



CITY OF PETERSBURG
WATER & WASTEWATER UTILITIES
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February 28, 1996

Eric Decker
State of Alaska
Dept. Of Environmental Conservation
Division of Environmental Quality
410 Willoughby Ave., Suite 105
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1795

REC-1
MAY 04 1996
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Dear Mr. Decker:

I have received the "Draft" 1996, Section 305 (b), Water Quality Assessment Report and would like the following comments entered into the record of "comments received".

Two waterbodies in the Petersburg area are listed in the "Draft" 1996 Water Quality Assessment Report, those being Hammers Slough and Wrangell Narrows. Both of these waterbodies have been listed without the documented water quality data or credible evidence listed in Appendix II for "Impaired Surface Waters". To the best of my knowledge they have never been selected for a State Notice of Violation or other enforcement action. Photographs and video tapes of these waterbodies do not document persistent violations, but document the pristine conditions of the waterbodies that Alaska is famous for.

Water Quality data samples on Hammers Slough were collected and analyzed during the month of February 1996. The results of the sampling is as follows;

Settleable Solids Averaged 0 ml/L

Suspended Solids Averaged 6 mg/L

Turbidity measured between 18 and 24 NTU

Color measured between 99 and 130 units

control / reference values?

These results are comparable to the test results from the water entering our drinking water treatment facility. This is no surprise, as they share a common ridge line in their respective watersheds. Definitely not the indicators of an impaired waterbody.

In closing, it appears that Hammers Slough and Wrangell Narrows have been targeted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10 staff for inclusion in this list of Impaired or Suspected of being Impaired Waterbodies. Because I know of no substantiating documentation for either of them, I am

concluding that their assessment is politically based, rather than scientifically based. My assessment, as a water quality professional, albeit local, is that both Hammers Slough and Wrangell Narrows should be de-listed, immediately, before they become officially listed. This will save the State of Alaska thousands of dollars de-listing the waterbodies and the tourism industry in Petersburg will not be adversely affected by these false accusations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bruce R. Jones".

Bruce R. Jones
Superintendent

BJ/EW