

Alaska Native Outreach Meeting

2024 | Q1



Agenda

- DEC Introduction
- Meet the Directors and Divisions:
 - Air Quality
 - Environmental Health
 - Spill Prevention & Response
 - Water
- Village Safe Water Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Funding
- Hazardous Waste Program Presentation



Our 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

Water

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

Environmental Health

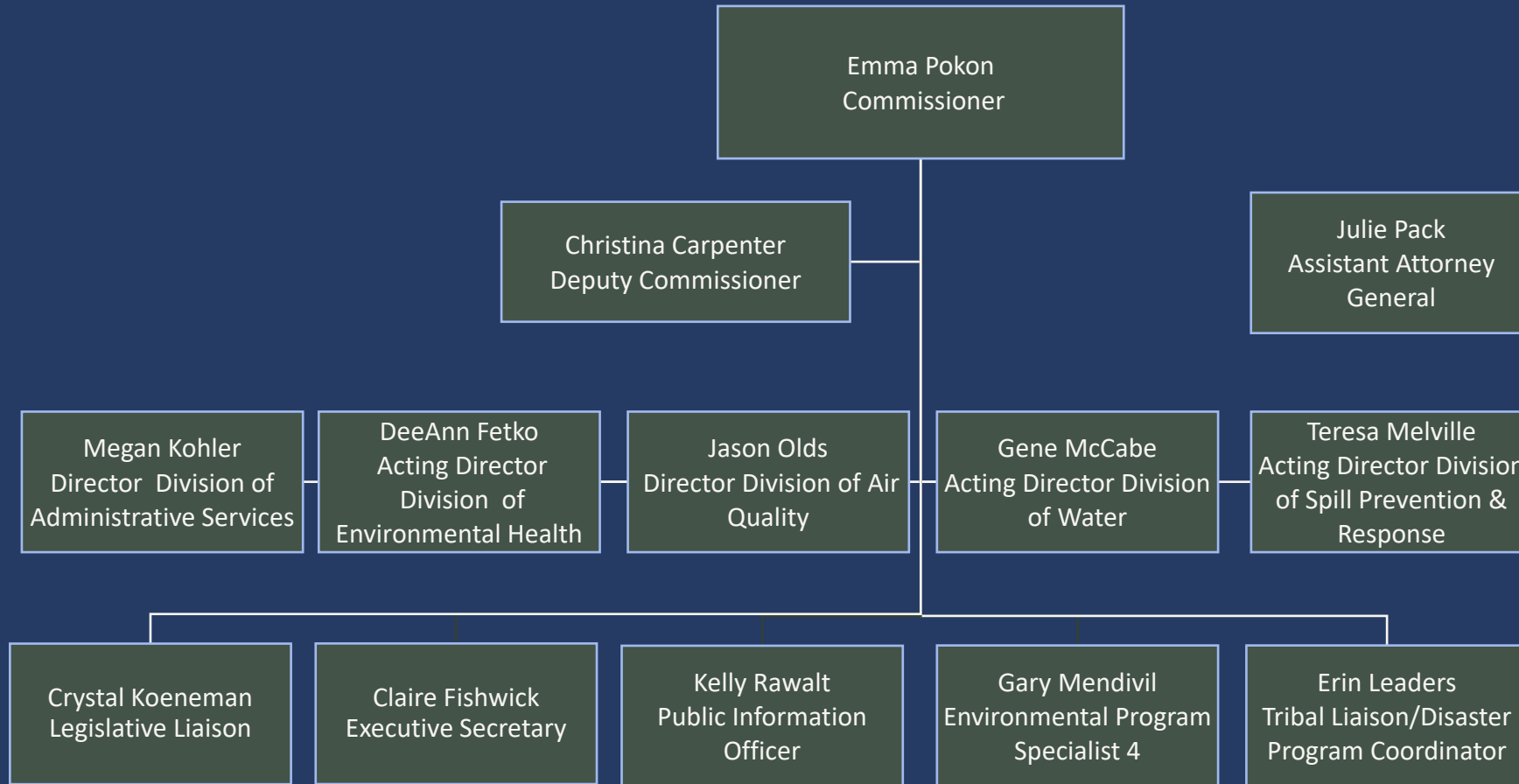
- Ensure safe food & drinking water
- Oversee landfills & pesticide applicators
- Provide animal care & importation standards
- Conduct analytical testing
- Conduct inspections & ensure compliance

