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Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Kristin Ryan, Director of Environmental Health, (907) 269-7644

DEC to Host Public Workshops on Proposed Changes to Alaska Food Code

(JUNEAU, AK) – The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Food Safety and Sanitation Program is hosting public workshops to explain proposed revisions to the exempt activities and facilities section of the Alaska Food Code. The program hopes that the revisions to this section will help to facilitate safe sale of local food in Alaska.

The proposed regulations will allow the processing, packaging and sale of “low risk” foods to be sold directly to the consumer from the person who made the food as long as the total sales of the food items that are sold are less than \$25,000 a calendar year. Low risk foods include breads, cookies, cakes, pies, nuts, granola, dried herbs, spices, tea leaves and confections as these foods are unlikely to allow harmful bacteria or pathogens to grow. Producers will be required to have a placard, sign or label at the primary sale area that states, “THESE PRODUCTS ARE NOT SUBJECT TO STATE INSPECTION.”

The amendments to this section will also allow fundraisers, promotional events or other gatherings advertised to the general public to be exempt from the requirements of the Alaska Food Code if no more than 100 people are served during the event and the food is held at safe temperatures.

The proposed changes will also reorganize the code so that similar activities and facilities are grouped together making the section easier to read.

DEC is offering the public workshops to help people better understand the proposed regulations. Please see the listed schedule for meeting times and locations.

Date/Time	City	Location	Teleconference Dial-In
June 28, 2011 5 p.m.	Soldotna	Department of Environmental Conservation Conference Room 4335 Kalifornsky Beach Rd.	1-800-315-6338 PIN: 7628
July 7, 2011 5 p.m.	Juneau	Department of Environmental Conservation Conference Room 410 Willoughby Ave.	1-800-315-6338 PIN: 7628
July 11, 2011 5 p.m.	Anchorage	Department of Environmental Conservation Conference Room 555 Cordova St.	1-800-315-6338 PIN: 7628
July 14, 2011 5 p.m.	Mat-Su	Department of Environmental Conservation Conference Room 1700 E. Bogard Road, Building B	1-800-315-6338 PIN: 7628
July 28, 2011 5 p.m.	Fairbanks	Department of Environmental Conservation Conference Room 610 University Ave.	1-800-315-6338 PIN: 7628

Comments will not be taken at these workshops. However, anyone interested in commenting on the proposed regulation changes, including the potential costs of complying with the proposed changes, may submit written comments to:

Kristin Ryan, Director
 Division of Environmental Health
 Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
 555 Cordova St., Anchorage, AK 99501
 Fax: (907) 269-7654
 Email: Kristin.Ryan@alaska.gov

The comments must be received no later than 5 p.m. on August 2, 2011. For a copy of the proposed regulation changes, contact:

Kimberly Stryker
 Division of Environmental Health
 Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
 555 Cordova St., Anchorage, AK 99501
 Fax: (907) 269-7510
 Email: Kimberly.Stryker@alaska.gov

DEC's Notices of Proposed Regulations are also available on the state's Online Public Notice Web site at:

<http://notes.state.ak.us/pn/pubnotic.nsf>

For more on DEC's Food Safety and Sanitation Program, visit:

<http://dec.alaska.gov/eh/fss/index.htm>