



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Environmental
Conservation

DIVISION OF WATER

Wastewater Discharge Authorization Program

PO Box 111800
Juneau, Alaska 99811-1800
Main: 907.269.6285
Fax: 907.334.2415

December 20, 2024

Subject: **Early notification** of wastewater discharge permit for AKR060000

Dear Local and Tribal Government Leaders

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) proposes to reissue a statewide Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (APDES) general permit AKR060000 for the Mult-Sector General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Industrial Activity (MSGP).

Background information

This will be the third reissuance of the MSGP APDES general permit. The current permit was issued February 20, 2020, and expires March 31, 2025. The permit authorizes and sets conditions on the discharge of pollutants from authorized discharges to surface waters of the United States (U.S.). To ensure protection of water quality and human health, the permit establishes control measures and best management practices that must be used to control the types and amounts of pollutants that can be discharged from certain industrial activities.

The APDES Program (18 AAC 83) regulates point source discharges to waters of the U.S., whereas discharges to surface water of the State are regulated under the authority of 18 AAC 72 – Wastewater Disposal. The Department's statutory authority for issuing permits under 18 AAC 83 and 18 AAC 72 comes from AS 46.03.100. To meet the requirements of 18 AAC 83 to appropriately regulate surface water discharges as well as 18 AAC 72, both discharges to waters of the U.S. and waters of the State will be covered under this general permit.

Description of discharge

The MSGP requires industrial facilities to implement and maintain site-specific storm water control measures and to develop a site-specific storm water pollution prevention plan (SWPPP). The MSGP regulates the discharge of storm water from an estimated 330 industrial facilities in 29 industrial sectors. These sectors include mineral mining, coal mining, sand and gravel mining, boat harbors, and larger airports. The MSGP includes direction on the types of storm water control measures to install to limit the extent of storm water runoff.

Opportunities for tribal and local government participation in this permitting decision

DEC recognizes rural Alaska has unique needs and considerations regarding wastewater discharges and strives to issue permits that reflect a full understanding of local conditions. This letter is intended as an **early notice** to assist you in determining whether your community may be affected and inform you of the opportunity to provide traditional, cultural, or other local information that DEC should consider as part of this permit reissuance. DEC would like to know how your area and resources may be affected by this permitting action.

Next steps

After the permit is drafted, there will be a **10-day applicant review period** of the preliminary draft permit. Following the applicant review period, there will be a minimum of a **30-day public review and comment period**. I will provide a copy of the public notice for the permit by mail or e-mail at the start of the public comment period. After the public review and comment period, there will be a **5-day applicant review period** of the final draft permit before the permit is issued.

If requested, I can also provide notice of the preliminary draft and proposed final applicant review periods. Due to the short timeframes for those reviews, notices are sent by email or fax. Please provide an email address or fax number if you would like to receive notices for the preliminary draft and proposed final applicant review periods.