

**Department of Environmental Conservation
Response to Comments**

For

**Chugach Electric Association-Beluga Power Plant
APDES Permit No. AK0026603**

Public Noticed March 26, 2021-April 26, 2021

April 28, 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 Chugach Electric Association (CEA) operates the Beluga Power Plant (BPP) on the West side of Cook Inlet. The proposed discharge for BPP is wastewater associated with electrical power generation including drinking water sand filter backwash, wastewater collected in plant floor drains, and fire pump water testing. The BPP is an intermittent discharge and will occur at a maximum rate of 10,000 gallons per day to Krause Creek, Outfall 001A which is located at 61° 11' 11 North latitude and 151° 2' 19 West longitude. No mixing zone is proposed, or authorized, and effluent limits proposed are to be met at the end of the pipe.

CEA submitted an APDES permit application to the Department on February 11, 2013. DEC issued the CEA APDES permit on 1/15/2016, with an effective date of 3/1/2016 and expiration of 02/28/2021. During this permit cycle, much of the plant was decommissioned or taken offline and is now considered a “back up” facility to the Municipality of Anchorage. CEA submitted the reissuance application on 11/23/2020, with additional data information submitted on 12/8/2020. The Department administratively extended the permit on 2/12/2021 until such time as the permit is reissued and in effect.

1.2 Opportunities for Public Participation

The Department of Environmental Conservation proposed to issue an Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (APDES) wastewater discharge permit to Beluga Power Plant. 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://www.dec.state.ak.us/water/wwdp/index.htm>
- notified 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 March 10, 2021 and notified tribes and other agencies.
- posted the draft of the permit on-line for a 30-day public comment period on March 26, 2021.
- 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

Beluga Power Plant waived the 5-day applicant review period on April 27, 2021. The final permit was adopted by the Department on April 28, 2021. There are not any changes to the publicly-noticed permit.