands, and a sizable response by federal and state agencies, including DEC, activated under a Unified Command. Bird mortalities confirmed numbered nearly 800.

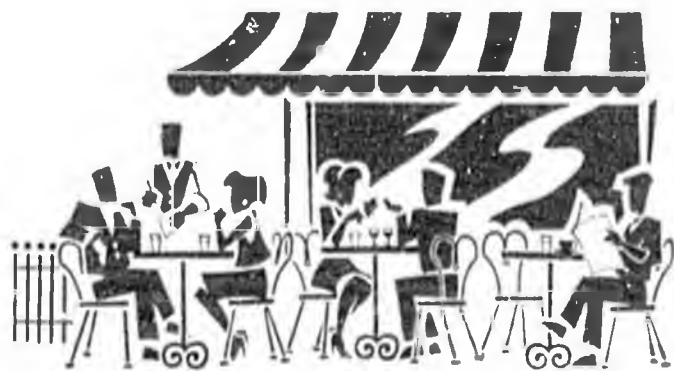
"Mystery spills" are common in waters with heavy shipping, but samples taken from birds' feathers and the M/V Citrus showed a "match." The Coast Guard announced that legal action would be taken against the M/V Citrus.

Both DEC and the Department of Fish and Game sent response personnel to St. George. DEC provided field radio communication services during the response.

Contact: Brad Hahn, DEC Anchorage,  
269-7548.  
bhahn@envircon.state.ak.us







# Food Safety Awareness Month is April

Alaska Governor Tony Knowles has proclaimed April 1996 as Food Safety Awareness Month. The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation is teaming up with five groups to offer food safety educational opportunities to employees, managers, and consumers. Helping to highlight food safety in April are the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute, the Alaska Visitors' Association, the Cabaret, Hotel, Restaurant and Retail Association, the Alaska Cooperative Extension Service at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and the Municipality of Anchorage.

The groups will distribute brochures and consumer information, sponsor videos and public service announcements on radio and television, and provide training for employees. Training events will be listed in the calendar on DEC's home page: [www.state.ak.us/dec/home.htm](http://www.state.ak.us/dec/home.htm)

"The safety and wholesomeness of the food supply in America is usually taken for granted," said Governor Knowles in the proclamation. "Yet even with the safest food system in the world, some 9,000 Americans die each year from food-borne illnesses. These illnesses are 100 percent preventable if proper sanitation and handling procedures are followed."

Look for ways that managers, food handlers, employees, and co-workers can get valuable food safety training during April!

Nancy Napolilli, Program Manager  
Environmental Sanitation and Food Safety  
**Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation**  
610 University Ave.  
Fairbanks, AK 99709-3643  
phone 451-2110, fax 451-2188



Kevin O'Sullivan  
Quality Program Manager  
**Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute**  
111 West 8th Street, #100  
Juneau, AK 99801-1895  
phone 465-5567, fax 465-5572



Kristy Long, Ph.D.  
Home Economics Program Leader  
**Alaska Cooperative Extension Service**  
University of Alaska Fairbanks  
PO Box 756180  
Fairbanks, AK 99775-6180  
phone 474-7974, fax 474-6567



Tina Lindgren, Executive Director  
**Alaska Visitors' Association**  
3201 C Street, Suite 403  
Anchorage, AK 99503  
phone 561-5733, fax 561-5727



Carol Wilson, Executive Director  
**Cabaret, Hotel, Restaurant and Retail Association**  
341 East 56th Avenue, Suite 200  
Anchorage, AK 99518  
phone 563-8133, fax 563-8640



Lura Morgan, Ph.D.  
Manager, Environmental Services Division  
**Municipality of Anchorage**  
P.O. Box 196650  
Anchorage, AK 99519  
phone 343-4065, fax 343-4786



# CALENDAR

For the most up-to-date information see the calendar on our home page:  
[www.state.ak.us/dec/home.htm](http://www.state.ak.us/dec/home.htm)

If you are a person with a disability or need a special accommodation to comment or participate in meetings, please contact Fran Podmoll, at (907) 465-5040. The department's TTY telephone number is (907) 465-5133.

