

**Department of Environmental Conservation
Response to Comments**

For

**Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (APDES)
Permit for Storm Water Discharges from Small Municipal
Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s)
within the**

**City of Fairbanks,
City of North Pole,
University of Alaska – Fairbanks, and
Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities –
Northern Regional Office**

APDES Permit No. AKS053406

Public Noticed April 4, 2018 – May 4, 2018

May 11, 2018



Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Wastewater Discharge Authorization Program
555 Cordova Street
Anchorage, AK 99501

1 Introduction

1.1 Summary of Facility / Permit

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) previously issued an National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit (AKS053406) for an Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) owned and operated by four permittees: City of Fairbanks, City of North Pole, University of Alaska - Fairbanks, and the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities – Northern Regional Office (hereinafter “co-permittees) on June 1, 2005. The permit expired on May 31, 2010. In October 2009, EPA transferred authority to administer the Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (APDES) program to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (the Department or DEC). When the permit expired in May 2010, DEC administratively extended the permit pursuant to 18 AAC 83.155(c) until it was reissued on June 10, 2013. Following the application requirements in 18 AAC 83.110(d), the co-permittees submitted an application for reissuance of their permit on January 9, 2018.

Within the Fairbanks MS4 area, surface runoff is directed to a system of mostly interconnected conveyances, which consist of subsurface storm sewers, roadside ditches, and surface streets. The permit authorizes and sets conditions on the discharge of pollutants from municipal activities to Beaver Springs, Chena River, Chena Slough, Noyes Slough, and other associated waters of the United States within the Fairbanks Urbanized Area. In order to ensure protection of water quality and human health, the permit establishes conditions, prohibitions, and management practices for discharges of storm water from the MS4s owned and operated by the co-permittees. Concurrently, DEC also proposed a separate APDES permit for discharges from the MS4s owned and operated by the Fairbanks North Star Borough (AKS053414).

1.2 Opportunities for Public Participation

The Department proposed to reissue an APDES wastewater discharge permit to the co-permittees. To ensure public, agency, and tribal notification and opportunities for participation the Department:

- identified the permit on the annual Permit Issuance Plan posted online at: <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/water/wwdp/index.htm>
- notified potentially affected tribes that the Department would be working on this permit via letter, fax and/or email
- posted a preliminary draft of the permit on-line for a 10-day applicant review on March 14, 2018, and notified tribes and other agencies
- posted the public notice on the Department’s public notice web page on April 4, 2018
- sent email notifications via the APDES Program List Serve when the preliminary draft, draft, and proposed final permits were available for review

The Department did not receive any comments on the draft permit.

1.3 Final Permit

The final permit was reissued by the Department on *May 11, 2018*.