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Contact: Marit Carlson-Van Dort, 907-465-5312

Cruise ship science advisory panel meeting starts Thursday

The 11-member science advisory panel kicks off its second meeting of the year on Thursday at Centennial Hall in Juneau. Sessions will cover a feasibility study on reducing concentrations of dissolved metals and ammonia in wastewater and ways to limit sources of contaminants. Participants will also review details of on-shore wastewater treatment facilities at Alaska cruise ship ports. An agenda is attached. All science panel meetings are open to the public.

Tours of different wastewater treatment facilities on-board cruise ships are scheduled for Friday afternoon and Saturday. The ship tours are designed for science panelists only.

As a result of a state law passed in 2009, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation established the science advisory panel to evaluate the most “technologically effective and economically feasible” wastewater treatment options for cruise ships. Its members include representatives from the U.S. Coast Guard, the Environmental Protection Agency, the fishing industry, the cruise ship industry, academia and a non-governmental organization. The panel will advise DEC as it prepares to report the findings of the panel to the state legislature before 2015.

The group’s first meeting took place in February.

For more information on the Cruise Ship Program and on the science advisory panel go to: http://www.dec.state.ak.us/water/cruise_ships/index.htm To receive updates on the cruise ship program and science advisory panel, please sign up to the DEC list serve at: <http://list.state.ak.us/soalists/DEC-Cruise-Ship/jl.htm> You may view the agenda for the upcoming meeting here: [SAP Final Draft Agenda June 10-11 2010.pdf](#)