

**Department of Environmental Conservation
Response to Comments**

For

Non-contact Cooling Water

APDES Permit No. AKG250000

Public Noticed May 15, 2020 – June 13, 2020

FINAL



**Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Wastewater Discharge Authorization Program
555 Cordova Street
Anchorage, AK 99501**

1 Introduction

1.1 Summary of Permit

General Permit AKG250000, is the reissuance of *Non-contact Cooling Water*, which was initially issued November 4, 2014. The general permit covers non-contact cooling water facilities that use water that does not come into direct contact with any raw material, intermediate product, waste product (other than heat), or finished product to reduce temperature in buildings and equipment.

1.2 Opportunities for Public Participation

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC or the Department) proposed to reissue the Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (APDES) wastewater discharge general permit *Non-contact Cooling Water*. To ensure public, agency, and tribal notification and opportunities for participation, the Department:

- identified the permit on the annual Permit Issuance Plan posted online at: <http://dec.alaska.gov/water/wastewater/>
- notified potentially affected tribes and local governments that the Department would be working on this permit via letter, fax and/or email
- posted a preliminary draft of the permit on-line for a 10-day applicant review on April 24, 2020 and notified tribes, local government(s) and other agencies
- formally published public notice of the draft permit on May 15, 2020 in the Anchorage Daily News, the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, and the Juneau Empire, and posted the public notice on the Department's public notice web page
- posted the proposed final permit on-line for a 5-day applicant review on June 24, 2020 and notified other agencies
- sent email notifications via the APDES Program List Serve when the preliminary draft, draft, and proposed final permits were available for review

The Department received comments from one interested party on the draft permit and supporting documents.

This document summarizes the comment submitted and the justification for any action taken or not taken by DEC in response to the comment.

1.3 Final Permit

The final permit was adopted by the Department on July 8, 2020. There were no changes from the public noticed permit.

2 Comment Summary

DEC's Drinking Water Source Protection provided recommendations for general project activities near a public water system source for consideration for inclusion in the general permit.

Response

Alaska Water Quality Standards at 18 AAC 70 contain numeric and narrative water quality criteria, use classifications, and an Antidegradation Policy. The numeric and/or narrative water quality criteria are the criteria that the state has determined necessary to support the use classification of each waterbody. The Antidegradation Policy ensures that existing uses and necessary water quality are maintained and protected. Waterbodies in Alaska are designated for all uses, including drinking water, unless the water has been reclassified under 18 AAC 70.230 as listed under 18 AAC 70.230(e). The water-quality based effluent limits in AKG250000 are set to the most stringent water quality criteria available for any of the protected water use classes. Therefore, public water system sources are protected from non-contact cooling water discharges authorized under AKG250000.

No changes have been made to the permit or fact sheet based this comment.