

State of Alaska FY2011 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Environmental Conservation Environmental Health Results Delivery Unit Budget Summary

Environmental Health Results Delivery Unit

Contribution to Department's Mission

Provide Alaskans with clear standards so that they can protect our environment and provide safe food and drinking water.

Core Services

- Establish clear standards and apply consistently statewide.
- Permit, inspect, monitor, certify, and provide technical assistance.
- Provide laboratory testing services and information for assessment of risks to public health and the environment.
- Enforce requirements.

Results at a Glance

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

END RESULT A: The environment is protected from solid waste and pesticide pollution.

- While 100% of Class I and Class II municipal solid waste facilities within Alaska have the required authorization from the State to operate, only 27% of Class III facilities have been authorized. The Class III level has declined from 31% in FY 2005, showing a significant area of need for increased compliance assistance.

Status of Strategies to Achieve End Result

- 55% of the non-municipal solid waste facilities were inspected by DEC in FY 2009, up 4% from the previous year.
- Repeat violators accounted for less than 3% of the pesticide enforcement actions in FY 2009.

END RESULT B: Citizens are protected from unsafe food.

- Over 1.2 million pounds of dairy, seafood and retail foods were detained in FY 2009, more than a million pound increase from FY 2008.

Status of Strategies to Achieve End Result

- Approximately 79% of inspected permitted retail food establishments were found during inspection to have staff meeting food safety training and certification requirements, up 5% from the previous year.
- 30% of permitted retail food establishments were inspected in FY 2009, down 5% from the previous year.
- 34% of food establishments and 13% of seafood processors that were inspected and permitted in FY 2009 were issued a Notice of Violation (NOV), an increase from the previous year of 21% and 8% respectively.

END RESULT C: Laboratory testing information is available for assessment of risks to public health and the environment.

- The Environmental Health Lab was successful in analyzing 98% of samples submitted in FY 2009, with those not tested being due to sample problems.

Status of Strategies to Achieve End Result

- 116,223 tests were performed by the Environmental Health Laboratory in FY 2009, an increase of 42% from the previous year.

END RESULT D: Drinking water is safe.

- 94% of the population served by public water systems in FFY 2008 was served by those in compliance with health-based standards.

Status of Strategies to Achieve End Result

- 60% of complete sets of drinking water engineering plans were reviewed within 30 days in FY 2009, an increase of less than 1% from FY 2008.
- 95% of public water systems in the state of Alaska submitted their required sanitary survey on schedule.
- The Drinking Water Program issued 27 formal enforcement actions to public water systems in FY 2009, a 50% improvement from FY 2008.

Major Activities to Advance Strategies

- Test and monitor food products for safety.
- Assist food operators to be in compliance with the Alaska Food Code.
- Provide environmental health information by conducting laboratory tests and analysis.
- Develop and maintain foreign animal disease monitoring and surveillance.
- Monitor community water systems so the public has access to safe drinking water.
- Implement solid waste regulations to eliminate roadblocks to getting Class III landfills permitted.
- Conduct compliance investigations and inspections.
- Enforce environmental health regulatory requirements.
- Investigate complaints and outbreaks.

Key RDU Challenges

The Division of Environmental Health deals with the most basic environmental health programs - food, water, and solid waste. Adequate laboratory capacity to test food, water, and soils for the presence of biological or chemical contaminants is a critical component of the state's environmental health infrastructure. Now that the new Alaska State Environmental Health Laboratory is fully functional, the challenge is to run the facility efficiently while providing essential testing needed to protect public health.

The Drinking Water program has been rapidly expanding to obtain primacy for federal safe drinking water rules from the EPA and has completely utilized existing resources. To adopt remaining rules, additional General Fund Match will be necessary. If Alaska fails to adopt all the drinking water rules, EPA will rescind primacy and withdraw significant federal funding.

Alaska's food safety system has undergone many good changes in recent years but suffers from a lack of inspections. To maintain some level of inspections at higher risk facilities we have virtually eliminated inspections at lower risk facilities. With this triage approach we are not doing an adequate job protecting public health. In FY 2009, there were 4,451 permitted permanent food establishments. During FY 2009, staff inspected 30% of those establishments. More specifically, they visited 41% of high risk retail food facilities (1,279 facilities), which is a 2% reduction from the previous year, and 28% of medium risk retail food facilities (1,267 facilities), which is a 5% reduction from the previous year.

The State Veterinarian's work has changed dramatically as the world becomes concerned about animal diseases (i.e. Avian Influenza and H1N1 Swine Flu). We also have been building expertise in food processing methods for cheese and ice cream. These are new industries for Alaska. Providing adequate oversight and appropriate laboratory testing without additional resources has been a challenge for the Division. Draft regulations are nearing completion. Assuring consumers of the safety of Alaska's wild fish resources with existing resources continues to be a difficult task. Buyers of Alaska's seafood products – be it other nations or consumers in the store – continue to ask for proof that Alaska's fish are not contaminated by pollution. As funding becomes available, the laboratory will continue to test Alaska fish and shellfish species for persistent environmental pollutants and heavy metals.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2011

None.

Major RDU Accomplishments in 2009

- The Solid Waste Program assisted with the management and disposal of flood debris in Eagle and Stevens Village following spring flooding along the Yukon River. This included authorizing an emergency one-time use landfill for disposing of flood-damaged debris and working with DNR, FEMA and the City of Eagle to select the location for the landfill.
- The Solid Waste Program issued permanent closure to 11 inactive reserve pits on the North Slope of Alaska. Inactive reserve pits are non-permitted drilling waste disposal sites remaining from oil and gas exploration and production activities that occurred prior to the 1980s.

