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Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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Open Houses, Public Hearings on State Air Quality Regulations

(FAIRBANKS, AK) — The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) will host two open houses for the public to ask questions about air quality regulations that are currently out for public comment. The first open house will be held on Tuesday, July 12 from 5:00pm-7:00pm at the North Pole Library Multi-Purpose Room. The second open house will be on Wednesday, July 13 from 5:00pm-7:00pm at the Noel Wien Library Auditorium in Fairbanks. DEC will provide a short presentation at the beginning of each open house. Afterwards, DEC staff will be available to answer questions from the public.

"While the proposed state regulations are only incorporating existing borough ordinances, we wanted to continue to provide opportunities for the public to interact with staff," said DEC Director of Air Quality, Denise Koch.

DEC will also hold two public hearings on Thursday, July 14 from 11:30am-1:30pm and again from 5:00pm-7:00pm to provide an opportunity for those wishing to submit oral comment on the proposed regulations. Written comments may be submitted at any time until July 28 at 5:00pm when the public comment period closes.

Since the State Implementation Plan (SIP) was last updated and submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in January 2015, new borough air quality ordinances have been implemented. Formally including these borough ordinances into state regulation and implementation plans allows the borough programs to be included in the EPA-required modeling for the Fairbanks North Star Borough PM_{2.5} Nonattainment Area.

For more information on these proposed regulations and hearings, visit:

http://dec.alaska.gov/air/anpms/comm/fbks_pm2-5_proposed-regs_2016.htm.

For tips on how to comment on regulations, visit:
http://dec.alaska.gov/commish/regulations/how_to_comment.htm.

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