



Randy Bates, Director, Division of Water

Carrie Bohan, Facilities Programs Manager, Division of Water

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation



DEC's 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.



Resource Conservation & Recovery Act (RCRA)

- ▶ Management of Solid Waste
- ▶ DEC has approval for oversight of non-hazardous waste under Subtitle D
- ▶ Subtitle C covers management of hazardous waste
- ▶ DEC is one of two states that does not have primacy over Subtitle C

Benefits of RCRA Primacy

	EPA	DEC
Focus	Enforcement	Technical and compliance assistance
Location	Seattle	Alaska
Regulatory flexibility	Little to none	Much greater under a state-managed program

Section 404 Assumption

- ▶ Section 404 regulates discharge of dredged and fill material into water and wetlands; currently regulated by US Corps of Engineers
- ▶ Over 40% of Alaska is classified as wetlands
 - ▶ Only 5% of the Lower 48 is classified as wetlands
- ▶ Clean Water Act allows states to assume partial 404 authority



Section 404 Assumption

- ▶ Benefits of an Alaskan-run 404 Program
 - ▶ Accountability – a state-run 404 program is accountable to Alaskans
 - ▶ Increased Efficiency – eliminates duplicative state/federal requirements
 - ▶ Timeliness – efficient local program can review and issue permits faster
 - ▶ Regulatory Integration – allows 404 permits to be seamlessly integrated with other state permitting programs such as CWA Section 402
 - ▶ Increased Flexibility – The state can assure its policies and procedures suit the needs of Alaska and remain stable despite shifting federal policies

Section 404 Assumption

Key 404 Assumption Milestones

- Develop key staff positions for 404 Assumption package development – in progress
- Propose 404 program staffing for SFY2023 and beyond – submitted in SFY23 budget
- Construct a 404 Assumption Application – 3-4QSFY22
- Hire and train 404 Permitting Staff
- Begin Assumption of 404 Program – July 1, 2024





Cruise Ships In Alaska

- ▶ Since 2019, the COVID pandemic has impacted the cruise industry in Alaska.
- ▶ 2020 saw zero ships.
- ▶ In 2021, some ships returned to Alaska including:
 - ▶ Eight large vessels (greater than 500 capacity)
 - ▶ Fourteen small vessels (less than 500 capacity)



DEC Cruise Ship Path Forward

- ▶ DEC intends to inspect all large and small vessels in 2022.
- ▶ Registration is due by March 1 for all vessels which intend to operate in Alaska in 2022.
- ▶ DEC is continuing its robust water quality monitoring work in ports and common corridor areas.
- ▶ SB 180 and HB 303 have been introduced which propose additional resources to the Department, revise and simplify the fee structure for industry, and provide for a grant program for port communities.

Village Safe Water

- ▶ Two main functions
 - ▶ Fund rural sanitation capital improvement projects
 - ▶ Provide project management and oversight of these projects
- ▶ Grant funding is provided by the Environmental Protection Agency and the USDA Rural Development with required 25% state match