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

- IRA Grants?
- SIP Regs Public Comment
- Rural Air Pollution Monitoring
- Willow Permitting
- Pikka Permitting
- Graphite One applications ~summer



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, **public comment (delayed ~next 30days)**



Air Quality Pikka Permitting

- 4 minor applications received
- Production facility to eventually become Title V
- No public comment anticipated until summer



Division of Environmental Health

DeeAnn Fetko, Acting 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

- Lead Service Line Inventory - dec.dw.lsli@alaska.gov

Solid Waste Management

- Disaster debris management – trisha.bower@alaska.gov
- Hazardous Waste Management presentation

Environmental Health Laboratory

- New equipment – Build Back Better

Food Safety and Sanitation

- Alaska Food Protection Taskforce - <https://dec.alaska.gov/eh/fss/afptf/>



Division of Spill Prevention & Response

Teresa Melville, Acting 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



Division of Spill Prevention & Response Updates



- Alaska Forum on the Environment
- Alaska Regional Response Team Workgroups – Regional Stakeholder Committee Job Aids and Tribal Task Force
- Rural Resilience and Tsunami Operations Workshops
- Online Spill Reporting
 - ReportSpills.Alaska.gov



Division of Water

Gene McCabe, Acting Director

Core Functions:

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



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/>



Changes to Village Safe Water Funding

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

Division of Water

Carrie Bohan, Facilities Program Manager



Village Safe Water

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

February 12 –
March 8

Planning Project
Applications

April 1 – May 3

Construction Project
Applications



Village Safe Water

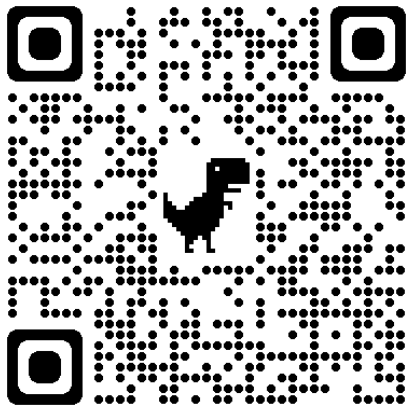
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Requirements to apply for funding:

- **No minimum Operations and Maintenance Best Practices Score - Still used for project scoring**
- **Approved planning document**
- **Approved Sustainability Plan for design/construction of first service projects**



Village Safe Water



You are here: DEC / Water / Village-Safe-Water / Construction Funding Conditions

CONSTRUCTION FUNDING CONDITIONS

Water & Sewer Utility Business Plan for Served Communities

Prior to an obligation of funding for construction, the community must complete a comprehensive business plan for the project with detailed annual operating costs (including operations and maintenance, repair and short-lived replacement), annual revenues (including user fees, local subsidies, and capital contributions); and a description of the managerial structure for the utility. A business plan must be approved for each individual Village Safe Water funded project.

Business plans expire after five years. A request may be made to associate a new project number with an existing business plan. New projects must fit within the scope delineated in previously approved business plans.

The template for business plans is available for download. In addition, the evaluation checklist used for business plan review is also available. Please use the current template and the evaluation checklist to ensure all relevant information is included in the business plan.

