



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

**Department of Environmental
Conservation**

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
Environmental Health Laboratory

5251 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Ave.
Anchorage, Alaska 99507-1293
Main: 907.375.8200
Fax: 907.929.7335
www.dec.alaska.gov

June 3, 2015

RE: Partial shutdown planning affects testing at the Environmental Health Laboratory

To our valued clients:

Due to the lack of an approved Fiscal Year 2016 budget, the Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Environmental Health, Environmental Health Laboratory (EHL) must begin the process of shutting down. To allow time to process samples that are accepted for analysis, process and evaluate data, perform data entry and review, and produce and deliver analytical reports, the last day to submit samples to EHL will be 4:30 pm Friday, June 12, 2015.

Unfortunately, all samples received thru June 12 cannot be guaranteed to be completely analyzed by July 1, the final day of EHL operations under the current budget scenario, but every effort will be made to do so. For samples that cannot be completed by July 1, the client will be contacted by June 26 to either retrieve their samples and subcontract analysis independently, or will be asked to give permission for their samples to be stored appropriately until EHL operations resume.

Upon receiving news of a funded budget, a staged and incremental restart of testing operations will occur. This 'ramp-up' time will depend on several factors including timing of the notification, stage of shutdown, and length of shutdown. Supplies may need to be ordered, media made, instruments recalibrated, and operability verified before resuming analysis. Notification of the schedule for resumed operations will be made by emailed letter and posted on our website at <http://dec.alaska.gov/eh/lab/>.

Although, the shutdown and eventual restart of our operations is disruptive, and a June 12 cutoff does not provide a lot of notice. Please understand that our staff remains dedicated and will make every effort to maintain the high quality of service expected despite these circumstances.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "P. McKinney".

Patryce D. McKinney, MBA
Chief, Environmental Health Laboratory