

Small Drinking Water System Operator Certification Project **FY2002 Request: \$1,276,800**
Reference No: 33988

AP/AL: Appropriation **Project Type:** Health and Safety
Category: Health/Human Services
Location: Statewide **Contact:** Dan Easton
House District: Statewide (HD 1-40) **Contact Phone:** (907)465-5135
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2001 - 06/30/2006

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

Recent changes in federal law require operators of small drinking water systems to be "certified". This project takes advantage of federal grant dollars to offset costs associated with training and certification of those operators.

Funding:	<u>FY2002</u>	<u>FY2003</u>	<u>FY2004</u>	<u>FY2005</u>	<u>FY2006</u>	<u>FY2007</u>	<u>Total</u>
Fed Rcpts	\$1,276,800						\$1,276,800
Total:	\$1,276,800	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,276,800

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input type="checkbox"/> On-Going
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill	

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	0
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

This is a new appropriation.

Project Description/Justification:

This new appropriation is a result of recent changes in federal law that require operators of small drinking water systems to be "certified." The appropriation authorizes receipt of federal grant dollars available to offset costs associated with training and certifying public drinking water system operators.

Current regulations require that operators of public drinking water systems serving more than 500 people per day be "certified" by DEC. To become "certified," operators must meet a combination of education and experience requirements and pass an examination. Recent changes in federal law lower the threshold for mandatory operator certification from systems serving more than 500 people to systems serving 25 people or more. Operators of approximately 650 public drinking water systems in Alaska will need to be trained and certified to comply with federal law.

A working group has developed regulations for small system operator certification and training. The approach adopted to implement the regulations would deliver training and administer examinations to the small system operators on-site. Federal grant funds are available to pay for the training and certification costs. This appropriation would be used to contract with one or more entities to visit each facility, provide on-site training, administer an examination, and issue a certificate.