- [Business Plan Template for Download \(Revised Jan 31, 2020\) \(DOC\)](#)
- [Evaluation Checklist for Review of Business Plans \(Updated 8/15/2017\) \(PDF\)](#)
- [Example of a local Water and Sewer Service Ordinance \(DOC\)](#)
- [List of Approved Water & Sewer Utility Business Plans \(Updated 8/1/2023\) \(PDF\)](#)

Community Resolution Adopting the Approved Business Plan

Prior to an obligation of funding for construction, the community must issue a resolution adopting the business plan approved by VSW as well as water usage rates and other financial data indicated in the plan. [Template for Community Resolution Adopting Business Plan and User Rates \(9/29/2017\)](#). (DOC)

Sustainability Plan for First Service Piped Water and Sewer

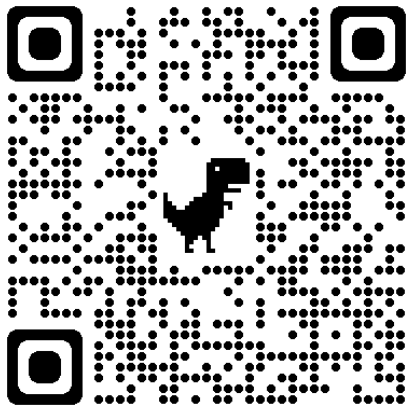
VSW and our federal funding partners are committed to ensuring that communities have the necessary capacity to safely and sustainably operate their utilities in the long term. To ensure the community is able to support the utilities in the long term, a Sustainability Plan (Plan) is required before CIP funding will be provided for first time piped water and sewer service projects. Utilities that do not collect sufficient revenue are unable to recruit and retain qualified managers and operators, nor are they able to proactively maintain and repair the systems to ensure that the systems meet or exceed their design life while providing safe sanitation. Additionally, when utility rates exceed that which local users can afford, many stop paying, resulting in loss of service for those users, and shifting additional burden to the remaining paying customers or causing the system to operate at a financial loss.

Each community's Plan will be unique and specific to that community and community involvement in the development of the Plan is essential. At a minimum, the Plan must establish the anticipated annual Operations and Maintenance (O&M) costs of the utilities, including sufficient staffing for system operators and utility management to facilitate the implementation of necessary O&M, and the corresponding subsidies, revenues and user rates necessary to pay for those expenses. Additionally, the Plan must evaluate the affordability of those rates across all users.

VSW has developed a framework that considers the affordability of combined water and sewer user rates for the lowest two income quintiles



Village Safe Water



Sustainability Plan for First Service Piped Water and Sewer

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VSW has developed a framework that considers the affordability of combined water and sewer user rates for the lowest two income quintiles within the community. This framework is one method of assessing affordability and communities are encouraged to use it in developing their Plan but other methods are available. From the perspective of the CIP funding agencies, user rates that do not exceed the upper limit of the medium burden range are considered sustainable as defined in the framework. However, user rates that fall within the low to medium burden in the VSW affordability framework are not the sole factor for achieving Plan approval. [VSW affordability framework](#).

In some instances, communities may receive outside support to ensure sustainability. This can come in many forms, including financial contributions, technical assistance, participation in a collaborative or regional subsidy program, or other regional programs or partnerships. If the Plan relies on such partnerships, a resolution adopted by the local governing body accepting the support, as well as a written agreement signed by both parties, is required before the Plan will be approved. The agreement must define the support to be provided, as well as the timeframe during which it will be provided. In most instances, aspects of the pledged support will not be required for several years until project construction is complete. Therefore, the Plan must address how the committed resources will be managed in the interim period. Additionally, if the Plan incorporates co-management or co-operation of the utilities, the outside partner must demonstrate the technical, financial, and managerial capacity to provide the assistance defined in the agreement.

During the development of the Plan, communities are encouraged to work with the Rural Utility Business Advisor program, regional tribal health organizations, and other regional partners, such as Community Development Quota programs and local or regional businesses, to develop their Plan.

Multiple agencies are actively working to encourage development and funding of a long-term subsidy for rural sanitation operations and maintenance. If a subsidy is established, the need for sustainability plans will be reconsidered and guidance revised as appropriate.



