



Department of Environmental Conservation

Quarterly Alaska Native Outreach Meeting

May 23, 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

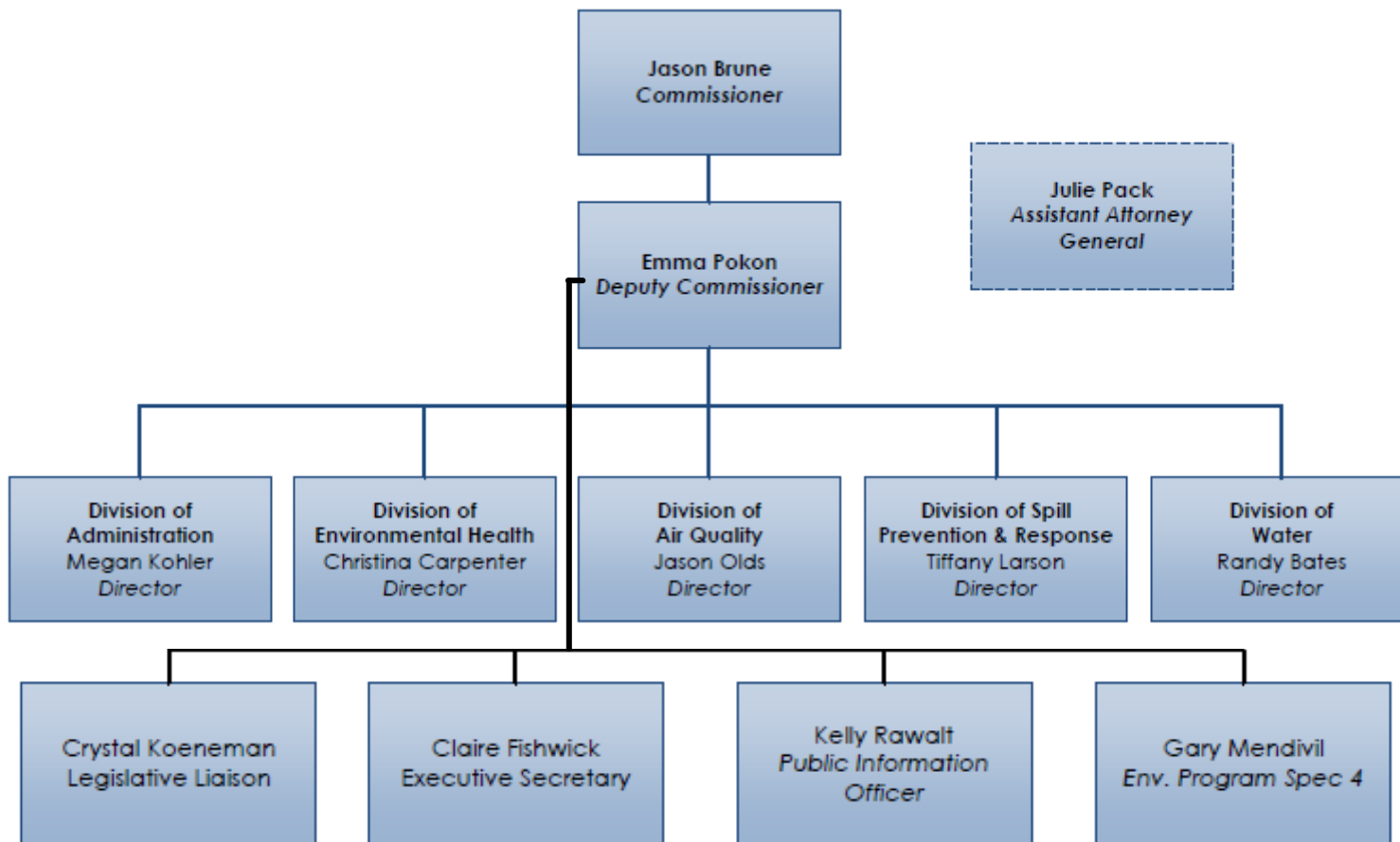
- Permit water discharges
- Oversee water quality standards, assessment & restoration
- Provide technical assistance
- Finance sanitation improvements
- Conduct inspections & determine compliance

Spill Prevention & Response

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



DEC FY2024 Operating Budget: 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



