



Department of Environmental Conservation

Building Foundations Together: Collaborating to Address Environmental Issues

Alaska Municipal League

Jason Brune, Commissioner

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DEC's Mission

Protect Human Health and the Environment

It is the policy of the state to conserve, improve, and protect its natural resources and environment and control water, land, and air pollution, in order to enhance the health, safety, and welfare of the people of the state and their overall economic and social well-being. (AS 46.03.010)



Outcomes

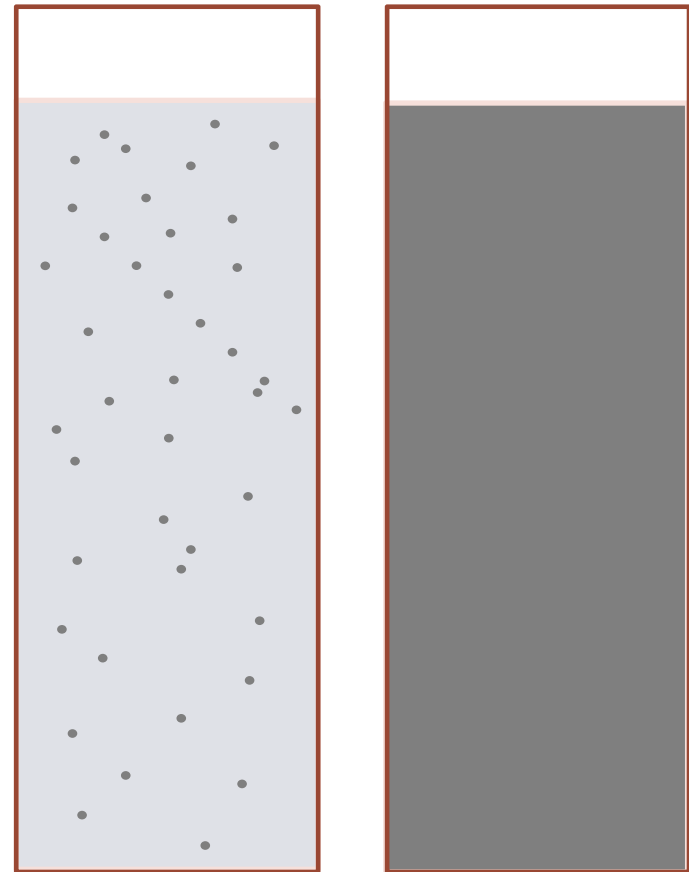
“ALASKA IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS”

- Protection of human health and the environment and resource extraction are NOT mutually exclusive
- Predictable, science-based permitting process
- Strong partnerships with local and tribal governments, ANCs, businesses, and other organizations
- Consistency of application of laws/standards



Discharges into Alaska's waters

- Large cruise ship permit allows up to 40 fecal coliform bacteria in 100 ml
- Local waste water treatment facility permit allows up to 1.5 million fecal coliform bacteria in 100 ml.





Department FY 2020 Budget Proposal

- Repeal Ocean Ranger Program (-\$3,426.0 Other)
- Withdraw Funding for Dairy Regulation (-\$179.6 GF & -1 FTE)
- Remove Economist Position (-\$124.3 GF & -1 FTE)
- Statewide Support – Executive Branch 50% Travel Reduction
(-\$165.7 GF)



Air Quality

- DEC monitors air quality to compare with health-based standards.
- DEC assists communities in reducing pollutants and, when necessary, planning to bring areas back into compliance with health based standards
 - PM 2.5



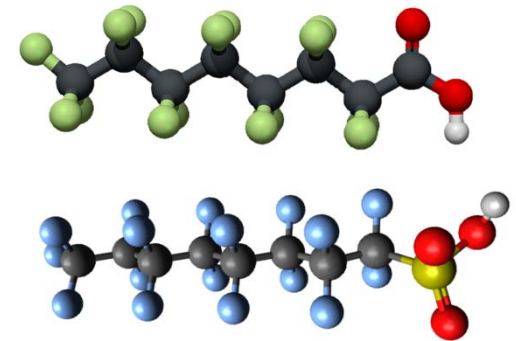
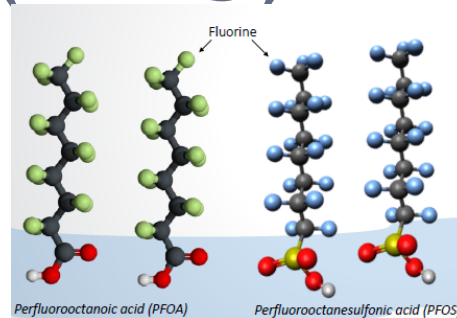
Environmental Health

- Drinking water program – assisting with lead reduction efforts in 11 communities
- Solid waste – completed two-year education program for rural Alaskan communities, increased Class III permits from 28% to 88% since 2010
- Food Safety and Sanitation – working with local communities to address marine *vibrio* and harmful algal bloom concerns
- State Veterinarian – statewide fish tissue testing shows Alaskan fish is relatively low in contaminants, important to subsistence consumers and commercial fishing



Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)

- What are PFAS
 - Family of around 5,000 chemicals
 - Do not break down easily
 - Build up in humans and animals
 - Toxic



Products, sources and history

- Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF)
Consumer Products- non-stick and stain-resistant products used in furniture, ski waxes, raingear, cooking utensils, paints, plastics, adhesives, personal care products (such as dental floss) convenience food packaging

Major Sources of Releases

- Manufacturing
- Releases from fire suppression activities
- Wastewater Treatment Plants
- Landfills





Current Phase- Site Discovery

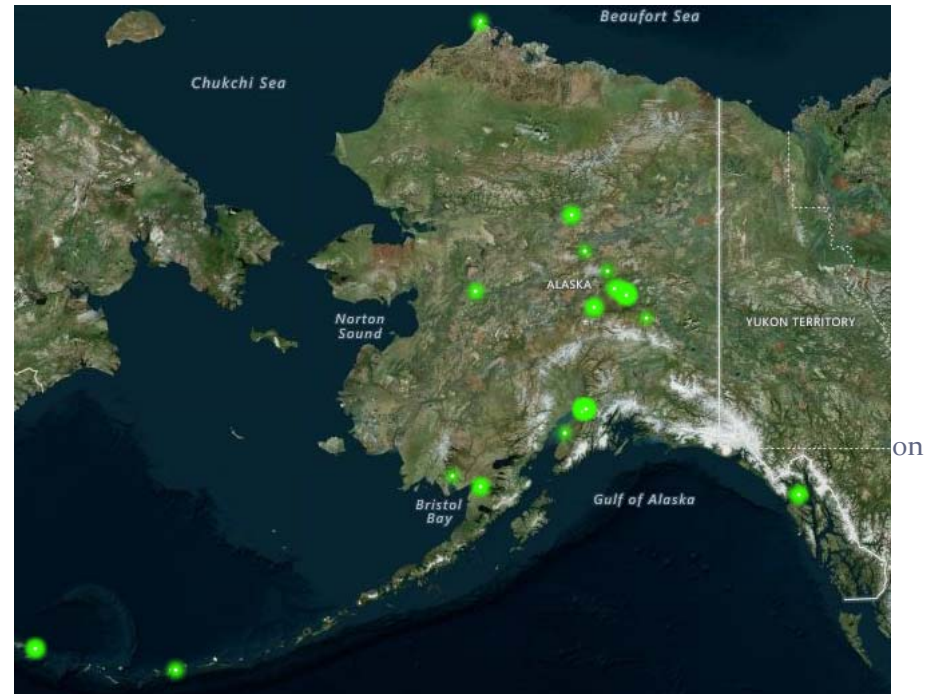
- DEC has been working with DOT&PF and others to identify locations where PFAS contamination may exist and evaluate those locations for potential risk
- Source location, presence of nearby drinking water wells, depth to groundwater, and groundwater flow direction considered in prioritizing sampling
- FAA part 139 certified airports and DoD facilities required to use PFAS containing fire fighting foams
- Priority airports where drinking water sampling has been done recently include Fairbanks, Gustavus, Valdez, Kenai, King Salmon, Dillingham, Cordova, and Yakutat.



PFAS Contamination in Alaska

Communities with Drinking Water Impacts and Contaminated Sites

- Eielson/Moose Creek
- Fairbanks Municipal Fire Training Center
- Fairbanks International Airport
- North Pole
- Utqiagvik- Airport
- Gustavus Airport
- Dillingham - Airport
- King Salmon - Airport





State Actions

What happens when PFAS is detected above levels of concern?

- Bottled water has been provided by state or responsible party
- Additional sampling conducted to identify potentially impacted wells
- Public outreach including meetings, fact sheets and websites
- Collaboration on long-term solutions including water treatment systems or connection to public water where available



Latest at the federal level

- EPA PFAS Management Plan Recommendations
 - Pursuing federal drinking water standards for PFOS and PFOA
 - Clarifying cleanup strategies and expand monitoring, new analytical methods
 - Starting process to list PFOS and PFOA as Hazardous Substances
 - Evaluating PFAS toxicity
- Other Federal actions and activity
 - Congress H.R. 535 PFAS Action Act of 2019
 - Congressional PFAS Task Force



Water and Sewer Projects

- Village Safe Water grants to construct rural water and wastewater facilities
- Municipal Loan program to assist larger communities with low interest loans for construction of sanitation facilities (water, sewer, solid waste)

Implementing the Alaska Sewer and Water Challenge to find cost effective ways to serve remaining communities.





Spill Prevention and Response Contingency Plans

- SPAR currently has 337 approved contingency plans
 - 11 oil exploration plans
 - 24 production plans
 - Trans Alaska Pipeline and Valdez Marine Terminal
 - 66 refined product terminals
 - 32 tank vessels and oil barges
 - 202 non-tank vessels

