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Press Release

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Cruise Ship Science Advisory Panel Meeting to be Held in Juneau

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) will host its sixth Science Advisory Panel meeting of the year along with a technology workshop from September 19-21 in Juneau.

The September 19 session will be held at the Goldbelt from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Panel will review and edit the final draft of their preliminary report to the Department of Environmental Conservation. The report is a culmination of two years of study on the technological effectiveness and economic feasibility of methods of pollution prevention, control and treatment of cruise ship wastewater.

The September 20 session will be a technology workshop intended to inform Alaskans of the work of the Panel, the history of cruise ships in Alaska, and the history of cruise ship wastewater technologies and issues. The open house style workshop will be held from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Hammond Room of the Centennial Hall Convention Center in Juneau.

The September 21 session will cover future Panel planning and will be held from 8 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. at the Goldbelt in Juneau.

The public is encouraged to attend any or all of the sessions.

Guided by state law, DEC established the 11-member Science Advisory Panel in 2009 to evaluate the most "technologically effective and economically feasible" methods for pollution prevention, control and treatment of cruise ship of wastewater. Its members include representatives from the Coast Guard, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, land-based and marine wastewater treatment experts, the fishing industry, the cruise ship industry, academia and a marine conservation organization. The Panel will advise DEC as it prepares to report the Panel's findings to the state legislature. The group's first meeting took place in February 2010.

For a full meeting agenda or more information on the Science Advisory Panel, visit: http://www.dec.state.ak.us/water/cruise_ships/SciencePanel/index.htm.

To receive updates on the DEC Cruise Ship Program and Science Advisory Panel, sign up to the DEC list serve at: <http://list.state.ak.us/soalists/DEC-Cruise-Ship/jl.htm>.

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