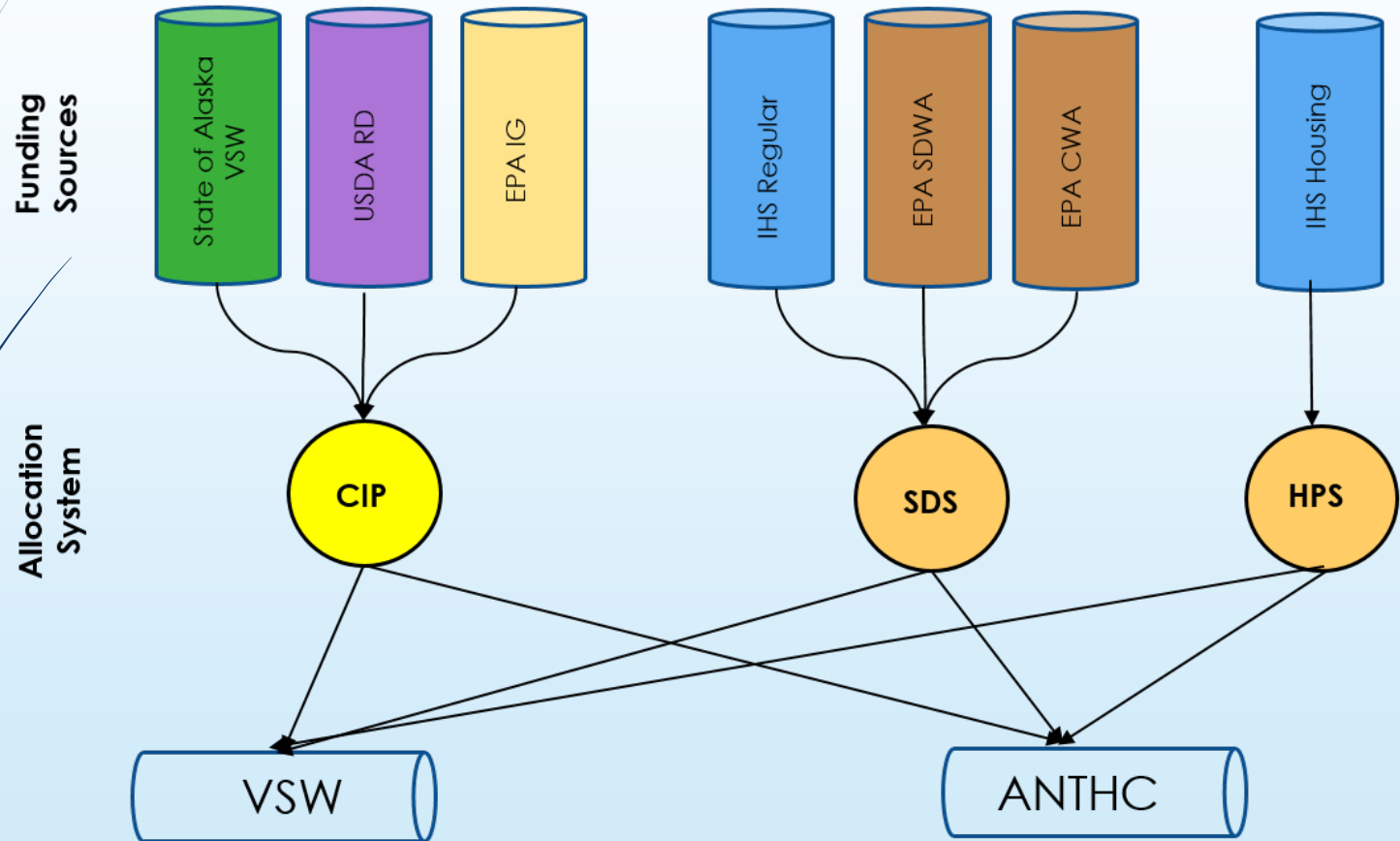


Village Safe Water

- Additional funding for rural sanitation improvements is provided by the Indian Health Service (IHS).
- VSW works closely with federal funding agencies, the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, and regional health corporations to develop and implement projects.



Village Safe Water



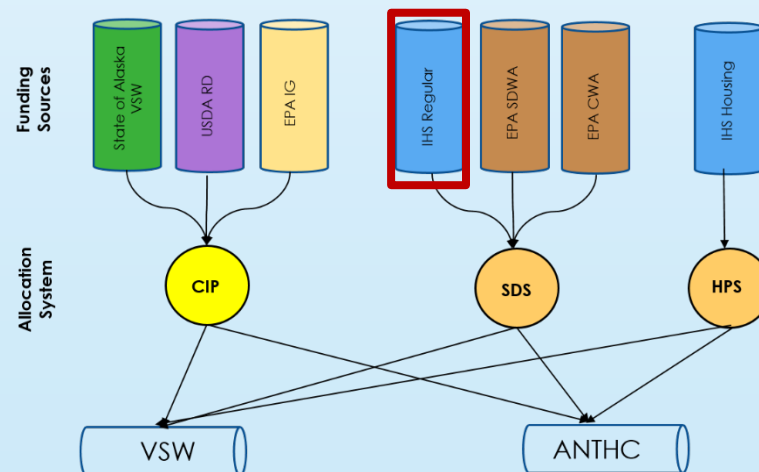
ANTHC: Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
CIP: Capital Improvement Project
CWA: Clean Water Act
EPA: Environmental Protection Agency

HPS: Housing Priority System
IHS: Indian Health Service
IG: Infrastructure Grant
(Alaska Native Villages Grant)

SDS: Sanitation Deficiency System
SDWA: Safe Drinking Water Act
USDA RD: U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Rural Development
VSW: Village Safe Water

Village Safe Water

- ▶ Bipartisan Infrastructure Law provides \$3.5B to IHS over 5 years
- ▶ Alaska Area expected to receive \$2.1B to allocate through SDS system
- ▶ Anticipated to address all documented rural sanitation needs, including piped service to unserved communities
- ▶ VSW funding from EPA and USDA RD expected to remain similar to recent years



State Revolving Fund

- ▶ Low interest loans for infrastructure improvements and water quality projects
- ▶ Terms of up to 30 years
- ▶ Finance charge is currently ~2%
- ▶ Some subsidy is available for borrowers that meet “Disadvantaged Community” criteria
- ▶ Funding provided through annual grants from EPA, 20% state match, and repayment funds from previous loans
- ▶ New projects are accepted continuously and evaluated quarterly

State Revolving Fund

- BIL authorized increased funding for SRF
- Additionally, BIL established supplemental funding
- Supplemental funds have reduced or state match requirements and increased subsidy requirements

Drinking Water SRF	SFY23	Subsidy
All eligible projects	\$18M	49%
Lead Service Line Replacement	\$28M	49%
Emerging Contaminants	\$7.5M	100%

Clean Water SRF	SFY23	Subsidy
All eligible projects	\$10.7M	49%
Emerging Contaminants	\$564,000	100%

- Similar levels of supplemental funding is appropriated for each of the next five years
- Portion of federal grants can be used for technical assistance activities