

Commenting on Permits

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) works to conserve, improve and protect Alaska's natural resources and environment. DEC controls water, land, and air pollution by issuing permits and adopting regulations. Proposed projects and permits are subject to public review and input during a set public notice period. The public notice period is an opportunity to ask questions and comment on permits. Your involvement, concerns and traditional knowledge provide DEC decision-makers with information and perspectives they otherwise might not have access to.

When you read the draft permit, fact sheet, and any pertinent attachments, consider the following:

- Is information accurate?
- Are assumptions and methodology adequate?
- Is there other relevant information to consider?
- Do changes need to be made?

Contact the staff person identified on the public notice for any clarifications or questions on the draft permit or supporting documents.

Helpful comments

- ✓ Are fact-based
- ✓ Cite permit or regulation and address applicability
- ✓ Correct typographical, calculative, or factual errors
- ✓ Include observations about the facility or receiving water
- ✓ Provide a link to new studies, data, or research
- ✓ Cite potentially affected local uses
- ✓ Discuss issues regarding discharge location and timing

Helpful comments should be

- ✓ Clear and concise statements or questions
- ✓ On topic and scope and within the program's authority
- ✓ Solution oriented
- ✓ Specific regarding impacts to resources
- ✓ Specific on where and when the resources are utilized

Less helpful comments are

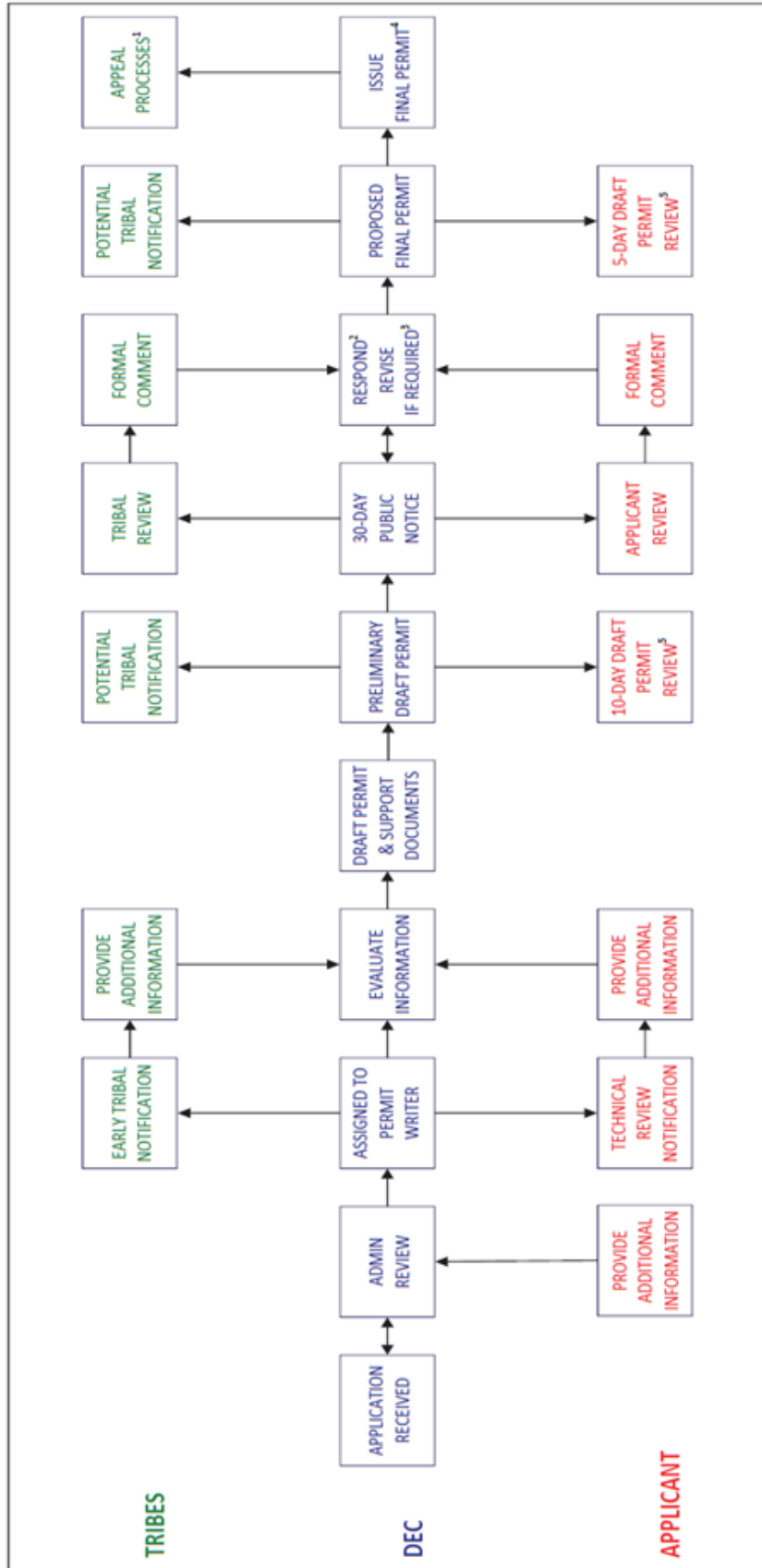
- ✓ Beyond agency authority
- ✓ Outside the scope of project
- ✓ Opinions or perceptions
- ✓ Only support or oppose the permit
- ✓ Speculative
- ✓ Unspecific and do not provide enough substance to evaluate the impact

Personal observations may be useful and considered helpful comments

- ✓ Photos, notes, and records
- ✓ Years you have lived or worked in area
- ✓ Formal or informal education, training, or experience related to project and/or issues you're addressing

You must submit comments within the public notice period to guarantee consideration with regard to the draft permit and inclusion in the administrative record. Comments are responded to in the "Response to Comments" document. Submitted comments become public record and subject to Freedom of Information Act requests.

APDES PERMITTING PROCESS OVERVIEW



¹ REQUEST AN INFORMAL REVIEW WITHIN 15 DAYS OR ADJUDICATORY HEARING WITHIN 30 DAYS
² RESPONSE TO COMMENTS IS FORMAL DOCUMENT PROVIDED TO COMMENTERS AND AVAILABLE WITH FINAL PERMIT
³ WILL BE PUBLIC NOTICED AGAIN IF PROPOSED FINAL PERMIT IS NOT LOGICAL OUTGROWTH FROM COMMENTS RECEIVED
⁴ FINAL PERMIT IS NOT EFFECT UNTIL 30 DAYS AFTER ISSUANCE
⁵ 10- AND 5-DAY REVIEW PERIODS MAY WAIVED BY APPLICANT