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Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sept. 11, 2012 is Protect Your Groundwater Day

(JUNEAU, AK) – The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is encouraging Alaskans to prevent groundwater contamination as part of Protect Your Groundwater Day (PYGD), Sept. 11, 2012. Started by the National Ground Water Association, PYGD focuses on actions to protect and preserve groundwater for human use and the environment.

“Groundwater is a source of drinking water for about 50 percent of Alaska’s population, and 90% of the state’s rural residents.” said Chris Miller, coordinator of the Drinking Water Protection Group within the DEC Drinking Water Program. “Protect Your Groundwater Day is a great reminder that we all have a responsibility to keep Alaska’s groundwater safe.”

When working with hazardous household substances:

- Store them properly in sealed containers in a secure place.
- Use them according to the manufacturer’s recommendations.
- Dispose of them safely.

When it comes to water conservation:

- Modify water use.
- Install water-saving devices.

If you own a well:

- Move possible contamination sources a safe distance from the wellhead.
- Stay current on your septic system inspection and cleaning.
- Get your water well system inspected annually.
- Properly decommission any abandoned wells on your property using a professional.

For more information on Protect Your Groundwater Day, visit: www.wellowner.org.
For more information on specific Alaska ground water facts visit DEC’s Ground Water in Alaska Factsheet at:
<http://www.dec.state.ak.us/eh/docs/dw/DWP/Groundwater%20fact%20sheet%202008.pdf>.

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