Spill Response VHF Communications Upgrade **FY2005 Request: $300,000**
Reference No: 38899

AP/AL: Appropriation **Project Type:** Health and Safety
Category: Health/Human Services
Location: Statewide **Contact:** Larry Dietrick
House District: Statewide (HD 1-40) **Contact Phone:** (907)465-5255
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2005 - 06/30/2010

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:
This project provides funding to replace an aging VHF two-way radio communications system. The system includes handheld radios, vehicle radios and repeaters in Prince William Sound and Cook Inlet that were installed in the late 80's and are nearing the end of their life expectancy. Spare parts are no longer available. This project contributes to DEC's end result of protecting the environment by making timely response and cleanup of pollution possible. As the State's primary response agency for oil and hazardous materials incidents, DEC must have a reliable communications system to ensure responders quickly deploy spill resources, mitigate environmental damage, and enhance recovery of damaged areas.

Funding:	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	Total
Oil/Haz Fd	$300,000						$300,000
Total:	$300,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$300,000

☐ State Match Required ☐ One-Time Project ☑ Phased - new ☐ Phased - underway ☐ On-Going
0% = Minimum State Match % Required ☐ Amendment ☐ Mental Health Bill

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	Amount	Staff
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:
Original appropriations for establishing emergency communication systems were as follows: FY1995 Radio Repeater Installation and Maintenance - 150.0; FY1997 Statewide Emergency Response Communication System Completion - 100.0; and FY1998 Trans Alaska Pipeline Corridor Communication System - 200.0.

Project Description/Justification:
DEC is responsible for coordinating and providing emergency response and monitoring activities involving oil and hazardous substances. The department also supports other agencies for natural and man-made disasters. These activities require the use of a communications system between the field and office for personnel conducting or monitoring the response. Communications are especially critical during the initial response to properly assess spill potential and hazard, initiate appropriate actions in a timely manner, and ensure the safety of responders.

A majority of spills reported to DEC occur in or near the major population centers of the state and along the major oil transportation corridors. DEC's VHF communications system supports responders in these high risk areas. Other areas are supported with portable VHF repeaters to provide communications on a spill by spill basis. Fixed location and portable repeaters extend the range of the handheld radios used by responders.

DEC's VHF communications system consists of:

- 17 fixed location VHF radio repeaters
- 4 portable VHF repeaters (1980's technology)
- 2 portable VHF repeater extenders
- 9 fixed location base stations or consoles
- 13 vehicle radios
- 1 Command/Communications trailer with VHF, air-to-ground, marine ban and CB radios
- 4 portable VHF base stations
- 75 hand held two way radios

Funding will allow DEC to replace old, worn out equipment with newer technology. Five of the 17 DEC fixed location repeaters are at proposed Alaska Land Mobile Radio (ALMR) system sites and will be replaced by the Department of Administration. DEC is responsible for upgrading its remaining 12 fixed location repeater sites, and will use some of this funding to replace the oldest current equipment at its Prince William Sound repeater sites. DEC will also replace portable repeaters, repeater extenders, base stations, and vehicle radios as shown below. All new equipment will be compatible with ALMR.

Item	Approx. Cost
Fairbanks Base Station Console	$5,500
Valdez Base Station Console	5,500
VEOC Base Station Console	5,500
Valdez Warehouse Console	5,500
Ellamar Repeater	37,000
Latouche Repeater	37,000
Naked Island Repeater	37,000
5 Vehicle Radios	20,000
10 Handheld Radios	36,000
Mt. Bede (or Alternate) Repeater	37,000
Ski Hill Repeater	37,000
Anchorage Base Station Console	5,500
Anchorage Warehouse Console	5,500
Kenai Base Station Console	5,500
Pipeline Hills Repeater	20,500
	$ 300,000