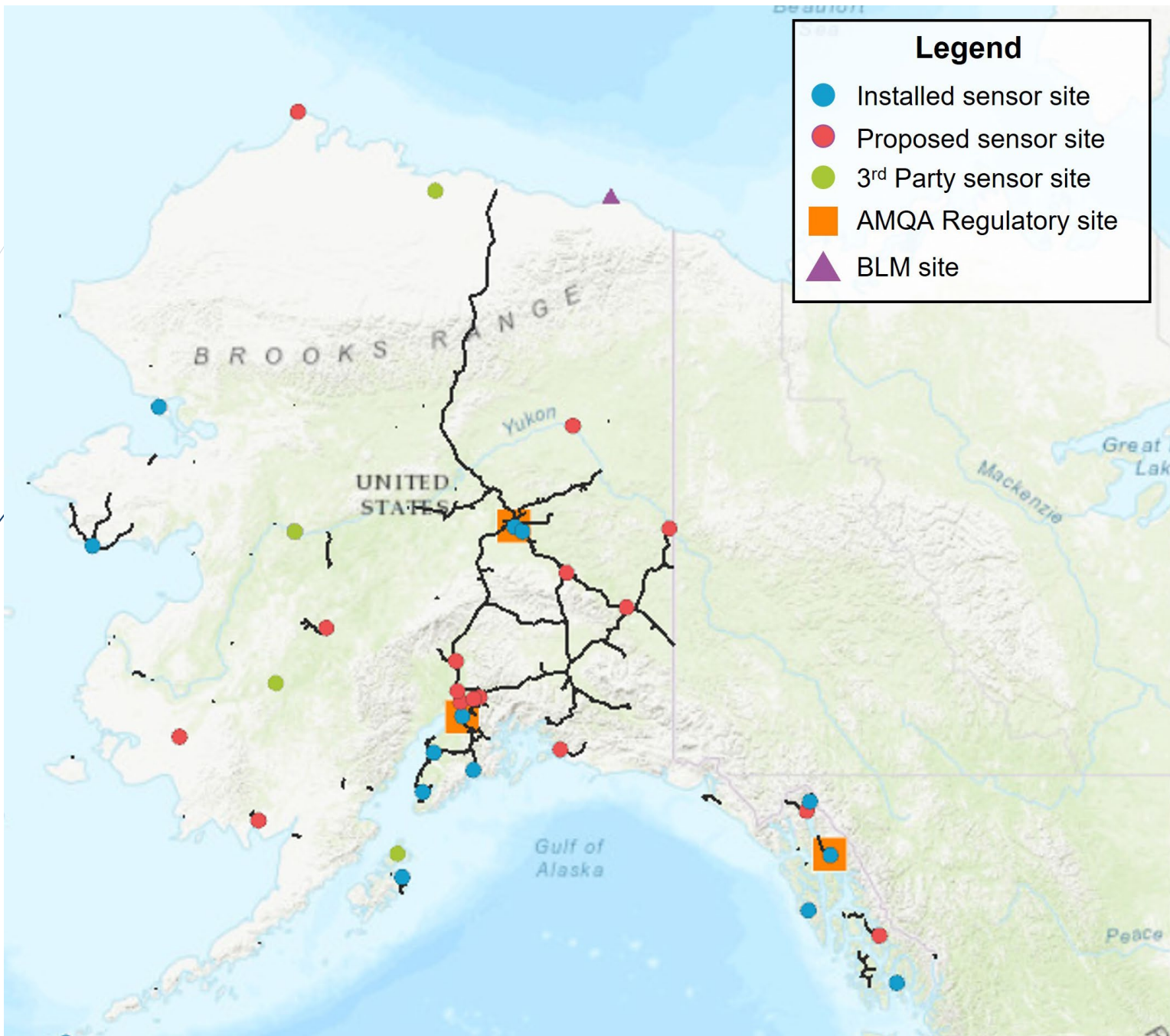
Air Quality

- ▶ 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
- ▶ Budget not final, was in Governor's proposal and Legislature's transmittal
- ▶ 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





Air Quality Donlin Permitting

- ▶ Finalizing Response to Comment on Prevention of Significant Deterioration Construction Permit
- ▶ We received one comment from Calista, one from US EPA
- ▶ Minor changes to analysis
- ▶ 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
- ▶ Minor permits, 130 day issuance target
- ▶ Public comment six to nine months out



Air Quality Nuiqsut Data Review

- ▶ ADEC hosts Conoco VOC monitoring at their site in Nuiqsut
- ▶ Typically, Conoco releases their annual monitoring report
- ▶ We are currently reviewing their data for 2022, report would follow



