

State of Alaska FY2011 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Environmental Conservation Air Quality Results Delivery Unit Budget Summary

Air Quality Results Delivery Unit

Contribution to Department's Mission

To conserve, improve, and protect Alaska's natural resources and environment and control air pollution, in order to enhance the health, safety, and welfare of the people of the state and their overall economic and social well being.

Core Services

- Issue air quality permits to facilities that release potentially harmful pollutants.
- Provide compliance assistance and enforcement (inspections and operating report reviews).
- Community assistance to protect air quality.
- Air quality assessments.
- Comment on federal air quality rulemakings with Alaska's perspective.
- Develop, implement, and enforce plans to bring areas out of compliance with federal air quality standards back into compliance.

Results at a Glance

(Additional performance information is available on the web at <http://omb.alaska.gov/results.>)

END RESULT A: Air quality is protected.

- The number of days the air is unhealthy for sensitive groups remains less than two weeks a year.

Status of Strategies to Achieve End Result

- Thirty-eight air quality permits were issued in a timely manner in FY 2009, an increase in timely performance despite an almost two-fold increase in workload from two years ago.
- Two air quality permits were issued within 180 days and twenty-four were issued later than 180 days during FY 2009. 80 complete renewal applications were pending at the end of the fiscal year.
- 98% of the vehicles inspected for tailpipe emission compliance, known as the I/M program, were found in compliance in FY 2009, a 6% compliance improvement in 4 years.
- 271 out of 481 stationary sources were known to be in compliance with air quality permits in FY 2009.

Major Activities to Advance Strategies

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish and operate air monitors to ensure air quality remains healthy for the public. • Develop strategies to address particulate matter pollution problems. • Implement a Quality Management System for permit and compliance services. • Review federal rulemakings, determine impacts on Alaska, and need for comment. • Oversee the implementation of the state's motor vehicle emission inspection and maintenance program. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct compliance inspections and in-office compliance reviews. • Assist the Commissioner and the executive sub-cabinet in developing a climate change strategy. • Improve on-line permitting services and compliance reporting for external users. • Implement regulations that protect air quality and comply with federal and state requirements. |
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Key RDU Challenges

EPA revised the airborne particulate matter health standard in December 2006. Based on new medical evidence, the fine particulate standard, PM_{2.5}, was reduced to a lower, more stringent value. Air monitoring data shows that Fairbanks does not meet this more stringent health-based standard. EPA finalized the non-attainment designations for Fairbanks in 2009. The department has three years to work with the local community to develop the technical and policy information needed and finalize air quality control plans to reduce particulate levels to meet the air quality standard. In addition, EPA retained the coarse particle standard, PM₁₀, at the same exposure limit. Air monitoring in rural communities shows that several communities (Bethel, St. Mary's, Kotzebue and nearby villages) do not meet the coarse particle health standard due largely to vehicle generated dust from unpaved roads and trails. A multi-year effort will be necessary between state, local, and tribal governments to develop a suite of dust control strategies that offer workable solutions to the pollution problem.

The Air Quality Division is working cooperatively with the Municipality of Anchorage to address local desires to revise the local vehicle emission inspection and maintenance (I/M) program. Through an ordinance passed in July 2008, the Anchorage Assembly desires to retain a local I/M program but remove it from the Alaska Air Quality Control Plan, if possible. The Air Quality Division has statewide oversight of the I/M program and will be working with the community to implement this local desire in a way that meets state and federal requirements.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2011

DEC submitted an Alaska Air Quality Control Plan revision to EPA for approval. The revision would suspend the local I/M program in Fairbanks in 2010. In September 2009, EPA proposed to approve the plan and suspension of the I/M program. EPA is expected to complete its final action to allow for the program to shutdown in early 2010. The Air Quality Division will continue to monitor for carbon monoxide in Fairbanks to insure that the ambient air quality health standard is maintained as required by federal regulations.