## Air Quality

### Proposed air quality permit regulations

March 18: Anchorage Public workshop 1-4 PM, Public Conference Room, Z.J. Loussac Library, 3600 Denali St.  
March 18: Anchorage Public hearing, 7-8 PM, Public Conference Room, Z.J. Loussac Library, 3600 Denali St.  
Public comment period ends 4:30 PM, March 19, 1996.  
Contact: Don McGlothlin, at 465-5100 or [dmcgloth@envrcon.state.ak.us](mailto:dmcgloth@envrcon.state.ak.us)

### Additional public hearing on air quality - inspection and maintenance regulations

April 10: Anchorage 1-4:30 PM Loussac Library, Wilda Marston Theatre, 3600 Denali Street  
April 10: Fairbanks 1-4:30 PM DEC Conference Room, 610 University, Fairbanks  
Public comment period has been extended to 4:30 p.m. on April 12, 1996  
Contact: Ronald G. King, (907)465-5100 or [rking@envrcon.state.ak.us](mailto:rking@envrcon.state.ak.us)

## Water, Wastewater

### Public hearing on proposed water quality standards regulations

March 22, 1996 Public comment period ends, 4:30 PM  
Contact: Pamela Grafstrud, (907) 259-7652 or [pgrafstru@envrcon.state.ak.us](mailto:pgrafstru@envrcon.state.ak.us)

### Governor's Council on Rural Sanitation

March 21-22 Teleconferenced meeting, beginning 9:00 AM, Juneau, Anchorage, Fairbanks and Barrow.  
Public testimony will be taken on March 22, 9-11 AM, on specific issues.  
Contact: Brenda Mann, (907) 465-5147, or [bmarrn@envrcon.state.ak.us](mailto:bmarrn@envrcon.state.ak.us)

### Alaska Water / Wastewater Management Association research and development seminar

March 29, Anchorage 8:30 AM, Wilda Marston Theatre, Z.J. Loussac Library, 3600 Denali St.  
On innovative ideas for water / wastewater and solid waste technology for small towns.  
Contact: Phillip Benson, P.O. Box 81069, Fairbanks, AK 99708, [pbenson@polamet.com](mailto:pbenson@polamet.com)

## Pesticide application

### Public workshop on proposed pesticide application at Bear Valley Golf Course:

April 15 1996 Deadline for public comment on this U.S. Coast Guard application...  
Contact: Dick Barrett, Carl Kab, Susan Mircovich, or Rosemary Lombardi at (907) 745-3236, or toll free in Alaska, (800) 478-2577.

## Oil and Hazardous Substances

### Public meeting to present a "White Paper on Secondary Containment"

March 20: Anchorage 1:00 PM, Sheraton Hotel, Kuskokwim Room, Anchorage  
DEC presentation for contingency plans holders and others interested.  
Contact: Ken Rogowski, (907)269-7540, [krogowski@envrcon.state.ak.us](mailto:krogowski@envrcon.state.ak.us)

### Notice of new regulations governing "response action contractors."

These regulations take effect March 13.  
Contact: Chris Pace, (907) 465-5231, [cpace@envrcon.state.ak.us](mailto:cpace@envrcon.state.ak.us)

### Unified Plan for Oil and Hazardous Materials Response

March 31, 1996 Deadline for public comment on changes to the Unified Plan, a joint federal/state contingency plan for responding to oil and hazardous materials incidents  
Contact: Larry Iwamoto, (907) 269-7683, [Iwamoto@envrcon.state.ak.us](mailto:Iwamoto@envrcon.state.ak.us)

### Elmendorf AFB Restoration advisory board meeting

April 17, Anchorage 7 PM, at the Regal Alaskan  
Contact: Mark Davidson, EAFB at (907) 552-5755

## Underground Storage Tank Worker Exams

Anchorage: Every Saturday Fairbanks: Every 4th Saturday Juneau: 1st Saturday, February, May, August, November  
Contact: Ben Thomas, (907), 455-5206, [btthomas@envrcon.state.ak.us](mailto:btthomas@envrcon.state.ak.us)  
To apply for the exam call 1-800-275-8301.

