

**Department of Environmental Conservation  
Response to Comments**

**For**

**Beluga Power Plant**

**APDES Permit No. AK0026603**

**Public Noticed December 7, 2015- January 8, 2016**

**January 13, 2016**



**Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation  
Wastewater Discharge Authorization Program  
555 Cordova Street  
Anchorage, AK 99501**

## **1 Introduction**

### **1.1 Summary of Facility / Permit**

Chugach Electric Association operates the Beluga Power Plant (Facility) on the West side of Cook Inlet. The Facility generates electricity through the combustion of natural gas, which powers turbines, including a steam turbine, which captures excess heat and uses it to generate steam. The Facility discharges wastewater associated with electrical power generation including filter backwash, water softener/de-mineralizer regeneration wastewater, wastewater collected in floor drains, and continuous boiler blowdown. Filter backwash and softener/de-mineralizer regeneration wastewater is treated to neutralize pH, then travels to an effluent cooling pond prior to discharge. Some wastewater, specifically floor drains in the boiler and turbine areas, is treated with an oil and water separator. The Facility is an intermittent discharge, totaling no more than 27,000 gallons per day calculated as a quarterly average. The discharge occurs to Krause Creek, a freshwater stream that eventually reaches Cook Inlet. Krause Creek is designated as an anadromous stream East of the Beluga Highway, and the Facility discharges to Krause Creek West of the Beluga Highway. No mixing zone is authorized.

### **1.2 Opportunities for Public Participation**

The Department of Environmental Conservation proposed to issue an Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (APDES) wastewater discharge permit to Chugach Electric Association for the Beluga Power Plant. To ensure public, agency, and tribal notification and opportunities for participation the Department:

- identified the permit on the annual Permit Issuance Plan posted online at: <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/water/wwdp/index.htm>
- notified potentially affected tribes that the Department would be working on this permit via email
- posted a preliminary draft of the permit on-line for a 10-day applicant review 11/9/2015 and notified tribes and other agencies
- formally published public notice of the draft permit on 12/7/15 on the Department's public notice web page
- sent email notifications via the APDES Program List Serve when the preliminary draft, draft, and final permits were available for review

The Department did not receive any comments on the draft permit and supporting documents. The Department also requested comment from the Departments of Natural Resources (DNR) Fish and Game (DFG), the National Marine Fisheries Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. On January 12, 2016, the permittee agreed in writing to waive the five day applicant review period as allowed in 18 AAC 83.120(m). As such, the Department did not prepare a proposed final permit and issued the final permit January 15, 2016. There were no changes from the public noticed permit.