

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation



Agency Updates

Randy Bates
Commissioner
February 17, 2026

DEC's Mission

Conserving, improving, and protecting Alaska's natural resources and environment to enhance the health, safety, and economic and social well-being of Alaskans.



Air Quality

- Permit industrial air emissions
- Monitor & assess air quality
- Address small & mobile air pollution sources
- Conduct inspections & ensure compliance

Water

- Permit water discharges
- Oversee water quality standards, assessment & restoration
- Provide technical assistance
- Finance sanitation improvements
- Conduct inspections & ensure compliance

Environmental Health

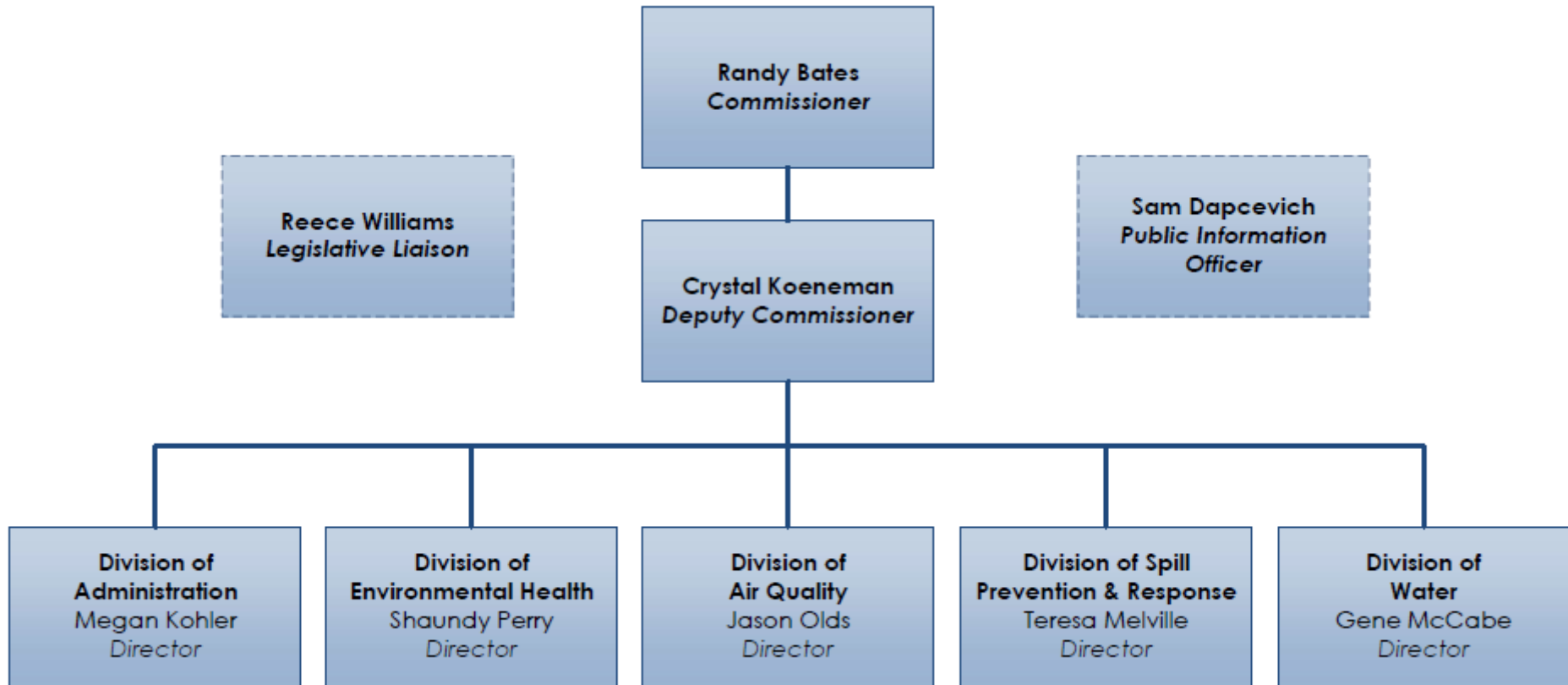
- Ensure safe food & drinking water
- Oversee landfills & pesticide applicators
- Provide animal care & importation standards
- Conduct analytical testing
- Conduct inspections & ensure compliance

Spill Prevention & Response

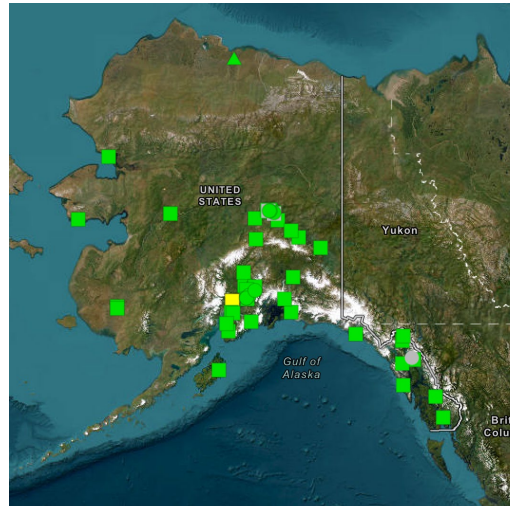
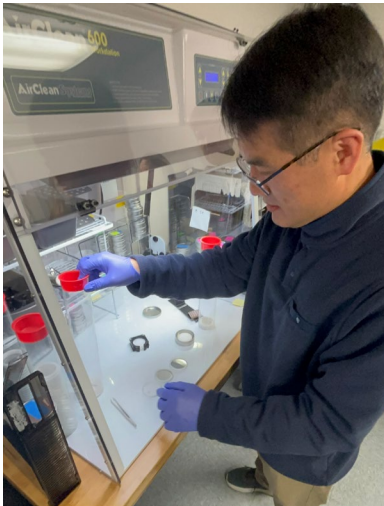
- Respond to spills
- Require spill prevention & response plans
- Evaluate response drills
- Manage cleanup of contamination
- Conduct inspections & ensure compliance



