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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Three Telephone Surveys to Determine Home Heating Habits in Fairbanks North Star Borough**

(FAIRBANKS, AK) – The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) will be conducting three telephone surveys to help with the continued development of the plan to address the Borough's air quality related to high levels of PM2.5.

Two surveys will begin Feb. 2. One survey will focus on types of wood devices residents have in their homes and how they are used. The other survey will focus on understanding how residents get the wood they use throughout the winter. The information that these surveys will provide will help assess the viability and impact of options being considered to improve air quality.

"If we were to implement a wood stove change out program, then we would need to know what devices are currently in homes. Likewise, to increase the amount of dry wood available, we want to know where, when and how residents get their wood," said Cindy Heil, DEC program manager. "We hope residents will participate in these surveys and help the process to find a solution to air quality issues in the Fairbanks North Star Borough."

The third survey will be conducted at the end of February and is the same survey that has been conducted in several previous years. The survey asks residents about the type of fuel they use, how often, and other related questions. Previous results from this survey have been an important part of determining the overall picture of home heating habits in the borough, monitoring trends and verifying projections for air quality planning.

The survey will be conducted by Alaska-based firm, Hayes Research.

For more information on air quality in Alaska visit the DEC Air Quality Division website at:  
<http://dec.alaska.gov/air>.

For more information on air quality in the Fairbanks North Star Borough, visit their website at:  
<http://co.fairbanks.ak.us/airquality/>.

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