## ServSafe Foodservice Sanitation Manager's Certification class

April 18, Anchorage The Anchorage Restaurant and Beverage Association (ARBA) is offering the National Restaurant Association's ServSafe Foodservice Sanitation Manager's Certification program. Governor Tony Knowles has proclaimed April as Food Safety Awareness Month.  
Contact: ARBA, 341 E. 59th, Suite 200, Anchorage, AK 99518, phone (907)563-8133, fax 563-8640

## Solid waste fees From agony to ecstasy

Determining fees for solid waste permits — for treatment and disposal of solid waste or closeout of inactive oil and gas drilling sites — has been in the works at DEC since 1993.

Hundreds of comments came from the public as program staff tried four times to develop a fair and workable fee structure. The issue was finally resolved early this year.

Permit fees charge the user for the department's costs in issuing the permits, passing on much of the expense of regulating to those using the services — the regulated entities.

On its third try, the department proposed basing fees on the model used in air permit fees — an hourly rate would be charged for work specific to a facility, combined with a "per ton" rate that would help include costs difficult to quantify in a specific facility, such as technical assistance.

"It *seemed* like a good idea but public comments clearly showed it wasn't," said Janice Adair, DEC environmental health director.

"Inadvertently the proposal placed an unfair financial burden on the hard rock mining industry."

Nearly all comments also stressed that permit applicants should pay only for those costs associated with their own facilities. Larger permit holders did not want to subsidize the smaller ones, Adair said.

The fourth proposal started from scratch, beginning with a re-reading of every piece of public comment received. Those comments became the foundation of the final fee structure.

The proposal was mailed to over 850 people. Three public hearings were held, in Fairbanks, Anchorage,

*Please see next page*

## Water quality standards revisions highlight mixing zones

Water quality specialists at DEC are asking for public comments until March 22 on a DEC proposal for revisions to the mixing zone provisions of the Alaska water quality standards. Public hearings were held in mid-March.

The revisions will clarify conditions for allowing mixing zones. They will also make the regulations easier to use and more predictable for regulated facilities, environmental groups and the public.

The changes result from a commitment made during the resolution of the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund's

petition on the water quality standards regulations.

The department is requesting public comment on language simplification and suggested improvements in structure on the entire chapter of the regulations.

**Contact: Pamela Grefsrud, DEC  
Anchorage, 269-7568,  
pgrefsr@envircon.state.ak.us**

### Solid waste fees continued from p. 6

and Juneau. The Juneau hearing was also a statewide teleconference. This time, the department received only 17 comments.

"By addressing all concerns, either by changing the proposed regulations or explaining why we couldn't do what they suggested, we were able to develop a fee structure that the public was willing to accept. The acceptance may be somewhat grudging because people

would rather not pay fees, but this structure is acceptable because it is fair and reasonable.

"No one likes to pay for something they've received for free in the past. Most people, however, realize that the law requires certain permits, and if they don't have them, their projects will be held up - which costs much more. So, they are willing to pay a reasonable and fair fee. Constructive comments can and do make a difference, and the process worked," said Adair.

**Contact: Heather Stockard, DEC  
Juneau, 465-5162,  
hstockar@envircon.state.ak.us**



## PLAIN ENGLISH POLICY

### Keeping It Simple

by **Billie Wilson**

The chief argument in defense of a complex regulation is: "It's written for scientists and engineers." This might be valid, except that (1) all readers deserve to know what government requires; and (2) scientists and engineers have asked, "What on earth does this mean?"

While a formula, standard, or equation cannot always be simplified, instructions for its use can be. We're so used to jargon, legalese, and important-sounding phrases, the idea of using simpler words can seem — simplistic. Even if some concepts cannot be simplified, clarity can be increased by breaking big blocks of instructions into short, numbered steps.

When writing about a complex subject, ask: (1) What needs to be said? and (2) Can it be said with fewer, shorter words? Another tip: when you see the phrase, "In other words....", pay close attention to what follows. That's often a better way to say it.

**Billie Wilson, DEC paralegal assistant, originated the department's "plain English policy."**

# Hooper Bay, a city on the move!

by Greg Capito

The year was 1992 and in Hooper Bay Alaska, the situation could not have looked more bleak.

The local government was not functioning and an audit revealed a staggering municipal debt and inadequate bookkeeping system. Staff turnover in key positions was epidemic — six city administrators in eight years. The city's utility systems had fundamental operational problems.

Even worse, a local resident died from a fluoride overdose at one of the town's two watering points. The national media picked up on the tragedy and broadcast it around the nation.