Air Quality IRA Grants

- ▶ Inflation Reduction Act, Air Pollution Reduction & GHG Reduction funds
- ▶ Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG)
- ▶ Competitive Grant Process for eligible tribes and communities – late 2023
- ▶ ADEC partnered with Alaska Municipal League to administer
- ▶ Need not be an AML member
- ▶ <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
 - ▶ Assist Alaska Native Villages and disadvantaged communities with completion of lead service line inventories of public water systems.
- ▶ \$494,000 dollars awarded by EPA Tribal Grants
 - ▶ Conduct sampling for PFAS compounds in drinking water of 193 Alaska Native Villages that utilize community water systems.
- ▶ For more information, visit:

<https://dec.alaska.gov/eh/dw/lcrr/>



Environmental Health – Solid Waste & Pesticides

- ▶ Upcoming Trainings and Planned Outreach:
 - ▶ Nome Solid Waste Bootcamp and Grant NOFA Reading Crash Course for City and Tribal Administrators, June 27-29
 - ▶ Virtual Solid Waste Bootcamp, October 24-26
 - ▶ To sign up or for additional information, contact rebecca.colvin@alaska.gov
 - ▶ Pesticides: Bedbug response instructions
 - ▶ For additional information, contact karin.hendrickson@alaska.gov
- ▶ Regulation Project Updates:
 - ▶ Hazardous waste public comment period
 - ▶ Microreactor siting permit regulation status
- ▶ New Grant Awards:
 - ▶ \$753,000 awarded by the EPA Solid Waste Infrastructure & Recycling (SWIFR) grant program
 - ▶ To provide feedback, contact rebecca.colvin@alaska.gov



Environmental Health - Food Safety & Sanitation

- ▶ Scoping project for cottage food exemptions (last updated 2012)
 - ▶ For more information or to sign up for notifications, contact beth.fitzgerald@alaska.gov
- ▶ Donation of Traditional Foods
 - ▶ Alaska Food Code allows the donation of hunted and gathered foods to food service programs, senior meals, food banks, schools, hospitals, etc.
 - ▶ For more information, visit <https://dec.alaska.gov/eh/fss/food/retail/traditional-foods/>



Environmental Health - State Veterinarian

- ▶ Avian Influenza (HPAI H5N1) outbreak continues to be found in wild birds, domestic poultry, and some wild mammals.
- ▶ Public reports are **critical** – for illness or death, please contact:
 - ▶ State Veterinarian (907)375-8215 (domestic)
 - ▶ USFWS (866)527-3358 (wild flocks)



Environmental Health - Laboratory

- ▶ Collaboration with the Knik Tribe to support testing for Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP)
 - ▶ Knik Tribe is conducting weekly blue mussel sampling at Akutan, Chignik Lagoon, Juneau, King Cove, Kodiak, and Sand Point.
 - ▶ Samples are being analyzed at the EH Laboratory in Anchorage using FDA approved methods.
 - ▶ For additional information, contact mbushell@kniktribe.org



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

- ▶ Aleutian/Bristol Bay Regions Rural Resiliency Workshops & Kodiak Island Borough Tsunami Operations Workshop
- ▶ Zender Environmental Rural Alaska Community Environmental Job Training ('RaceJT') program
- ▶ Alaska Regional Response Team
 - ▶ Regional Stakeholder Committee, and Alaska Historic Properties Implementation Guideline Job Aid updates
- ▶ Local Emergency Planning Committee Association, State Emergency Response Commission Meetings and Emergency Preparedness Conference
- ▶ U.S. Department of the Interior Job Aid and Culturally Important Places Workgroups
- ▶ Communication on regulations packages



Contaminated Sites Program

- Work with ANCs and Tribes on characterization and cleanup of contaminated sites throughout Alaska.
- Recently participated in Restoration Advisory Boards in Galena and Unalaska.
- Work with tribal governments on 11 Native American Lands Environmental Mitigation Program (NALEMP) projects to clean up environmental impacts from military activities.
- Developing ANCSA Contaminated Lands Program focusing on site verification and oversight for assessment and cleanup.
- Participated in ANTHC Partnership Group meeting on ANCSA contaminated lands.
- Conducting site-specific services through DEC's Brownfields Assessment and Cleanup (DBAC) Program. Grant application ended in February with 13 applications. Work to be conducted this upcoming field season.
- Provided Tribal Response Program Outreach and Training at ATCEM.



