



NEWS RELEASE

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DEC invites public comment on large passenger vessel wastewater discharge permit

April 13, 2007--The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Commercial Passenger Vessel Compliance Program is inviting public comments on its proposed Large Commercial Passenger Vessel Wastewater Discharge General Permit. This general permit will satisfy the new permit requirement of the Cruise Ship ballot initiative that passed in August 2006.

The general permit will apply to wastewater discharges such as treated sewage, graywater, (such as wastewater from sinks and showers), and other wastewater from large commercial passenger vessels operating in state marine waters within Southeast, Southcentral, and other waters of the state. Large commercial vessels provide overnight accommodations for 250 passengers. Owners/operators must apply for coverage under the general permit and comply with all the conditions in the permit, including monitoring, recording, and reporting wastewater discharges.

The draft general permit can be reviewed on the DEC web site at www.dec.state.ak.us/water/cruise_ships/cpv_general_permit2.htm

The public comment period began April 11, 2007, and closes at 5:00 PM May 10, 2007. DEC will hold a Public Workshop / Public Hearing regarding the proposed General Permit on April 18, 2007, at Centennial Hall in Juneau from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

Written comments must be addressed to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Water, attn Chris Foley, 410 Willoughby Avenue, Suite 303, P.O. Box 111800, Juneau, AK 99811-1800, or via email to Chris.Foley@dec.state.ak and must be received by 5:00 pm on May 10, 2007.

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