March 2, 2018

RE: Disposal of Construction and Demolition Waste in Rural Alaska

As the Alaska construction season approaches, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) Solid Waste Program wants to remind agencies, facility owners, operators, and contractors of the importance of proper management of construction and demolition (C&D) waste and other related waste in rural Alaska. Large quantities of C&D waste can be created from construction, demolition, or renovation projects of community or commercial facilities or water and sewer system in rural communities. Disposal of these materials can be difficult in rural Alaska where a permitted landfill may not be available, the landfill does not accept C&D waste, or the landfill lacks adequate space to accommodate the volume of waste for disposal.

It is important that you consider waste management early in the planning stages of the project and establish contact with the community and ADEC to understand your options. Disposal or leaving materials for reuse in the community should not be presumed acceptable, and must be limited to non-hazardous materials. Prior communication and planning is essential in establishing your waste disposal or removal plan.

**Disposal of waste in an unpermitted community landfill or abandoning the waste is illegal and can result in enforcement action by ADEC.** Some rural communities do not have a current permit to operate their landfills. Please contact the Solid Waste Program to confirm whether a landfill is permitted. If the local landfill is not permitted you may want to consider assisting the community with obtaining a permit if they are willing to accept the waste. Permitting is not a complicated process for most rural landfills, and our staff will be happy to assist you. Even if a landfill is permitted, please contact the ADEC Solid Waste Program to confirm that the landfill can accept C&D waste and that it is capable of handling the quantity of waste that will be generated.

Constructing a landfill specific to your project may be a viable option for disposing C&D waste in rural Alaska. You may apply for a One-Time Inert Waste Monofill authorization if your project meets the volume and location limitations in the One-Time authorization. If your project does not meet the limitations for the One-Time authorization, you may choose to apply for an individual Inert Waste Monofill permit. Both the authorization and the permit application forms are available on our website. If no local disposal options are available, the waste must be transported out of the community to a landfill permitted, willing, and able to accept the waste.

Prior to demolition of any structure, a hazard survey must be performed and documented, a Notification of Demolition and Renovation form must be submitted to EPA. All hazardous materials must be removed before demolition, in some cases by a certified contractor, and shipped to a facility permitted to accept those materials for recycling or disposal.
These materials may include:

- chipped or flaking lead-based paint;
- insulation, ceiling or floor tiles, mastics, grout, roofing or siding, etc. that contains asbestos;
- mercury in switches, thermostats, electronics, fluorescent bulbs and other equipment;
- chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) or other harmful chemicals in old refrigerators, air conditioners and aerosol cans;
- polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in transformers, lubricants, paints, and sealants; and,
- potentially toxic household or agricultural chemicals, including certain paints, cleaning products and pesticides.

Also, it is important to remove all your unused hazardous materials from the community. While the community may accept some unused or reclaimed materials for reuse, hazardous materials should be removed to limit any future liability for disposal or remediation. **No hazardous materials may be disposed in a Class III landfill by a contractor regardless of your generator status.**

Please help us support rural communities to make their landfills safer and more environmentally sound. If you are able to dispose of waste in a rural landfill, and the community does not have a fee system, please offer in-kind services to assist them by using equipment and labor to help clean up the landfill (e.g. consolidate, compact, and cover waste; haul cover material to the site; repair fences, etc.). Even small improvements can help the community work toward a healthier and safer landfill.

Please visit our webpage at [dec.alaska.gov/eh/solid-waste](http://dec.alaska.gov/eh/solid-waste), and contact the ADEC Solid Waste Program Specialists with any questions about proper waste disposal or landfill permitting.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Blankenburg, P.E.
Solid Waste & Pesticides Program Manager

**ADEC Solid Waste Program Specialists**

**Anchorage** (Southcentral & Western Alaska):
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Stephen Price 907.269.7590  
*Industrial/Commercial Landfills*

**Fairbanks** (Northern & Interior Alaska):
Trish Bower 907.451.2174  
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Sandi Woods 907.465.5318  
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