

**Department of Environmental Conservation
Response to Comments**

For

Juneau-Douglas Wastewater Treatment Facility

APDES Permit No. AK0023213

Public Noticed December 10, 2020 – January 8, 2021

January 20, 2021



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

1 Introduction

1.1 Summary of Facility / Permit

The Juneau-Douglas Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF), owned and operated by the City and Borough of Juneau, is located approximately 2 miles south of the City of Juneau. The facility collects and treats primarily domestic wastewater from downtown Juneau, West Juneau, and the City of Douglas. The collection system consists of a combination separate and combined sewer system and is the only combined sewer system in the State of Alaska. The secondary treatment process at the Juneau-Douglas WWTF is mostly automated and includes grit removal, fine screening, aeration (dual basins), secondary clarification (dual tanks), conventional activated sludge digestion and ultraviolet disinfection.

The Juneau-Douglas WWTF was originally permitted under National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System in 1974 by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). EPA reissued the permit in 1985 and 2001. The 2001 permit expired in 2006 but was administratively extended until June 1, 2015 when DEC issued an APDES permit for the facility. The 2015 permit issued by DEC remains administratively extended until March 1, 2021 at which time the new permit for the Juneau-Douglas WWTF becomes effective.

1.2 Opportunities for Public Participation

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC or the Department) proposed to issue an Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (APDES) wastewater discharge permit the Homer WWTF. To ensure public, agency, local governments and tribal notification and opportunities for participation, the Department:

- identified the permit on the annual Permit Issuance Plan posted online at: <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/water/wwdp/index.htm>
- notified local governments and potentially affected tribes 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 November 6, 2020 and notified tribes and other agencies
- posted the draft of the permit on-line for a 30-day public comment period on December 10, 2020
- sent email notifications via the APDES Program List Serve when the preliminary draft, draft, and proposed final permits were available for review

The Department did not receive any comments on the draft permit.

1.3 Final Permit

CBJ waived the 5-day applicant review period on January 13, 2021. The final permit was adopted by the Department on January 20, 2021. There are not any changes to the publicly-noticed permit.