



# Department of Environmental Conservation

## Quarterly Alaska Native Outreach Engagement

September 6, 2023



# DEC's Mission

Conserving, improving, and protecting Alaska's natural resources and environment to enhance the health, safety, and economic and social well-being of Alaskans.





# Our Values

We make Objective decisions, based on science and facts.

We are Accountable for our actions and stand proudly behind our work, as individuals and as an organization.

We perform to the highest ethical standards, and produce transparent and consistent regulatory actions to show our Integrity.

We support and encourage Collaboration across programs and partners to meet challenges and further our collective mission.

We strive to provide excellent Customer Service both inside and outside of the organization by being professional, responsive, reliable, and respectful.



# What We Do

Protect Human Health and the Environment

## Air Quality

- Permit industrial air emissions
- Monitor & assess air quality
- Address small & mobile air pollution sources
- Conduct inspections & ensure compliance

## Environmental Health

- Ensure safe food & drinking water
- Oversee landfills & pesticide applicators
- Provide animal care & importation standards
- Conduct analytical testing
- Conduct inspections & ensure compliance

## Water

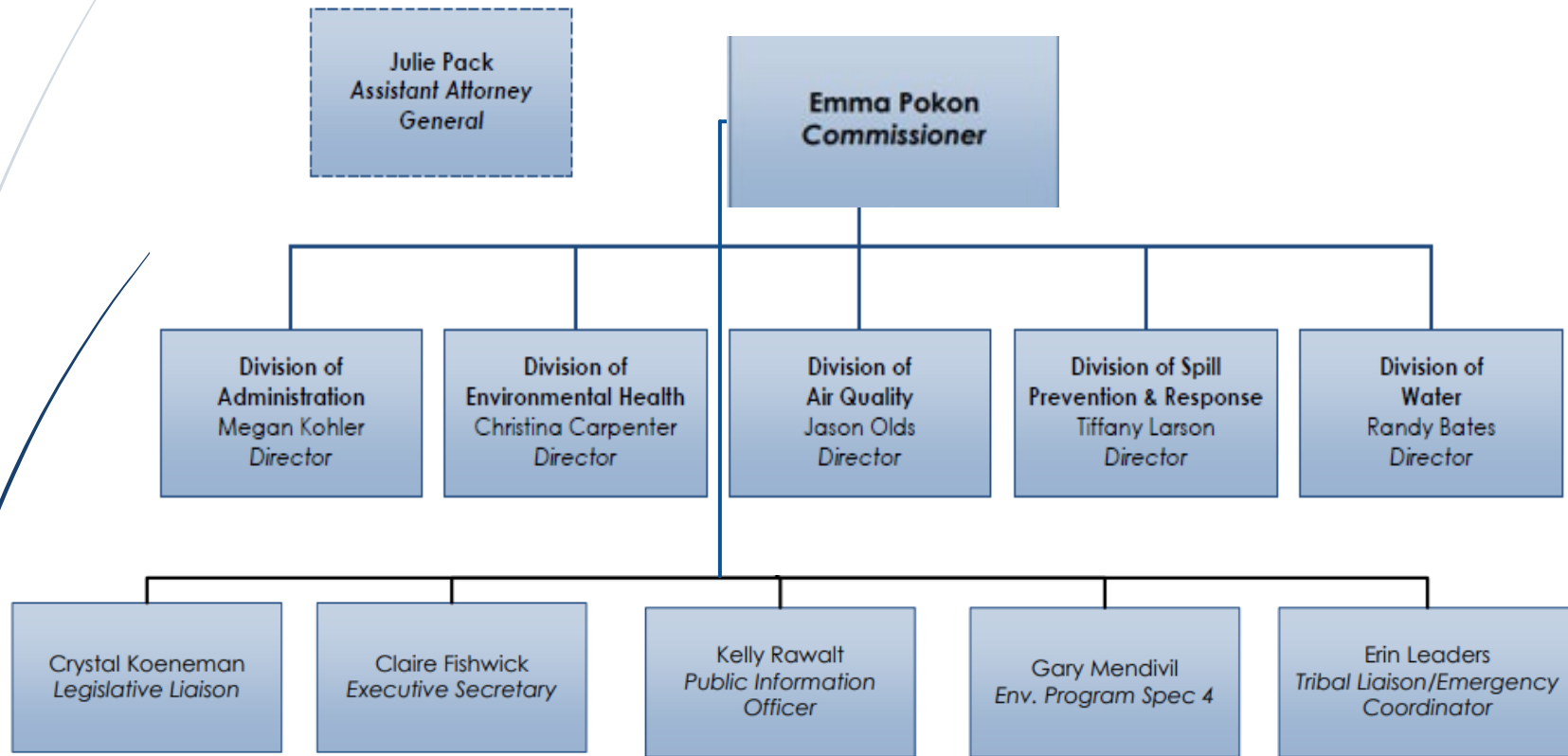
- Permit water discharges
- Oversee water quality standards, assessment & restoration
- Provide technical assistance
- Finance sanitation improvements
- Conduct inspections & determine compliance

