



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Environmental  
Conservation

Division of Water  
Facilities Programs

555 Cordova Street  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
Main: 907.269.7502  
Fax 907.269.7509  
[www.dec.alaska.gov](http://www.dec.alaska.gov)

March 14, 2025

Dear Community Leader,

Your Spring 2025 Operations and Maintenance Best Practices (Best Practices) score is enclosed. Your score is based on documentation provided in December 2024. Please take a few moments to review your score for accuracy. If you find errors, please contact me immediately.

While considering your score, here are important points to keep in mind:

- **DEC no longer uses the outcome of the O&M Best Practices as an eligibility criteria for Village Safe Water (VSW) Capital Improvement Project (CIP) funding.** DEC is committed to ensuring communities have access to safe sanitation and that ongoing operation and maintenance of facilities are not overly burdensome to residents. However, DEC has heard communities' concerns regarding implementing the Best Practices assessment tool for CIP funding eligibility.
- **Improving your Best Practices score is the most effective way to increase your community's chance of receiving project funding.** Best Practices scores account for 40% of the points for CIP design and construction project scoring and 15% for CIP planning project scoring. Additionally, Best Practices scores are used to determine eligibility and project ranking for Micro Loans offered through the State Revolving Fund Program.
- **Best Practices scores are updated each year in spring.** Spring scores will continue to be used as a CIP project scoring criteria component.
- **Remote Maintenance Workers (RMWs) are assigned to help with Preventative Maintenance scores.** If your community does not have a Preventative Maintenance Plan, contact your assigned RMW for assistance.
- **Rural Utility Business Advisors (RUBAs) are assigned to assist with Managerial and Financial scores.** You must provide the required documentation to your assigned RUBA to receive points.
- **You can find out which RMW and RUBA specialist are assigned to your community online at:**  
<http://dec.alaska.gov/water/pdf/AlaskaSanitationContactList>

Should you have any questions, please contact me at (907) 269-7613 or [tammy.helms@alaska.gov](mailto:tammy.helms@alaska.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "TH".

Tammy Helms  
Technical Assistance Programs Manager

Find more Best Practices information online at: <http://dec.alaska.gov/water/OpAssist/BestPractices.html>.