



Open House: Air Quality Regulations & Plan

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December 1 & 2 2014



Purpose of presentation

- Summarize public feedback and outcomes of last year's proposed regulations
- Overview of the proposed state regulations
- Overview of proposed air quality plan
- Overview of process before adoption and submittal
- Please save questions for open house



Concerns Raised on Last Year's Proposal

- **Concern: Wood stoves taken away**
 - Use of wood-fired and solid fuel-fired devices will remain
- **Concern: Burn bans will be implemented**
 - No requirements for wood heater burn bans
- **Concern: Fines will be imposed**
 - DEC does not have the authority to issue fines or write tickets



Concerns Raised on Last Year's Proposal

- **Concern: Outdoor open burning –no winter flexibility**
 - DEC is re-proposing the regulation with clarifications for campfires, fireworks, and other activities, as well as option for local program flexibility

- **Concern: Coal devices not addressed**
 - DEC's proposed rules will treat coal and wood smoke equally



2013 Proposed Regulations – Where are they now?

- DEC adopted:
 - wood fired heating device standards for new wood stoves – **no requirement to change out stove**
 - clarified roles of local air programs in calling air quality alerts and episodes

- DEC did not adopt:
 - PM_{2.5} air quality episode levels as proposed
 - Burn ban language as proposed

- DEC has re-proposed several sections for additional review
- Response to comments may be found on DEC website



Proposed Regulations - Highlights

- Winter outdoor open burning restriction is revised to add some flexibility
- Visible emission requirements expanded to include all solid fuel-fired heaters (wood and coal)
- Clarify types of fuel that can be used and not used in wood and coal heating devices
- Added two contingency measures only implemented if the area fails to meet air quality standards by December 31, 2015
 - Commercial wood seller registration – moisture content disclosure
 - Changes to grandfathering of some wood-fired heating devices when homes are sold



Visible Emissions (Opacity) and Dry Wood

- Proposed regulations allow continue use of solid-fuel fired heaters – but devices must meet visible emission limits
 - Visible Emissions (opacity) to identify those individuals needing additional assistance
- Requirement to use dry wood – starting October 1, 2015
 - Alternative to dry wood is mix of wet wood with ‘Energy Logs’, provided operations meet visibility requirements



Air Quality Plan



Key Components of the Air Quality Plan

- Promote the installation of cleaner burning wood heaters
 - Local change out program
 - State emission standards for new devices
- Use best burning practices and seasoned, dry wood
 - Balance economically heating homes and healthy air
 - Save money
 - Make it easy for consumer to burn cleanly & efficiently
 - Proposed state requirement to burn dry wood in winter
- Expand the availability of natural gas in the area
 - Progress is being made
- Other programs and measures



Air Quality Plan - Highlights

- DEC website allows you to access entire document or focus on specific sections of the SIP
- Plan includes local, state, and federal programs that help reduce pollution
 - Plan shows that it is not possible to achieve compliance by the end of 2015
 - More time is needed – compliance can be achieved by 2019
 - Regulations are included in the plan
- Emergency episode plan tightens visible emission limits as air quality worsens.



Public Review Process

- Proposed regulations and air quality plan released for public comment November 17, 2014
- Public Comment period closes December 19, 2014
- Several different ways to comment
 - Written comments can be submitted online, by email, fax, or mail
 - Oral comments can be made at public hearings
 - Two hearing dates to take oral testimony – December 3 and 17
 - afternoon and evening hearings on each day
- DEC will review and consider the comments received, make adjustments if necessary, then adopt and transmit the plan to EPA



Open House

- Representatives are available to discuss
 - Background information on PM_{2.5}
 - Health impacts of PM_{2.5}
 - Monitoring and Science Studies
 - Visible Emissions/Opacity; what it means and how it is measured
 - Proposed Regulations and Air Quality Plan (SIP)
 - Natural Gas Project
 - Borough AQ Programs
 - Written questions and comments can be submitted either on cards or at computer stations available for your use.



Questions?

- Please either see staff at open house tables
- Submit written questions on question cards and drop in question box; **or**
- Submit written questions online at one of the computer stations.

- Written questions relevant to the proposed regulations or air quality plan submitted by December 9th will be aggregated and answers posted on line prior to the end of the public comment period.



Thank You for Coming!

- We hope you find this open house to be informative and helpful to you in providing feedback to DEC on this important issue.
- For more information: dec.alaska.gov/air