



Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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No Interruption of Services at DEC, Environmental Health Laboratory

(JUNEAU, AK) – The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) previously announced on June 1, 2015, which services would be maintained and which would be suspended if a fully funded budget was not passed before July 1, 2015. The Alaska State Legislature has since passed a fully funded budget, avoiding an interruption in laboratory services.

This includes core services such as spill prevention and response, air and water monitoring, laboratory testing, shellfish PSP testing, permitting, inspections, complaint response, remote maintenance workers, and support to many community environmental programs.

DEC's Environmental Health Laboratory (EHL) will also remain open. Previously, lab clients were informed that the last day to submit samples for testing was June 12 in order to allow time the remainder of the month for processing samples. The lab is now resuming testing operations as outlined below:

- Paralytic Shellfish Toxin (PST) commercial samples will be accepted as usual, Monday-Friday.
- Shellfish Growing Water (SGW) samples will be accepted as usual, Monday-Wednesday.
- Manufactured and Cottage food samples will be accepted Monday-Friday, however the testing will be conducted when samples are pooled for efficiency, but not less than once a month.

- Dairy testing is scheduled once a month with samples acceptance scheduled accordingly.

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For more information about the Environmental Health Laboratory, please see <http://dec.alaska.gov/eh/lab/index.htm>.