- The Solid Waste Program worked with Waste Management, Inc. officials to respond to complaints about strong odors from the Capitol Disposal Landfill in Juneau. The installation of an active gas extraction system at the landfill has successfully controlled the problem and eliminated the complaints.
- The Pesticides Program issued a permit to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to apply a rodenticide on Rat Island in the Aleutian Chain. The project was successful in completely eradicating the non-native rat population from the island.
- The Pesticides Program issued two separate permits for the eradication of invasive northern pike in Southcentral Alaska lakes. The result of the pesticide application was the elimination of pike in these lakes, which will allow for restocking with trout.
- The Food Safety and Sanitation Program continued successful implementation of the food worker training system. DEC provides on-line food worker training and testing for food workers throughout the state. 15,441 cards were issued in 2008. In 2009, 13,380 have been issued through the end of September. Total number of cards issued to date is 53,851.
- The Food Safety and Sanitation Program participated in over 30 recall events to assess whether unsafe food was sold in Alaska. As a result, the Food Safety and Sanitation program issued 11 press releases advising consumers about recalls involving unsafe products that had been found in Alaska stores. These products were removed from store shelves. Additionally, advisories were issued for products which weren't recalled such as potentially adulterated pet food and warnings against eating untested shellfish which may be contaminated with paralytic shellfish poisoning.
- The Food Safety Program and State Veterinarian detained approximately 1,236,249 pounds of unsafe seafood and retail food as a result of inspections, testing, and recalls including locally produced smoked salmon contaminated with Listeria.
- The Food Safety Program investigated seven cases of food borne illness, including a major Campylobacteriosis outbreak in Southcentral Alaska involving 63 confirmed illnesses, which were traced back to green peas grown in Palmer, Alaska, and worked with the Alaskan cheese manufactures to resolve a major contamination problem that resulted in manufacturing modifications.
- The Food Safety Program completed 272 seafood processor inspections and 20 general food processor inspections under contract to the FDA and 9 seafood safety and quality inspections under contract to the U.S. Department of Commerce.
- The State Veterinarian performed surveillance testing for Avian Influenza at agricultural fairs (Palmer, Kenai, Fairbanks, Delta, and Kodiak) as part of the Influenza Response Plan. No Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza was identified.
- The Alaska State Environmental Health Laboratory provided hundreds of additional tests to support new cheese manufacturers including assistance getting labs located at the processors certified.
- The Drinking Water Program presented a 1.5 day training workshop on the Ground Water Rule in Anchorage, in association with the Alaska Training and Technical Assistance Center (ATTAC). This workshop was designed to provide information and to better prepare owners and operators of Alaska Public Water Systems using a ground water source for the new EPA Ground Water Rule. Ninety-four participants attended the training workshop.
- DEC coordinated and facilitated nine PWS Technical Assistance Providers (TAP) meetings in FY 2009. These meetings provided focused and intense technical assistance to the communities of Gambell, Scammon Bay, Tununak and Hydaburg. The TAP assistance process is currently being initiated for the Village of Noorvik. The meetings bring all the agencies working with the community together so that efforts can be coordinated and to

better help the community effectively stay in compliance and provide greater public health protection for their residents.

- The Drinking Water Program wrote and distributed customized annual Compliance Monitoring Summaries to 638 Community and Non-Transient, Non-Community Public Water Systems in FY 2009. These summaries are designed to notify public water systems of their monitoring requirements for microbial and chemical contaminants for the calendar year. The monitoring requirements are required by various drinking water rules to protect the health of the consumer's drinking water from public water systems.
- The Drinking Water Program formally addressed noncompliance of 206 public water systems that were on the EPA Significant Non-Compliers (SNC) List. Public water systems on this list have a history of non-compliance with the Drinking Water regulations. By the State formally addressing these systems, they are brought back into compliance with the Drinking Water regulations. Being in compliance with the Drinking Water regulations affords greater public health protection for consumers being served drinking water from a public water system.

Contact Information
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**Environmental Health
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												
Environmental Health Director	399.5	0.0	0.0	399.5	335.5	0.0	0.0	335.5	336.9	0.0	0.0	336.9
Food Safety & Sanitation	1,353.1	447.9	1,984.1	3,785.1	1,621.3	430.8	1,915.8	3,967.9	1,622.0	430.8	1,915.8	3,968.6
Laboratory Services	1,794.0	541.3	379.0	2,714.3	1,496.8	1,138.5	433.0	3,068.3	1,756.8	1,138.5	433.0	3,328.3
Drinking Water	1,815.2	3,192.3	105.8	5,113.3	1,863.7	4,249.5	0.0	6,113.2	2,163.7	4,549.5	0.0	6,713.2
Solid Waste Management	980.5	250.3	572.7	1,803.5	1,198.5	337.8	537.0	2,073.3	1,198.5	337.8	690.0	2,226.3
Totals	6,342.3	4,431.8	3,041.6	13,815.7	6,515.8	6,156.6	2,885.8	15,558.2	7,077.9	6,456.6	3,038.8	16,573.3

Environmental Health
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	6,515.8	6,156.6	2,885.8	15,558.2
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-Environmental Health Director	1.4	0.0	0.0	1.4
-Food Safety & Sanitation	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.7
Proposed budget increases:				
-Laboratory Services	260.0	0.0	0.0	260.0
-Drinking Water	300.0	300.0	0.0	600.0
-Solid Waste Management	0.0	0.0	153.0	153.0
FY2011 Governor	7,077.9	6,456.6	3,038.8	16,573.3