## Spill Prevention & Response

- Respond to spills
- Require spill prevention & response plans
- Evaluate response drills
- Manage cleanup of contamination
- Conduct inspections & ensure compliance



# DEC Leadership:





# Division of Air Quality

## Jason Olds, Director

Mission: Clean air is essential to every breathing moment. Clean Air ~ Healthy People.

### Core Functions:

- Air Quality Monitoring
- Air Permitting & Compliance of Industrial Sources
- Planning and Small or Mobile Sources
- Public Complaints and Enforcement
- Dust, Wildfire, and Technical Assistance



# Air Quality

- Rural Air Pollution Monitoring
- Donlin Permitting
- Willow Permitting
- Nuiqsuit monitoring data review
- IRA Grants



# Air Quality

## Rural Air Pollution Monitoring

- ▶ Non-regulatory, baseline ambient monitoring, wildfire smoke monitoring service
- ▶ Designed for baseline air quality data collection in 32 locations across Alaska
- ▶ Grant funded hardware
- ▶ Central Data Network and publicly available information
- ▶ People can make their own health-based decisions – wildfire smoke
- ▶ Ties in existing sites and can grow with additional monitors
- ▶ Sensor Deployment beginning now through Fall 2024. Working with ANTHC





# Sensor Deployment

- ▶ Currently Deployed: Bethel, Goldstream Valley, Homer, Juneau, Ketchikan, Kodiak, Kotzebue, Napaskiak, Nome, Seward, Sitka, Skagway, Soldotna (in repair)
- ▶ Additional technical assistance provided to: Aleutian Pribilof Island Association (St. Paul), Chilkoot Indian Association (Haines), Louden Tribal Council (Galena), and Skagway Native Village.
- ▶ Future sites depend on tribal partnership/interest, cell signal availability, and geospatial coverage.
- ▶ We have geospatial interest in: Deltana/Delta Junction, St. Mary's, Talkeetna, Tok/Northway, Big Lake/Houston, Cordova, Ninilchik, Palmer/Chickaloon, Unalaska, Utqiagvik, Sterling, Denali Park, Glennallen, Wainwright, Nuiqsut, Aniak, Arctic Village, Wasilla, Willow, Hoonah, Dillingham, Eagle, Ft Yukon, Haines, McGrath, Wrangell.



# Air Quality Donlin Permitting

- ▶ Construction Permit effective July 1
- ▶ No future permitting forecast yet



# Air Quality Willow Permitting

- ▶ Conoco Philips (CPAI) Willow Air Quality Permitting
- ▶ Anticipate small, distributed power and well design sent to Alpine for processing, MG2s
- ▶ Minor Operations Center Application in hand
- ▶ Minor permits, 30 day issuance target
- ▶ Public comment three to six months out



# Pikka Development

- ▶ Further Minor Permit applications expected this Fall,
- ▶ Public comment 3 – 6 months from application



# Air Quality IRA Grants

- ▶ Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG)
- ▶ Competitive Grant Process for eligible tribes and communities – notice of funding in September 2023
- ▶ ADEC partnered with Alaska Municipal League to administer
- ▶ Need not be an AML member
- ▶ Broad priorities to include solar, weatherization, direct pollution offsets – if you have other priorities, engage now. March 2024 is our deadline for priority plan. Should be functionally shovel ready.
- ▶ <https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/climate-pollution-reduction-grants>



# Division of Environmental Health

Christina Carpenter, Director

Mission: To provide Alaskans with clear standards so that they can protect the environment and provide safe food and drinking water.