To the casual observer visiting Hooper Bay today, not much appears to have changed. But a closer look shows startling improvements in this Yupik community of over 1,000 residents on the Yukon-Kuskokwim delta.

The town hired a competent administrator who has worked diligently with various government agencies to cut much of the city's debt. Accounting and personnel procedures were put in place to strengthen the city's overall management.

The mayor, council and local residents worked together and cleaned up a honey bucket dump near the school that was both an eyesore and public health hazard. This job was done so well that ducks now breed there each spring! And this was just the beginning. Road and sanitation improvements placed on the "back burner" by cautious federal and state agencies a few years ago are now scheduled for design and construction. The clinic and Head Start buildings have been completely refurbished.

All of these projects will ultimately result in better transportation, health and human services for all the residents. In short, after a long hiatus, Hooper Bay is a

city on the move.

Local leadership and commitment are the biggest reasons for these positive changes. Hooper Bay realized that outsiders could only do so much and the impetus for making improvements had to come from within. And this struggle continues today.

Running a small town government in rural Alaska has never been easy and the remaining problems will take years to resolve. But there is an element of hope for the future, and in Hooper Bay this most precious commodity is no longer in short supply.

*Greg Capito is the chief of DEC's Village Safe Water Program, 465-5180, gcapito@envircon.state.ak.us*

## Remote maintenance workers fight big freeze

Remote maintenance workers (RMWs), Public Health Service and DEC personnel have been very busy saving water and wastewater systems in this winter's extreme weather, according to Bill Fagan, DEC's RMW manager.

Local water systems and Native health corporations employ ten RMWs in rural Alaska who travel to villages to maintain systems and assist operators.

"This winter once again dramatized the value of remote maintenance workers — they've saved a number of systems this year, and kept safe water flowing. This equates to public health, and saving the capital investments these expensive systems represent," said Fagan.

Both urban and rural systems

experienced problems, with smaller rural systems hit particularly hard. Systems were affected in Grayling, Kiana, Savoonga, Arctic Village, Huslia, Toksook Bay, Pitkas Point, St. Mary's, Pilot Station, Rampart, Beaver, Shungnak, New Stuyahok, Mt. Point, Klawock, Gambell and other rural and urban communities.

In response, temporary sources of water were developed by using local and agency resources to install temporary pumps and transmission lines to river sources, trucking and hand-carrying water to refill water tanks and circulating systems to maintain heat systems to prevent total system failures. Thawing machines were flown in for use and broken lines repaired.

"Skills of local operators have been improving steadily over the years, but technical assistance is still required due to Alaska's periodic extreme conditions. These are the times when RMW and other assistance providers are particularly appreciated," said Fagan. He said that because of improved operational skills and available technical assistance, there have been no reported catastrophic system failures over the last six or seven years.

"Hats off to local utility operators, RMWs and others who have been working long, cold hours to maintain service and protect expensive systems," Fagan said.

*Please see next page*

**Remote maintenance workers,  
contin. from p. 8**

Many homes with septic systems have also come to the attention of DEC's Division of Statewide Public Service, in both rural and urban areas. With threats of freeze-up, staff members said that their most important advice is

to use hot water to maintain thawed septic systems. Taking baths, longer showers, and clothes washing produce large slugs of hot water which help keep the systems from freezing.

Home owners should fix small leaks or small flows to their systems since these tend to glacier in sewer lines, causing plugs which need to be thawed.

For properly-built systems this should be adequate maintenance to protect against freezing.

**Contact: Bill Fagan, DEC Juneau, 465-5180, [bfagan@or.vircon.state.ak.us](mailto:bfagan@or.vircon.state.ak.us)**

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## **Spotlight on performance DEC employees**

DEC employees responded generously to the SHARE campaign in November and December, skillfully coordinated by Santé Lesh. Employees pledged \$21,887 to charitable agencies of their choice through payroll deduction, \$4511 more than last year. Gennie French, and Rielle Markey offered to match others' contributions to increase the giving.

Christmas giving also took the form of several drives for donations to needy families. Bonnie Clouser, Accounting Clerk for the Contaminated Sites Program, spearheaded an effort for each floor of the Anchorage DEC offices to adopt a family. In Juneau, Mike Conway and Gerry Guay, in Air and Water Quality Division, also organized an effort to gather and distribute donated food and other gifts.

