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Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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DEC Issues \$18,050 Penalty to Matanuska-Susitna Borough and E&E Construction for Violations of the Construction General Permit

(ANCHORAGE, AK) — The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has settled Clean Water Act claims against the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and E&E Construction for \$18,050. The claims relate to violations of permitting requirements designed to control pollution in storm water runoff at construction sites.

During a routine inspection of the Talkeetna Library and Community Center construction project in May 2015, DEC inspectors found the Borough and E&E, as owner and project manager, had failed to meet their duties to implement measures in the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and maintain Best Management Practices (BMPs) applicable to construction sites. Specifically, they failed to keep required inspection reports, a corrective action log, training log, grading and stabilization log, and rainfall log. Without this required documentation, DEC was unable to evaluate their compliance with conditions of the Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Construction General Permit.

"These regulations are in place to ensure the protection of streams and waterways from unpermitted and unmonitored discharges," said Mike Solter, DEC's Division of Water, Compliance and Enforcement Program Manager. "Failing to have the proper permits in place, coupled with the lack of proper project monitoring, demonstrates a high risk of the project damaging the environment."

Because the responsible parties took the violations seriously and acted quickly to resolve the outstanding issues and come into compliance, the penalty was only for the estimated amount the permittees gained by not complying sooner with all requirements of the Construction General Permit.

“We want to ensure all permittees know they are the front line for protecting Alaska’s water and natural resources,” Solter added, “and they must be vigilant about protecting our natural environment.”

For more information about DEC’s Division of Water Compliance and Enforcement Program, visit:

<http://dec.alaska.gov/water/compliance/index.htm>.

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