



# Topics for Discussion

## Antidegradation Workshop

### May 13 - 14, 2015

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation  
Division of Water  
Water Quality Standards  
Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

**DRAFT**



# Division of Water

## Mission Statement:

- Improve and protect water quality

## How?

- Establishes standards for water cleanliness
- **Regulates discharges to waters and wetlands**
- Provides financial assistance for water and wastewater facility construction and waterbody assessment and remediation
- Trains, certifies, and assists water and wastewater system operators
- Monitors and reports on water quality



# Preliminary Topics for Discussion Antidegradation Workshop

May 13 – 14, 2015

## Introduction

- Public response to first round of regulation publication raised questions
- The purpose of this presentation is to create a forum to discuss topics that generated public interest



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Topics for Discussion  
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Status of Tier 3 Water:  
Under development



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No Action Proposed:

- Reconvening Antidegradation Workgroup
- Repeal of 18 70.015(a)(2)(D)
- Jurisdiction of waters/applicability of regulations
- Alaskan Native Tribal involvement and consultation process



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No Action Proposed (continued):

- Tier Protection Level – Clarification of required/acceptable documentation
- Tier 1 Data Submittal flexibility similar to Tier 2
- Tier 1 protection should apply only to the waterbody as a whole and is satisfied through compliance with existing water quality standards



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No Action Proposed (continued):

- Tier 1 – Mixing Zone Clarification - permitted discharge of a pollutant to a Tier 1 water that is impaired by that pollutant allowed/not allowed
- Exemption for emergency response actions be expanded to include cleanups, e.g. CERCLA, OPA



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No Action Proposed (continued):

- Additional exemption based on updated calculations of water quality-based effluent limits
- Specify NEPA, EA, EIS, etc. documents/ information allowed for antidegradation analysis
- Additional information requested by the department



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No Action Proposed (continued):

- Non-point sources subject to antidegradation
- All social and economic impacts, positive and negative, be required and evaluated as well as evaluating the importance of maintaining (not-degrading) existing water quality



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No Action Proposed (continued):

- Alternative analysis on a “portion of a discharge” (expanded discharge)
- Sufficient and Credible criteria
- Baseline Water Quality Data – more technical description and less/more flexibility in data requirements



Questions on the issues in the draft Antidegradation regulations that ADEC is not proposing to address further?



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## Quick Fix Issues:

- Actions or Discharges
- Pollutant or Parameter
- Definition of Pollutant



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## Quick Fix Issues (continued):

- Assimilative capacity as an importance criteria
- Major retrofit language
- Alternatives not directly tied to discharge language
- Tier 3 “offsets”



Questions on the proposed antidegradation regulations revisions that ADEC will address as presented?

# Suggestions?

The Division of Water is always interested in improving our process!



Questions?  
Thank you for your time!