## Core Functions:

- ▶ Drinking Water
- ▶ Solid Waste & Pesticides
- ▶ Food Safety & Sanitation
- ▶ Office of the State Veterinarian
- ▶ Environmental Health Laboratory



# Environmental Health - Drinking Water

- ▶ \$6.8 million awarded by EPA Tribal Grants for lead service line inventories
  - ▶ Inventories of public water systems are ongoing
  - ▶ For more information, visit:  
<https://dec.alaska.gov/eh/dw/lcrr/>



# Environmental Health – Solid Waste & Pesticides

## ► Upcoming Training:

- Virtual Solid Waste Bootcamp, October 24-26
- To sign up or for additional information, contact [rebecca.colvin@alaska.gov](mailto:rebecca.colvin@alaska.gov)

## ► Regulation Project Updates:

- Hazardous waste public comment period – open until 11:59 p.m. September 14
- Link to SmartComment can be found here: <https://dec.alaska.gov/eh/hazardous-waste/>
- Contact [rebecca.colvin@alaska.gov](mailto:rebecca.colvin@alaska.gov) with any questions





# Environmental Health - Food Safety & Sanitation

- ▶ Scoping project for cottage food exemptions (last updated 2012)
  - ▶ Comment period is closed. FSS is evaluating comments to determine if proposed regulatory changes are appropriate.



# Environmental Health - State Veterinarian

- ▶ Rabies outbreak this year on the Seward Peninsula.
  - ▶ Vaccinate your pets.
  - ▶ Report wildlife with abnormal behavior to your local ADF&G office.
- ▶ Avian Influenza (HPAI H5N1) update. There have been few cases detected in wild birds and no cases in poultry or mammals this year.
- ▶ Public reports are critical for tracking outbreaks. For any domestic or wildlife illness or mortalities, please contact:
  - ▶ State Veterinarian (907)375-8215 (domestic)
  - ▶ ADF&G contact the local office (wild mammals)
  - ▶ USFWS (866)527-3358 (wild flocks)



# Division of Spill Prevention & Response

Tiffany Larson, Director

Mission: Prevent spills of oil and hazardous substances, prepare for when a spill occurs and respond rapidly to protect human health and the environment.

## Core Functions:

- ▶ Contaminated Sites
- ▶ Response Fund Administration
- ▶ Prevention Preparedness & Response





# Prevention Preparedness and Response Program

- ▶ Alaska Regional Response Team
  - ▶ Regional Stakeholder Committee and Alaska Historic Properties Implementation Guideline Job Aid updates
  - ▶ Next ARRT meeting is September 14, 2023
- ▶ Southeast Alaska Area Committee
  - ▶ Presented at the Southeast Tribal Environment Forum Aug. 28- Sept. 1, 2023
  - ▶ Sitka Tribe confirmed to participate in the next GRS test at Starrigavan Bay, Sitka in May 2024
- ▶ Email communication on regulations packages
- ▶ Article 4 Contingency Plan regulations in full effect now
- ▶ SPAR Warehouse Open House- Info coming soon!



# Contaminated Sites Program

## **ANCSA-Conveyed Contaminated Lands**

- Submitted work plan to EPA for funds to conduct verification and assessment at ANCSA-conveyed lands. Funds are expected 10/1.
- Providing technical assistance with entities receiving EPA funds for assessment at ANCSA-conveyed contaminated lands.

## **Brownfields**

- Conducting site-specific services through DEC's Brownfields Assessment and Cleanup (DBAC) Program. Field work is beginning this fall. Next DBAC application period will open in mid-November.
- Organizing Alaska State and Tribal Response Program Workshop for Tribal Response Program (TRP) partners in November.

## **Site Cleanup**

- Coordinating with EPA on Shungnak removal tentatively planned for end of September.
- Working with BIA to provide information on Napaskiak former BIA school site.
- Working with Village of St. Michael on NALEMP tar removal project.



# Division of Water

## Randy Bates, Director



### Core Functions:

- Water Quality Standards
- Water Quality Monitoring
- Permitting
- Compliance and Enforcement
- Village Safe Water
- State Revolving Fund





# Division of Water

## Current Issues

- ▶ Human Health Criteria and Fish Consumption Rates
- ▶ Water Quality Field Work
- ▶ WOTUS definition
- ▶ Permitting
- ▶ Inspections and Enforcement
- ▶ State Revolving Fund Program – Lead Service Line Inventory Grants
- ▶ Village Safe Water – Operations and Maintenance Best Practices Public Outreach



# Division of Water Tribal Involvement

The Division of Water provides these resources to facilitate early and effective tribal involvement

- Permit Issuance Plan
- Early Notification Letters
- Public Notice
- Tribal Website

➤ <https://dec.alaska.gov/water/tribal-communications/>







# Questions?

