

**Department of Environmental Conservation  
Response to Comments**

**For**

**Fort Wainwright**

**APDES Permit No. AKS-055859**

**Public Noticed  
August 9, 2016 – September 12, 2016**

**September 26, 2016**



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

## **1 Introduction**

### **1.1 Summary of Facility / Permit**

Fort Wainwright operates a small a small municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4). Major industrial operations located within the MS4 that may contribute pollutants to storm water runoff include vehicle and aircraft operations and maintenance, staging of hazardous and non-hazardous wastes, a landfill, a rock quarries, a coal-fired power plant, and a golf course. Pollutants typically associated with these activities include petroleum, oil, lubricants, heavy metals, solids, and floatable debris. Storm water from the MS4 is collected, treated, and conveyed through a series of catch basins, gutters, ditches, storm drains and grass-lined ditches. Storm water discharges flow directly into the Chena River at 25 outfall locations along the river. The Chena River is listed on Alaska's 303(d) list of impaired waters due to elevated levels of sediment resulting from urban runoff. In order to ensure the protection of water quality and human health, this permit would authorize and set conditions on the discharge and require the operator to implement best management practices to minimize pollutants in the discharge to the maximum extent practicable. This is the first MS4 permit for Fort Wainwright.

### **1.2 Opportunities for Public Participation**

The Department of Environmental Conservation proposed to issue an Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (APDES) wastewater discharge permit to Fort Wainwright. 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 June 28, 2016 and notified tribes and other agencies;
- formally published public notice of the draft permit on August 10, 2016, in the Anchorage Dispatch and Fairbanks Daily News-Miner and posted the public notice on the Department's public notice web page;
- 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 comments from interested parties on the draft permit and supporting documents. The Department also requested comment from the Departments of Natural Resources (DNR) Fish and Game (DFG), the National Marine Fisheries Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

This document summarizes the comments submitted and the justification for any action taken or not taken by DEC in response to the comments.

### **1.3 Final Permit**

The final permit was adopted by the Department on September 26, 2016. There were no changes from the public noticed permit. Significant changes are identified in the response to comments and reflected in the final fact sheet for the permit.