



DEC NEWS

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

Division of Environmental Health

555 Cordova

Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Phone: (907) 269-7656 Fax: (907) 269-3990 TTY: (907) 269-7511

www.state.ak.us/dec/

Contact: Suzan Hill at (907) 269-7521 or [Suzan Hill@dec.state.ak.us](mailto:Suzan.Hill@dec.state.ak.us)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DEC Completes 1,668 Public Drinking Water Source Assessments

July 21, 2004 – The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has completed 1,668 source water assessments for public drinking water systems in Alaska.

“Completing these source water assessments is a significant accomplishment for DEC and a major step toward ensuring safe drinking water for Alaskans. We are excited by the progress to date and look forward to working with local communities to use the assessments to protect drinking water resources,” said Ernesta Ballard, DEC commissioner.

“An assessment of drinking water sources provides local communities with the information they need to protect their drinking water from existing and potential sources of contamination,” said Kristin Ryan, director of DEC’s division of environmental health.

The source water assessments and water wellhead protection plans are critical components to effectively protect drinking water quality. DEC’s wellhead program provides public water system owners and operators, and local communities with guidance, assistance, and the necessary tools for developing local wellhead protection plans for their drinking water source(s). The goal is to ensure that public water systems and communities have a safe supply of drinking water by protecting wellheads and groundwater from biological and chemical contamination.

-###-