

Public Notice
State of Alaska
Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Water
Notice of Water Quality Antidegradation Informational Teleconference

April 19, 2012

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Division of Water will hold informational teleconferences on water quality protection. The Department has an existing policy on water quality protection established in regulations at 18 AAC 70.015, commonly referred to as the “antidegradation policy.” DEC is not proposing changes to the policy but is currently developing implementation procedures for the policy with input from an existing stakeholder workgroup and the public.

The antidegradation policy and implementing procedures are complex. As one element of Alaska’s Water Quality Standards, they play a role in wastewater discharge permitting decisions. At the teleconferences, DEC Division of Water Director Michelle Bonnet will provide a presentation that describes the origin of antidegradation requirements; ways to learn more; and how local governments, tribes, and the public can provide early, meaningful comments to DEC before DEC develops the implementation procedures. The implementation procedures will be in the form of draft regulations that will undergo a formal public comment period late this year.

The teleconferences are designed to be educational and informational and are not part of a formal public comment process. Both teleconferences will cover identical material.

The teleconferences will be held on April 24 from 10–11:30 a.m. and April 26 from 6-7:30 p.m. The teleconferences will be held at ten Alaska Legislative Information Offices: Anchorage, Barrow, Bethel, Dillingham, Fairbanks, Juneau, Ketchikan, Kotzebue, Nome, and Sitka. In order to provide quality audio connections and a visual presentation, there will not be a separate call in number.

For more information on the teleconferences contact: Tim Hoffman at (907) 269-0598 or timothy.hoffman@alaska.gov For more information on DEC’s antidegradation policy and implementation workgroup go to DEC’s website at:

<http://dec.alaska.gov/water/wqsar/Antidegradation/index.html>

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