

**Department of Environmental Conservation  
Final Response to Comments**

**For**

**APDES Individual Permit Modification**

**AK0062278 – ExxonMobil Alaska LNG, LLC**

**Cook Inlet Geotechnical Survey**

**Public Noticed January 14, 2016 – February 13, 2016**

**February 19, 2016**



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

## 1 Introduction

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (Department or DEC) is issuing an Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (APDES) individual permit modification for AK0062278 – ExxonMobil Alaska LNG LLC (EMALL), Cook Inlet Geotechnical Surveys (Permit).

### 1.1 Summary of Facility / Permit

EMALL is currently permitted to discharge geotechnical drilling fluids and drill cuttings at the seafloor (Outfall 001) and deck drainage (Outfall 002) to Cook Inlet while conducting a geotechnical survey program (EMALL Program). The EMALL Program is being conducted to inform sound engineering decisions for the Alaska LNG Project's proposed Cook Inlet pipeline crossing and marine terminal areas. Due to new stratigraphic information obtained from the 2015 EMALL Program, the Department received a revised application requesting to modifications to existing Permit conditions per 18 AAC 83.135.

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (Department or DEC) proposes to issue permit modifications to Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (APDES) individual permit AK0062278–EMALL, Cook Inlet Geotechnical Surveys. These modifications authorize alterations to permit conditions including: mixing zone size, additional fluids for increased borehole stability, materials for plugging and abandonment procedures, and additional borehole locations to further evaluate geotechnical design parameters. The modifications affect certain permit conditions for Outfall 001 – Geotechnical Drilling Fluids and Drill Cuttings at the Seafloor but do not affect existing limits or monitoring requirements.

### 1.2 Opportunities for Public Participation

To ensure participation by the public, agencies, and tribal and local governments during Permit reissuance, the Department:

- notified potentially affected tribes that the Department would be working on the Permit via letter, fax and/or email on December 22, 2015;
- posted the Preliminary Draft Permit on-line for a two day applicant review on January 8, 2016 and notified tribes, local governments and other agencies;
- posted the public notice on the Department's public notice web page January 14, 2016 for a 30-day public review on the Draft Permit Modification and Fact Sheet;
- posted the Proposed Final Permit Modification on-line for a two day applicant review on February 16, 2016; and
- sent email notifications via the APDES Program List Serve when the Preliminary Draft, Draft, and Proposed Final Permit Modifications were available for review.

During the 30-day public review period, the Department did not receive comments on the Modified Draft Permit and Fact Sheet.

### 1.3 Proposed Final Permit Modification

Given there were no comments received during the public notice period, there have been no changes to the Draft Permit Modification and Fact Sheet in developing the Proposed Final Permit Modification and Fact Sheet.