



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

June 13, 2024

Subject: **Early notification** of wastewater discharge permit for AKG002000

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 AKG002000 for Excavation Dewatering.

### **Background information**

This will be the third reissuance of the excavation dewatering APDES general permit. The current permit was issued August 22, 2019, and expires September 30, 2024. The permit authorizes and sets conditions on the discharge of pollutants from authorized excavation dewatering discharges to surface waters of the United States (U.S.) or to surface waters of the state or land.

The APDES Program (18 AAC 83) regulates point source discharges to waters of the U.S., whereas discharges to surface water and land 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 and to appropriately regulate land discharges, both discharges to waters of the U.S. and land are covered under this general permit.

To ensure protection of water quality and human health, the permit places limits on the types and amounts of pollutants that can be discharged from the authorized excavation dewatering discharges and outlines Best Management Practices (BMPs) to which they must adhere.

### **Description of discharge**

Dewatering discharges eligible for coverage under the general permit consist of water pumped from excavation areas using temporary dewatering wells or submersible pumps to lower the water table to support a construction activity. The dewatering of accumulated groundwater and storm water which may accumulate within an excavation area is an authorized discharge under the permit. This permit does provide discharge authorization for dewatering conducted within 1,500 feet of a permit defined “DEC-identified contaminated site” although special permit conditions apply, and additional requirements may be added in the discharge authorization to ensure water quality standards are met.

Any operator that meets the eligibility requirements of the general permit will be authorized to discharge after filing a Notice of Intent (NOI) with DEC so long as all conditions of the permit are met. The public has an opportunity to comment and provide information for this general permit; however, public notice will not be issued for individual NOIs submitted by qualified facilities. The general permit will expire five years after the effective date.

### **Opportunities for tribal and local government participation in this permitting decision**

DEC recognizes rural Alaska has unique needs and considerations with regard to 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.

If you would like more information or would like to provide DEC with information about this permit, please do not hesitate to contact me at 907-465-5272 or via email: [Gina.Shirey@alaska.gov](mailto:Gina.Shirey@alaska.gov); for technical questions about the permit, you may also directly contact the permit writer, Sam Kito at (907) 907-269-7542 or via email [Sam.Kito@alaska.gov](mailto:Sam.Kito@alaska.gov).

Sincerely,

*Gina Shirey* FOR

Gina Shirey  
Local and Tribal Government Coordinator

Enclosure: Tribal Involvement in the Permitting Process postcard

cc: Potentially Affected Local Governments  
Potentially Affected Federally -recognized Indian Tribes

Tribal Involvement in the Permitting Process postcard