Alaska Hazardous Waste Program

PRESENTER: LORI ALDRICH

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAM**



Regulatory History

- RCRA – Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
- Enacted in 1976 to address growing problems with solid waste.
- Amended in 1984 with the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments (HSWA)
- Subtitle D – Non-Hazardous Solid Waste
- Subtitle C – Hazardous Waste



RCRA in Alaska

2023

- Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facilities (TSDFs) 2
- Corrective Action Sites 6
- Transfer Facilities 17
- Large Quantity Generators 13-44
- Small Quantity Generators 200ish
- Very Small Quantity Generators (w/EPA ID #) 850ish
- Transporters 150-267



The Process

Task	Target Date
Legislative Approval	Complete
Funding	Complete
Draft Application	Complete – under review
Full Application Submittal	2024
Implementation (Job Shadowing)	Ongoing
Authorization approval	2025



The Process

- 2022

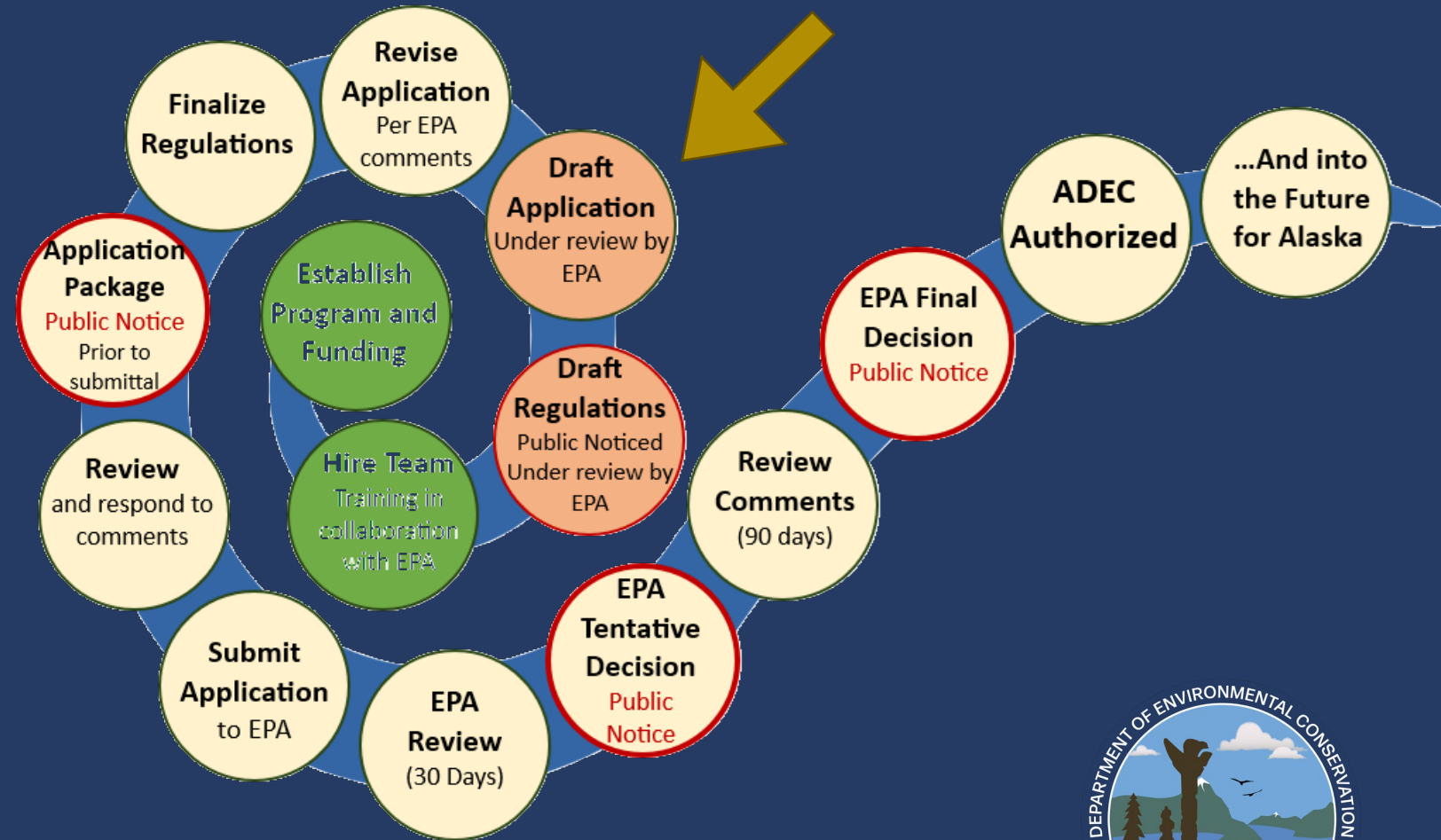
The Legislature funded the Hazardous Waste Program to seek approval from EPA for authorization for full regulatory authority.

