

Department of Environmental Conservation
Proposed Fee Regulation Briefing – January 6, 2022

Proposal Summary: As part of the wastewater system approval amendment package, DEC is proposing to amend the categories of fees in 18 AAC 72. The existing regulation had included an annual fee increase, but no existing fees are being increased in the package and the fees will remain the same as those effective in January 2019. These amendments remove prior year fees from the regulations. Existing fee structure will also be amended so the same fee applies to both domestic and nondomestic plan reviews in conjunction with regulation changes that establishes the same process regardless of type of waste treated and disposed.

Status: Public notice

Statutes establishing the authority for the fee: AS 37.10.052, AS 44.46.025, AS 46.03.020, AS 46.03.100

Current budgeted cost of providing the service and actual costs from last several years: DEC does not anticipate the proposed changes to significantly alter the costs associated with these services. The restructuring of fees is not expected to result in a change in budget.

Cost reduction/mitigation efforts taken by the agency to avoid a fee increase: The existing fees are not increasing but are being restructured to provide consistency. The proposed regulation amendments will result in decreased fees for some services by expanding the systems that can be installed without plan approval.

Number of businesses or individuals currently paying the fee: Plan review fees are only paid when a wastewater system is initially proposed for construction or modification, as well as for an after-the-fact approval. For systems that do not require plan approval, the fee is also “one-time” and is paid when the registration is submitted for a new install or modification.

Current fee amount/proposed new fee: Existing fees are not increasing.

Current total collections/estimated increased collections: N/A, fees are paid when documents are submitted.

Does the proposal reduce the burden on the regulated community? Overall, the proposal should reduce the burden on the regulated community by reducing the number of domestic wastewater systems that require plan approval and establishing the same process and fee for systems that receive nondomestic wastewater.

Controversy: None expected.

Attachments: proposed 18 AAC 72 regulation amendments

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