

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
DIVISION OF WATER
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

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April 16, 2012

Dear Community and Tribal Leader:

I invite you to attend an informational teleconference on April 24 or April 26 on water quality protection. As part of its water quality standards regulations, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has an existing policy on water quality protection commonly referred to as the "antidegradation policy." DEC is not proposing changes to the policy but is developing its antidegradation implementation procedures. DEC is hosting the teleconference to help clarify what antidegradation is and how it is used during wastewater permitting, and to further public input in the development of the procedures.

During the teleconference, I will give a presentation that describes the origin of antidegradation requirements, the development of draft and final implementation procedures, the role of an existing antidegradation stakeholder workgroup, ways to learn more, and how you can provide meaningful comments to DEC as it develops the implementation procedures.

The teleconferences are designed to be educational and informational and are not part of a formal public comment process. They will be held on April 24 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and repeated April 26 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The teleconferences will be held at 10 Alaska Legislative Information Offices: Anchorage, Barrow, Bethel, Dillingham, Fairbanks, Juneau, Ketchikan, Kotzebue, Nome, and Sitka. In order to provide quality audio connections and a visual presentation, there will not be a separate call in number.

DEC also has a workgroup that is providing input on various core elements of antidegradation. The teleconferences on April 24 and 26 are not part of that workgroup process. If you are interested in the activities of the workgroup you are welcome to observe the next meeting in Anchorage May 8-9 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. There are opportunities at all workgroup meetings for the public to comment.

We look forward to your participation in one of the scheduled teleconference.

Sincerely,



Michelle Bonnet
Director

If you have questions about the teleconference contact our Local and Tribal government Coordinator, Miriah Twitchell, (907) 465-5272, miriah.twitchell@alaska.gov. If you have technical questions about antidegradation or the workgroup contact our Antidegradation Program Specialist, Jim Powell (907) 465-5184, jim.powell@alaska.gov. For background information visit our antidegradation web site at: <http://dec.alaska.gov/water/wqsar/Antidegradation/index.html>