DEC's Leadership



Division of Air Quality



- Marine Vessel Opacity Monitoring
- Statewide Air Monitoring and Advisories
- Fairbanks PM_{2.5} State Implementation Plan



Division of Environmental Health



- Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) Drinking System testing
- Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Subtitle C Hazardous Waste Program



Division of Spill Prevention & Response



- Brownfield Services
- Firefighting Substances Disposal Reimbursement program
- Home Heating Oil Tank Response grants



Division of Water

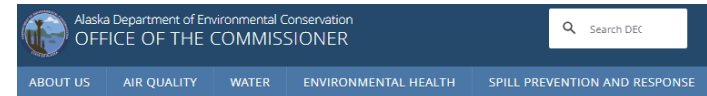
- Village Safe Water grants to construct rural water and wastewater facilities
- Municipal Loan program to assist larger communities with low interest loans for construction of sanitation facilities



AO 360: Regulatory Reform Plan

- Signed August 2025
- 15% reduction by 2026
- 25% reduction by 2027

Maintain environmental & public health outcomes



[DEC / Commish / Administrative Order 360](#)

Administrative Order 360 & DEC's Regulatory Reform Plan

In response to Governor Dunleavy's AO360, DEC is doing a complete review of its regulations, guidance documents, and permitting processes. DEC has identified reforms that clarify and streamline regulations without reducing protections for human health and the environment. All proposed regulatory changes will undergo a full public process, including opportunity to comment. DEC welcomes your input throughout this process.

The Plan

- [Regulatory Reform Plan Introduction and Overview \(PDF\)](#)
- [Regulatory Reform Plan Detailed Info \(PDF\)](#)

About Administrative Order 360

In August 2025, Governor Dunleavy issued Administrative Order 360 ([AO360](#)). This order directed each state agency, including the Department of Environmental Conservation, to:

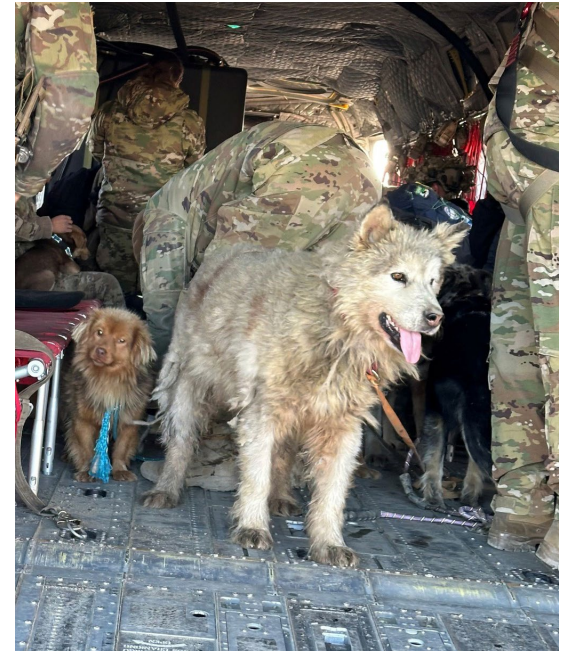
- Review existing regulations, guidance documents, and materials incorporated by reference to identify provisions that are outdated, redundant, or unclear
- Develop proposals for the revision, repeal, or streamlining of the regulations, guidance documents, and materials incorporated by reference identified above
- Reduce the number of regulatory requirements by 15 percent by December 31, 2026, and 25 percent (cumulative) by December 31, 2027

Additionally, AO360 directs state agencies to improve the efficiency and responsiveness of Alaska's permitting systems, and to support responsible resource and economic development while protecting environmental and public interests. Accordingly, these agencies are directed to:

- Review and revise permitting procedures to eliminate unnecessary steps, reduce duplicative reviews, simplify application requirements, streamline internal workflows, and clarify interagency roles to reduce inefficiencies and delays
- Adopt, in regulation, clear timelines and deadlines for permit application processing, review of milestones, and final decision making, including provisions for automatic approval if deadlines are not met
- Ensure transparent processes by making permit application statuses, timelines, and decision rationales available to applicants and the public, to the extent allowable by law
- Promote predictability in decision-making by applying regulatory standards consistently
- Leverage technology, such as artificial intelligence, to support digitization, automation, and public access to permitting information



Disasters & West Coast Storm Response



Thank You