Division of Water

Randy Bates, Director

Mission 1: Protect water quality

Core Functions:

- Water Quality Standards
- Permitting
- Compliance and Enforcement





Division of Water

Mission 1: Protect water quality

Core Functions:

- ▶ Water Quality Standards
- ▶ Permitting
- ▶ Compliance and Enforcement



Division of Water

Mission 2: Assist communities in improving sanitation conditions

Core Functions:

- ▶ Village Safe Water – support and assist rural communities to develop sustainable water, sewer, and solid waste facilities
- ▶ State Revolving Fund – provide low interest loans to public wastewater systems for infrastructure improvements and water quality projects



Division of Water

Current Issues

- ▶ Human Health Criteria and Fish Consumption Rates
- ▶ Water Quality Field Work
- ▶ Permitting
- ▶ Inspections
- ▶ State Revolving Fund Program – Intended Use Plans
- ▶ Village Safe Water – Capital Improvement Project funding



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

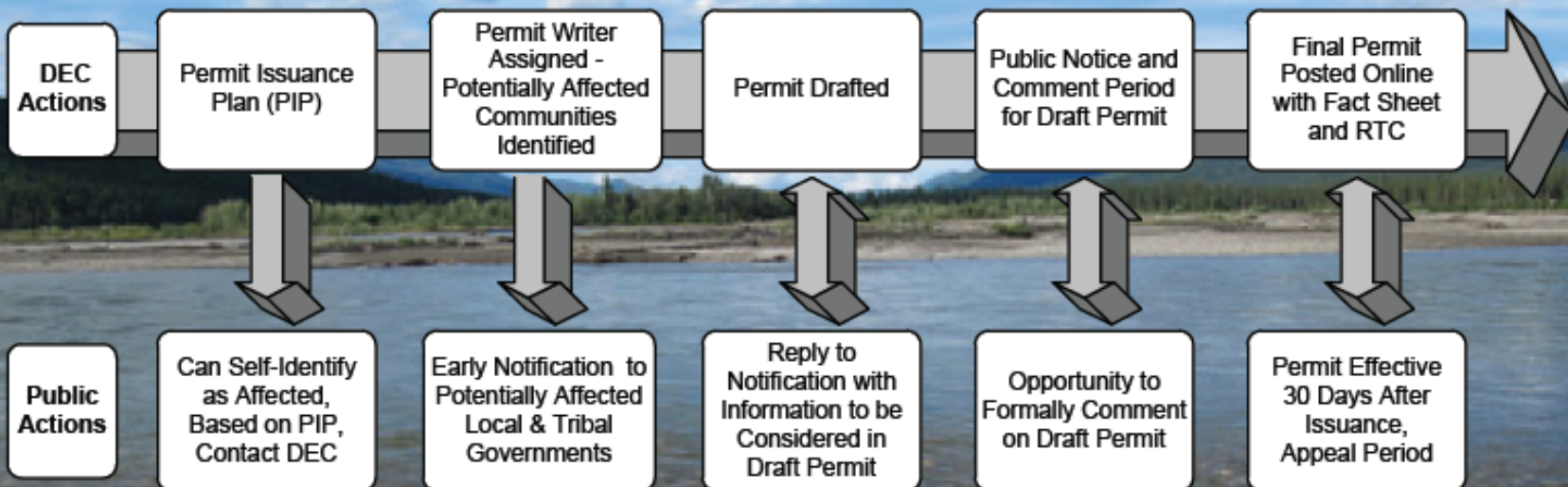
➤ <https://dec.alaska.gov/water/tribal-communications/>





Division of Water Tribal Involvement

Permitting Process and Community Involvement



The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) strives to develop sound permits based on a full understanding of local conditions, informs tribes about potential permitting actions that may affect them, and provides opportunities for tribal input during the permitting process.

<https://dec.alaska.gov/media/6832/postcard-tribes.pdf>



Division of Water Permit Issuance Plan

Plan for permits expected to be developed during the next two years

- ▶ Updated annually
- ▶ Posted on Division of Water website
 - ▶ <https://dec.alaska.gov/water/>
- ▶ Can self-identify as affected based on PIP





Division of Water Early Notification

Early Notification

- Sent to potentially affected tribes and local governments
- Provides opportunity for those affected to provide information before the public notice period





Division of Water Tribal Information

APDES Information for Tribes

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





Questions?



@AlaskaDEC

<https://dec.alaska.gov/commish/tribal/>