Mike Nafplotis, receptionist in the Fairbanks DEC office, was featured in the Fairbanks News Miner during National Disability Employment Awareness Month for his abilities in assisting the public, phone answering, and word processing. Mike is blind and makes use of equipment which converts computer text to Braille. Many who have called the Fairbanks office will agree he is

very effective and helpful.

The following employees have received thanks and kudos from clients and co-workers:

**Jim Frechione** of the solid waste program in Anchorage from the solid waste manager for the City of Valdez for Jim's helpfulness and professionalism.

**Bill Stokes** of the Statewide Public Service Division in Anchorage, from the community of Atka for a good working relationship and from the Lagoonarium for a ground water pollution demonstration at the 1995 State Science and Engineering Fair.

**Jim Ferguson** of the Industrial Operations Section, for an impromptu presentation on state-federal cooperative efforts on timber harvesting and water quality to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Dan Glickman.

**Tom Chapple and Steve Provant**, of the Spill Prevention and Response Division, from the Regional Citizens' Advisory Council, for their exceptional work on the Prince William Sound tanker contingency plan.

**M. J. Pilgrim** of the State Chemistry Lab and **Lester Leatherberry** of the Spill Prevention and Response Division for their professionalism and cooperative attitude during a recent planning session with the Auke Bay Fire Department.

**Nancy Napolilli, Belinda Swift, Cory Willis and Rob Danner** of the Environmental Sanitation Program from the Alaska Cooperative Extension Service for their support in developing and implementing a food manager certification program, ServSafe.

**Keven Kleweno** of Statewide Public Service Division in Anchorage from the Resource Apprenticeship Program for Students for hard work in making their program a success.

**Paul Pinard and the Mat-Su Public Service Office staff** from a local property owner and subdivider for the office's excellent customer service, assistance, and timely action in a recent subdivision plan approval.

**Leonard Verrelli** of the Air and Water Quality Division for his participation on the Marketing Alaska Mining and Minerals sector work group.

**Scott Bailey** of the Air Quality Maintenance section from Tesoro Petroleum Company for quick and effective response to a recent permit amendment request.

**Ray Dronenburg** of the Contaminated Sites Program from the Alaska Village Electric Cooperative for assistance in resolving environmental issues during purchase of a power plant site for the Bethel Utilities Corporation.

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation  
Division of Administrative Services  
410 Willoughby Avenue, Suite 105  
Juneau, AK 99801-1795

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The Honorable Loren Lemay  
Alaska State Senate  
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## Letter to Alaskans

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ing, and revised budgeting and financial management — a huge accomplishment by any agency or company of our size, especially in a one-year period.

Indeed, among the gratifying results of these changes is that people are noticing our improvements in service. We received at least 200 letters or calls of appreciation for DEC staff's performance during 1995, and now average over 20 such contacts per month.

Certainly, this comes partly from organizing into clear reporting lines, linking program development with implementation. We are giving our clients a system that emphasizes cooperation, efficiency, and technical excellence, all of which will have even greater payoffs for Alaskans and the department in the future.

Our restructuring is also producing

cost efficiencies, reflecting the Governor's long-range fiscal plan for the state. For example, we are requesting fewer workers in the coming fiscal year while trying to protect employees through use of attrition or reassignment to other programs.

We have also slashed our dependence on the state's general fund. Our request for these state funds for next fiscal year is 6.9% below the current year. In 1992, DEC relied upon \$30 million in general funds, in contrast to a \$16.7 million request for fiscal year 97.

We also pulled administrative services together under one director, made our budget much clearer to the legislature and the public, and saved money in the Oil and Hazardous Response Fund and through alternative funding sources for work directly benefiting single clients — such as the Alaska Pulp Corporation's Silver Bay cleanup and several large permits for

mining, oil production, and pulp processing operations.

All this and more was made possible by some fundamental changes in policy, leaving behind solely end-of-the-pipe enforcement as our primary mission, and entering a time when compliance and technical assistance make up much more of our daily work.

It has been a good start made possible by the cooperation and assistance of the entire staff. My goal is to continue to build on this foundation, and I invite the continued support and suggestions of the staff and our clients, the Alaska public.