The
Hazardous
Waste
Dream Team



The Process

- Draft Application – under review by EPA
 - Attorney General Letter (statutory review)
 - Program Description
 - Memorandum of Agreement with EPA
 - Proposed Regulations



The Process – Next Steps

- EPA Tribal Consultation - look for a March letter
- EPA comments on draft documents
- Revisions
- Submit Application
- Continued Outreach:
 - Authorization Process & Progress
 - Developing guidance documents for common issues



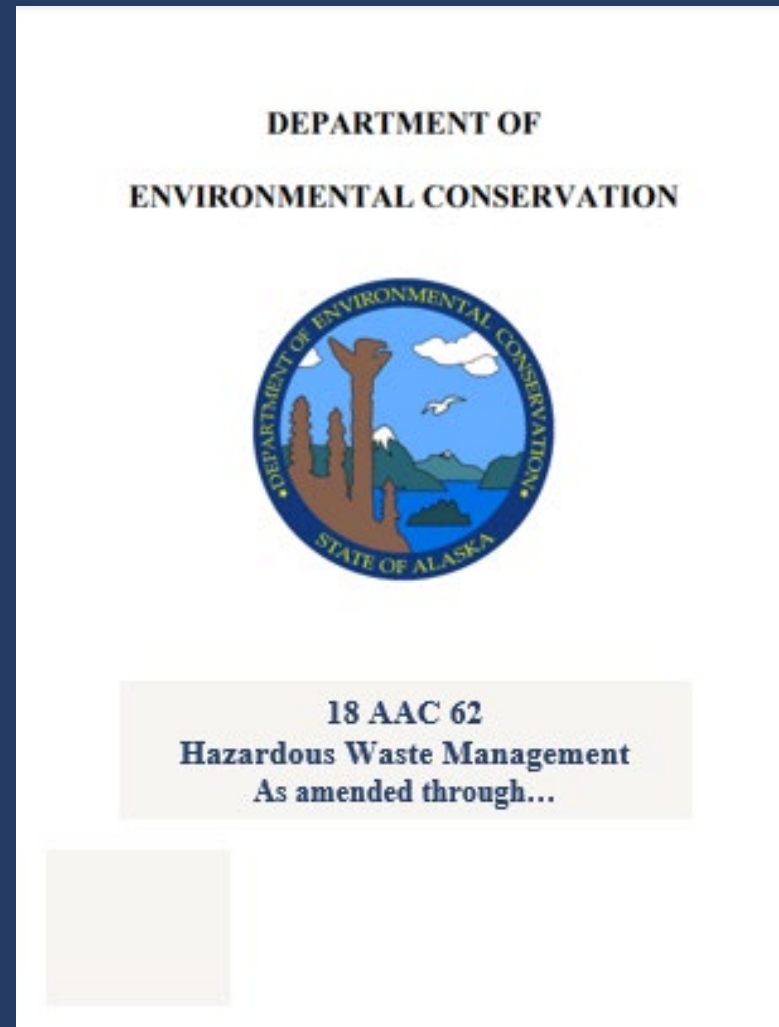
The Process – Stakeholder Input

- Application to EPA
 - Prior to submittal
 - Comments addressed in final application
- EPA Preliminary Decision
- EPA Final Decision