EPA finalized several new air quality regulations and standards that will require the department to implement additional air monitoring within Alaska. During FY 2010, the Division will add ozone and lead to the pollutants included in the statewide air monitoring network.

Air permit reform that began in 2003 under HB160 was completed. We expect to maintain our progress by conducting quality management system audits and adjusting processes accordingly. Also a review and adjustment of permit administration and emission user fee rates are scheduled for FY 2011.

Major RDU Accomplishments in 2009

- Air Quality staff worked with Juneau officials to incorporate revised ordinances designed to curtail wood smoke pollutants into the State Air Quality Control Plan. As a result, the division developed technical information necessary to petition EPA to remove Juneau's proposed fine particulate matter nonattainment designation. Juneau achieved attainment status.
- Air Quality staff worked cooperatively with the military and local agencies in Fairbanks to develop and provide additional technical information to the EPA in support of a smaller non-attainment boundary for the fine particulate matter non-attainment area. EPA ultimately agreed that a smaller boundary was warranted and excluded Eielson Air Force Base from the non-attainment area.
- The Air Non-Point and Mobile Source program developed and implemented public education campaigns in rural Alaska and other fine particulate matter problem areas. The campaign was designed to educate the public about the impact of air quality on health, and actions individuals can take to protect their health and reduce air pollution.
- Air Quality staff coordinated with Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) and rural electrical utilities to develop a transition plan to meet federal ultra low sulfur diesel requirements. Alternatives to the New Source Performance Standards for diesel engines used for power generation in rural communities were identified. This plan was submitted to EPA in the fall of 2009.
- The Air Permits program issued seven major air construction permits, 147 minor permits, and eight administrative amendments for new industrial stationary sources or modifications to existing sources.
- Air Permits staff investigated 28 citizen air pollution complaints. Staff prepared 41 on-site and 68 off-site full compliance evaluations of permitted stationary sources to help operators comply with air permits. Staff resolved 72 compliance problems without the need for formal enforcement action and prepared seven notices-of-violation. The program also issued two settlement agreements and one compliance order by consent.
- Air Quality staff successfully worked to finalize an enhanced smoke management plan for planned burning in Alaska. The management plan was approved by the Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating group on June 3, 2009.
- Air Quality issued air quality advisories during volcanic activities of Mt. Redoubt, Kasatochi, Okmok, and Cleveland from March through August.

- Air Quality staff provided administrative and technical support to the Governor's Climate Change Executive Sub-cabinet and its advisory workgroups; provided facilitation assistance to the Alaska Forum for the Environment, and the 2009 Annual Tribal Conference on the Environment; and presented climate change information in a public outreach initiative.
- Air Quality enhanced its customer service to the public and industry through implementation of a web-interface that automatically posts the status of construction and minor-source permits from application stage to final issuance, including the posting of the final permit.

Contact Information
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**Air Quality
RDU Financial Summary by Component**

All dollars shown in thousands

	FY2009 Actuals				FY2010 Management Plan				FY2011 Governor			
	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds
Formula Expenditures None.												
Non-Formula Expenditures Air Quality Director	252.9	0.0	0.0	252.9	257.3	0.0	0.0	257.3	259.4	0.0	0.0	259.4
Air Quality	1,380.1	1,261.6	4,175.9	6,817.6	1,440.3	1,759.6	6,064.5	9,264.4	1,590.3	1,759.6	6,064.5	9,414.4
Totals	1,633.0	1,261.6	4,175.9	7,070.5	1,697.6	1,759.6	6,064.5	9,521.7	1,849.7	1,759.6	6,064.5	9,673.8

Air Quality
Summary of RDU Budget Changes by Component
From FY2010 Management Plan to FY2011 Governor

All dollars shown in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2010 Management Plan	1,697.6	1,759.6	6,064.5	9,521.7
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-Air Quality Director	2.1	0.0	0.0	2.1
Proposed budget increases:				
-Air Quality	150.0	0.0	0.0	150.0
FY2011 Governor	1,849.7	1,759.6	6,064.5	9,673.8