



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Environmental Conservation

DIVISION OF AIR QUALITY
Air Non-Point & Mobile Sources

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July 18, 2022

«Owners», «BusinessName»
«MailingLine1»
«MailingLine2»
«MailingCity», «MailingState» «MailingZipOut»

Subject: Fairbanks Nonattainment Area Fuel Switch

Dear Fuel Distributor,

This letter is a reminder of upcoming requirements that are applicable to fuel oil sold or distributed for use within the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) air quality non-attainment area (see attachment). Note that if your business does not sell/distribute/deliver fuel to area identified above the requirements described in this letter will not apply to your business's fuel sales.

After September 1, 2022, fuel oil containing more than 1,000 parts per million sulfur may not be sold or distributed for use within the boundaries of the non-attainment area. This is a year-round permanent requirement put in place to assist the area in reaching the state and federal ambient air quality health standards.

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) regulations were established to address PM_{2.5} air pollution in a portion of the FNSB that is designated by the Environmental Protection Agency as a serious PM_{2.5} non-attainment area (map enclosed). This portion of the FNSB does not meet the federal health-based standards for PM_{2.5}, which comes from wood smoke and other combustion sources. PM_{2.5} may cause health problems when people are exposed to harmful concentrations. High PM_{2.5} concentrations contribute to increased respiratory symptoms (such as irritation of the airways, coughing, or difficulty breathing), decreased lung function, aggravated asthma, development of chronic bronchitis, irregular heartbeat, nonfatal heart attacks, and premature death in people with heart or lung disease. Controlling particulate matter will benefit public health in the community.

Studies have shown that sulfur emissions are a precursor pollutant that leads to the formation of PM_{2.5} and are a contributor to PM_{2.5} levels in the nonattainment area. By switching to fuels that

have a lower sulfur content the amount of derived PM2.5 will be lessened, and we will be one step closer to attainment of the federal standard.

The exact language of 18 AAC 50.078(b) reads:

“After September 1, 2022, only fuel oil, containing no more than 1,000 parts per million sulfur, may be sold or purchased for use in fuel oil-fired equipment, including space heating devices. This subsection does not apply to major stationary sources subject to a Best Available Control Technology determination or to diesel-fired equipment or vehicles subject to more stringent federal diesel fuel sulfur requirements.”

Further information on the Fairbanks North Star Borough air quality non-attainment area and these requirements can be found on the Division of Air Quality’s websites listed below.

Fairbanks North Star Borough air quality non-attainment area information
<https://dec.alaska.gov/air/anpms/communities/fbks-particulate-matter/>

The requirement regarding the fuel sulfur levels is only for fuel sold and distributed for use within the non-attainment area, not about the blend in the tanks on September 1. DEC understands that it may take several resupply/refuelings before any individual tank may be completely turned over to the new sulfur levels. As long as all fuel being added to a tank meets the less than 1,000 part per million threshold, then it will be considered in compliance. Therefore, keeping accurate and timely records to document the sulfur content of the fuel stream sold and distributed into the non-attainment area will be important to demonstrating your business’ compliance with this requirement.

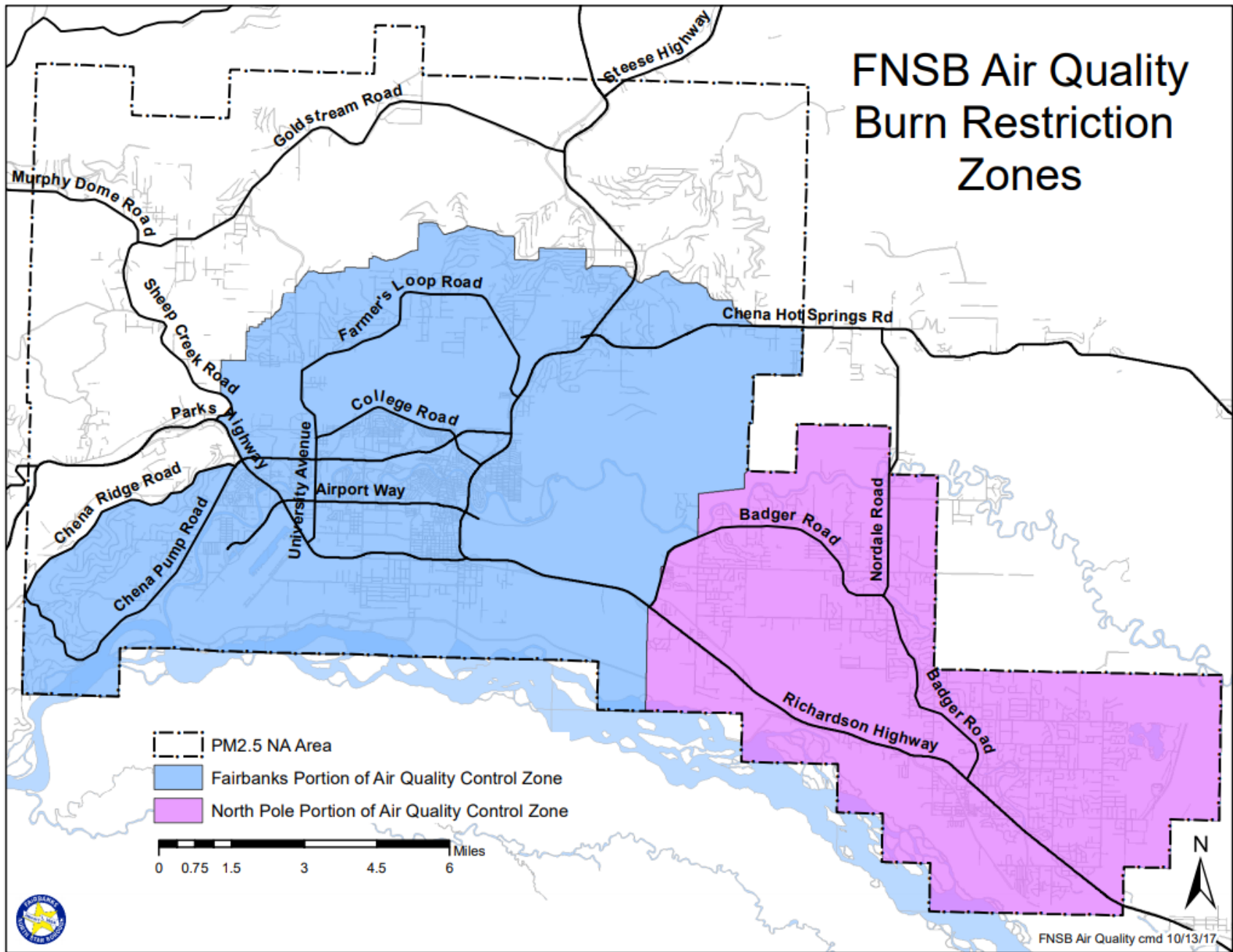
If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Steven Hoke at 907-451-5172 or via email at steven.hoke@alaska.gov.

Sincerely,



Steven Hoke
Environmental Program Specialist

cc: Alice Edwards, ADEC/Air Quality Director, Juneau
Cindy Heil, ADEC/Non-Point Mobile Source, Anchorage
Nick Czarnecki, FNSB Air Quality Program



Note: 18 AAC 50.078(b) requirements apply to fuel oil sold for use within the PM2.5 non-attainment (NA) Area boundary