The DEC Program

- Adopt Federal Regulations
- 4 minor changes to help Alaska
 - Waste electronics as Universal Waste
 - Required annual reporting for LQGs for 5 years
 - Using the Unified Guidance for statistics
 - Cleanups must meet state and federal standards



The DEC Program

- Outreach
 - Pre-Authorization
 - Authorization process and progress
 - Alaska needs that could be addressed in future regulations
 - Networking
 - Creating guidance for when we are authorized



The DEC Program

- Outreach
 - Post-Authorization
 - Guidance available
 - Email information
 - Technical assistance for generators and facilities



The DEC Program

- Inspection
 - EPA provides focus areas
 - % of LQG & SQG
 - All TSDFs
 - Complaints
 - Follow-up



The DEC Program

- Enforcement
 - Required by EPA
 - Directed to gain compliance
 - Necessary to protect Alaska
 - Reasonable and consistent
 - Penalties and publication



The DEC Program

- Cleanups
 - Contaminated Site Program is the lead on cleanups
 - For HW facilities, we will coordinate with CS
 - Primarily to establish the most stringent cleanup standards
 - Ensure that other regulations are met.



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The DEC Program

- Permitting
 - Required for Treatment Facilities
 - Required for Disposal Facilities
 - Required for Storage Facilities that collect and store hazardous waste for longer than allowed by the generator status



The DEC Program

- Data
 - RCRAInfo
 - Gathering data for analysis
 - Once authorized will contact generators and facilities for updates
 - Annual updates
 - Other reporting



The DEC Program

- Communication

One of the most important goals of our program is communication with our stakeholders and the regulated public. We want to be able to share our time and knowledge to help foster proper management of hazardous waste to protect the health and environment of Alaska.





You Are Here: [DEC](#) / [EH](#) / [Hazardous Waste Program](#)

HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAM

Governor Dunleavy and the Alaska Legislature budgeted fiscal year 2023 funding for the creation of a Hazardous Waste Program under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Subtitle C for the State of Alaska. The Program will include 6 new positions within the Environmental Health Division.

Alaska is one of only two states in the nation that do not have an approved Hazardous Waste Program.

Goals

DEC's Solid Waste Program (SWP) will work with the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to gain approval of Alaska's Hazardous Waste Program, such that RCRA Subtitle C would be under full state control.



Next Steps

We anticipate spending the next two years on program development. We intend to complete the following steps:

1. Hiring and training of program staff
2. Statute and regulation development
3. Application for program approval to EPA, in accordance with 40 CFR 271
4. Public outreach throughout the process

Questions

Until the program is approved, the management of hazardous waste continues to be regulated under the authority of EPA. Their [website](#) contains information on hazardous waste management.

For questions about Alaska's Hazardous Waste Program development, contact:

Lori Aldrich
Hazardous Waste Section Manager
907-269-0116

Listserv: You can sign up for our listserv to keep current on this process at <https://list.state.ak.us/mailman/listinfo/dec.hazardouswaste>

Indicates an external site.

[Public Notices](#) - [Regulations](#) - [Statutes](#)
[Press Releases](#) - [Contact](#) - [Accessibility](#)

Department of Environmental Conservation

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 111800
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Location: 410 Willoughby Avenue, Juneau



Webpage

dec.alaska.gov/eh/hazardous-waste

Join our listserv:

<https://list.state.ak.us/mailman/listinfo/dec.hazardouswaste>



Questions? Thank you!

Lori Aldrich

Program Manager

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lori.aldrich@alaska.gov



Questions?

