



Department of Environmental Conservation

Quarterly Tribal Engagement

February 14, 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

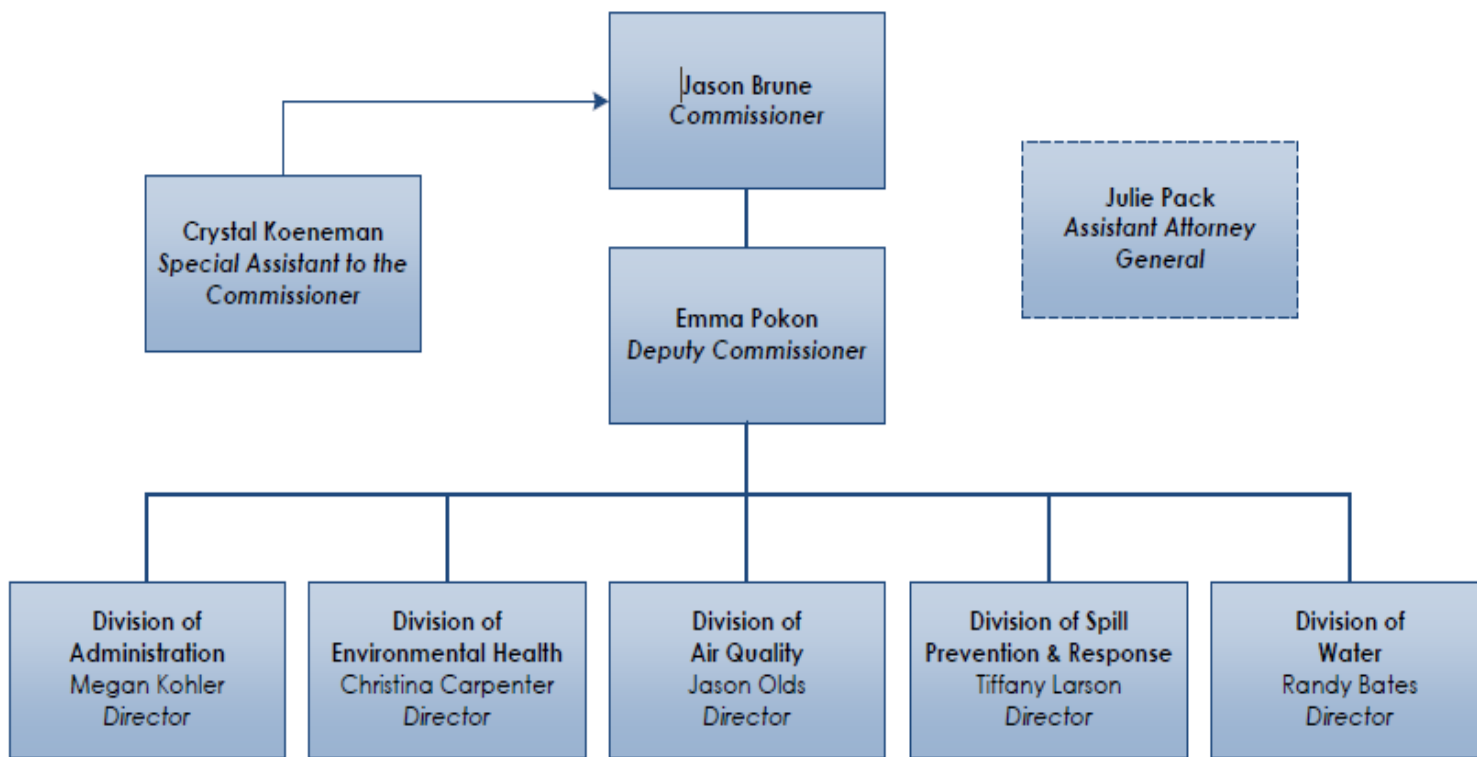
- Permit water discharges
- Oversee water quality standards, assessment & restoration
- Provide technical assistance
- Finance sanitation improvements
- Conduct inspections & determine compliance

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



Division of Air Quality

Highlights:

- Modelling support
- Rural monitoring network
- Fairbanks SIP support & implementation
- Regulatory monitoring network
- Ongoing permitting, compliance, and public support for clean air
- IRA funding details forthcoming
- Air Quality Monitoring





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



Division of Environmental Health

Current Issues:

- Recreational shellfish toxin testing in support of Knik Tribe (EH Laboratory)
- Emerging contaminant testing (Drinking Water)
- Lead service line inventories (Drinking Water)
- Microreactor siting permit regulations (Solid Waste)
- Hazardous waste program development (Solid Waste)
- Animal disease outbreaks – rabies and avian influenza (Office of the State Veterinarian)



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 Tsunami, and Rural Resiliency Workshops
- ▶ Zender Environmental Rural Alaska Community Environmental Job Training ('RaceJT') program
- ▶ Alaska Regional Response Team
- ▶ Typhoon Merbok Response
- ▶ Western Mariner Response
- ▶ 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
- ▶ Emergency Preparedness Conference



Contaminated Sites Program ANC and Tribal Outreach

- ▶ Work with ANCs and Tribes on characterization and cleanup of contaminated sites throughout Alaska
- ▶ DEC is working on several different fronts to get contamination cleaned up on lands transferred under ANCSA
- ▶ Native American Lands Environmental Mitigation Program (NALEMP) allows tribal governments to receive federal funding to clean up environmental impacts from military activities including polluted soil and water, military munitions, and unsafe buildings
- ▶ Conducting site-specific services through DEC's Brownfields Assessment and Cleanup (DBAC) Program
- ▶ Tribal Response Program Outreach and Training



Division of Water

Randy Bates, Director

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

- ▶ Assumption of Section 404 Dredge and Fill Permitting
- ▶ Infrastructure Funding and Project Implementation
- ▶ Various Regulation Amendments:
 - ▶ Human Health Criteria and Fish Consumption Rates
 - ▶ Water Quality Standards
 - ▶ Wastewater Discharge
- ▶ Projects and Permitting



Questions?

