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To: [Dec Air Comment](#)
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Subject: Comments -Amended Serious SIP
Date: Thursday, October 29, 2020 11:00:11 PM
Attachments: [Personal Amended SIP Comments 10.28.2020.pdf](#)

Ms. Smith,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on the Amended Serious SIP.

The Serious SIP and the Amended Serious SIP are not documents that outline a successful path to meet the letter or the intent of the Clean Air Act. Without an effective enforcement plan and no additional money dedicated to enforcement that we can see in the plan, it is not health protective and will in all likelihood fail to meet the goals stated by Dec. 31, 2024.

Enforcement: Current and Amended Serious SIPs do not have sufficient enforcement measures to assure any level of success, as required by the Clean Air Act (CAA).

- No plan or budget for effective enforcement.
- Very heavy reliance on voluntary compliance. Voluntary compliance cannot be quantified or documented accurately.
- Confusion by homeowners who heat with wood and do not know how to determine 20% opacity. How can ADEC enforce a 20% capacity if homeowners don't know how to assess or measure 20% opacity?
- The pervasive attitude by thousands that "I'm not going to comply and the state isn't going to enforce".
- History of reported egregious violations with no action/enforcement by ADEC

Bad Health Effects: The CAA was put in place with timelines to protect the health of people. Taking the better part of a generation is not a protective timeline, especially when the State of Alaska has very often ignored those timelines.

-More and more research has come out about the very detrimental effects of breathing in highly polluted areas. In addition to the normal heart, lung, diabetes, and fetal effects we hear about, it is now known that young children can have cognitive decline while developing and breathing polluted air. The other is that it is now known that COVID 19 can piggyback on pollution particles. Will the people living in the FNSB non-attainment area be at higher risk?

-All the money available for dealing with the air pollution has gone to the people who cause the pollution. Over \$16,000,000 (Sixteen Million dollars) have gone into programs to entice, cajole, educate, and bribe people to comply with air quality regulations.

-No money has gone to assist the thousands of people who have been adversely affected by the high levels of air pollution. The score is Breathers 0 Burners 100.

State Involvement:

- No real concern is shown at the state administrative level to solve the problem.
- Alaska has an abundance of natural gas. Repeated requests to obtain Royalty Gas from the State of Alaska for fair price that is less than the current gas contract price has stalled out for over four years. If the state was serious about helping to reduce pollution it could make Royalty Gas available for purchase or in-kind so it could supply North Pole and Fairbanks,

thus reducing burning. The refusal of the state to advance this idea seems to be evidence of a lack of will to comply with the CAA. When calculating the maximum value of the State's natural gas, surely the health and economy of the State's 2nd largest population should be considered in the calculation.

Personal Fiscal Note:

In late Sept. 2020, the smoke started all around my house again. The cost of air cleaners, filters, and monitors is about \$1,000 per year. I have an adult child who lives at home with serious cardiac conditions. He has suffered through five open heart surgeries and more. He cannot go outside in his own yard without an N 95 mask. We spend about \$200.00 a year on masks. When the air gets really bad, over 100 ug/m³, we have to go to Anchorage to stay with relatives in a cleaner environment. The cost is about \$50 per day over normal expenses. We average about 30 days away from the smoke pollution in Fairbanks. Thats \$1,500.00. I worry about my health and that of my husband as we age and are the primary caregivers for our son. If we die prematurely, the cost to the state to place our son as a ward of the state would be about \$300,000 per year. He would lose his private health insurance. My son requires 2 more pacemaker checks for atrial fibrillation than normal because he lives in Fairbanks. That is \$360.00 for the remote check. We used to have to travel to Anchorage and over the years racked up thousands of dollars for medical care there. This list isn't complete but I know that we are just one example of the way smoke pollution robs us of our property rights, our health, our liberty, and certainly it impedes happiness. All winter we have to check to see "how bad the air is today". Our actual costs are about \$2860.00 per year, That is more than our assessed property taxes per year. Why this burden on us and other people like us who just want to breathe reasonably clean air? Many people burn wood for heat not because they have to but because they want to save up for their vacation or a new toy at the expense of the air we all have to breathe.

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