

# **State of Alaska FY2012 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 28% of Class III facilities have been authorized. This does not meet the target of 100%.

##### Status of Strategies to Achieve End Result

- 52% of the non-municipal solid waste facilities were inspected by DEC in FY 2010, down 3% from the previous year but still above the target.
- Repeat violators accounted for 5.13% of the pesticide enforcement actions in FY 2010, but overall violations were cut in half.

#### END RESULT B: Citizens are protected from unsafe food.

- Over 600,000 pounds of seafood and retail foods were detained in FY 2010, half of what was detained during FY 2009.

##### Status of Strategies to Achieve End Result

- Approximately 82% of inspected permitted retail food establishments were found during inspection to have staff meeting food safety training and certification requirements, up 3% from the previous year but not meeting the target of 100%.
- 26% of permitted retail food establishments were inspected in FY 2010, down 4% from the previous year and not meeting the target of 100%.
- 12% of food establishments and 7% of seafood processors that were inspected and permitted in FY 2010 were issued a Notice of Violation (NOV), a decrease from the previous year of 22% and 5% 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 96% of samples submitted in FY 2010.

##### Status of Strategies to Achieve End Result

- 67,901 tests were performed by the Environmental Health Laboratory in FY 2010, a decrease of 42% from the previous year.

#### END RESULT D: Drinking water is safe.

- 94% of the population served by public water systems in FFY 2010 was served by those in compliance with health-based standards.

##### Status of Strategies to Achieve End Result

- 57% of complete sets of drinking water engineering plans were reviewed within 30 days in FY 2010, a decrease of less than 3% from FY 2009.
- 94% of public water systems in the state of Alaska submitted their required sanitary survey on schedule.
- The Drinking Water Program issued 22 formal enforcement actions to public water systems in FY 2010, a

decrease of 8% from FY 2009.

### 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 basic environmental health programs - food, water, solid waste, animal health and public health. 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 and public health infrastructure.

The Drinking Water (DW) program continues to work towards obtaining primacy for federal safe drinking water rules from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Department received additional funding during the last legislative session to conduct the implementation, monitoring, reporting and enforcement work associated with three complex rules as well as the 1,600 sanitary surveys required to be completed every three years. These rules are on Disinfectants, Enhanced Surface Water Treatment and Ground Water. The Program did not receive additional positions as part of this increment.

Alaska's food safety system has undergone many positive changes in recent years, but still lacks the resources to complete necessary inspections of Alaska food service facilities. The Department has prioritized inspecting higher risk facilities in order to minimize risk to consumers; as a result, inspections at lower risk facilities have been virtually eliminated. Even with this triage approach, we are not doing an adequate job of protecting public health. Lack of adequate budget to conduct inspections of food establishments poses a severe threat to public health. In FY2010, there were 4,539 permitted permanent food establishments. During FY2010, staff inspected 26% of those establishments. More specifically, they visited 33% of high risk retail food facilities (1,298 facilities), which is an 8% reduction from the previous year and 28% of medium risk retail food facilities (1,266 facilities), the same inspection rate as the previous year. Low risk facilities (1,635 facilities and 340 facilities not yet ranked) are only inspected when complaints are received or if the opportunity arises when in a community.

The State Veterinarian's work has changed dramatically as climate change, global commerce, growing local agricultural markets and increased numbers of animal imports heighten the disease threat to the domestic and wild animal resources in the state. Over 70% of these animal diseases are zoonotic (i.e. Avian Influenza and H1N1 Swine Flu) and capable of infecting humans; increased worldwide attention to these diseases has drawn closer attention to the State's disease prevention and animal import regulations. The Environmental Health Laboratory is developing new technology in food processing methods for cheese and ice cream to better serve these fledgling Alaska industries. Providing adequate oversight and appropriate laboratory testing without additional resources has been a challenge for the Division. Draft regulations for cheese processing are nearing completion.

Assuring consumers of the safety of Alaska's wild fish resources continues to be a task the Alaska State Environmental Health Laboratory (ASEHL) addresses. Proof that Alaska's fish are not contaminated by pollution is requested by both domestic and international consumers, importers and exporters. Recent articles emphasize contamination of our food resources, especially fish, from environmental pollutants like mercury. Authors of these articles question the benefit of a fish diet and recommend restricted consumption. The ASEHL will continue to test Alaska fish and shellfish species for persistent environmental pollutants and heavy metals. It is important this work continues to monitor trends, to evaluate the impact of climate change on fisheries and to identify any areas of concern.

## Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2012

The Drinking Water and Solid Waste components made regulation changes to fees, resulting in an increase in General Fund Program Receipts (GFPR). These small fee increases will help cover the costs of services required by statute and regulations, thereby improving the State's ability to protect public health through immediate response to suspected waterborne disease outbreaks, investigation of contaminant level exceedances, rapid response to consumer complaints, and expedient permitting. Permitted facilities and landfills are less likely to harm the environment or impact public health. The Environmental Health Laboratory also received an increase in GFPR authority, which will provide for one new Microbiologist position to process the increasing number of samples from new geoduck farms and marine water testing.

## Major RDU Accomplishments in 2010

- The Food Safety and Sanitation (FSS) program participated in over 25 recall events to assess whether unsafe food was sold in Alaska. As a result, FSS issued 20 press releases advising consumers about recalls involving unsafe products that had been found in Alaska stores, and food inspectors worked with retail stores to ensure removal of those products from store shelves. Additionally, the program issued advisories 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 poison.
- The FSS program detained approximately 624,589 pounds of unsafe seafood and retail food as a result of inspections, testing, and recalls.
- In coordination with the Division of Public Health, the FSS program investigated five different outbreaks of food borne contamination involving 53 confirmed illnesses.
- The FSS program developed innovative approaches to enhance food safety inspections and oversight in rural Alaska. The program entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development's Division of Teaching and Learning Support to have their nutritionists assist with school lunch inspections in conjunction with FSS's field visits.
- The FSS program developed an agreement with the Southeast Regional Dive Fisheries Association (SARDFA) to enable the use of satellite transponders, provided by the Marine Exchange of Alaska, to track vessels collecting geoduck samples for paralytic shellfish poison testing. This additional remote monitoring enables the FSS program to decrease on-board monitoring by inspectors.
- The FSS program completed 272 seafood processor inspections and 20 general food processor inspections under contract to the Food and Drug Administration, as well as five seafood safety and quality inspections under contract to the U.S. Department of Commerce.
- DEC coordinated and facilitated six Prince William Sound Technical Assistance Providers Group business meetings in FY2010. 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. In addition to the six business group meetings, the Drinking Water Program staff completed 26 "one-on-one" technical and compliance assistance teleconferences and meetings with representatives from the communities of Gambell, Scammon Bay, Tununak, and Hydaburg.
- The Drinking Water Program addressed noncompliance with Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requirements and the Alaska Drinking Water Regulations, 18 AAC 80, for 175 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. Being in compliance with the Drinking Water regulations affords greater public health protection for consumers being served drinking water from an Alaska public water system.
- The Alaska State Environmental Health Laboratory (ASEHL) conducted 589 tests for Paralytic Shellfish Poison (PSP), a substantial increase due to several PSP related illnesses and one death this summer.
- The ASEHL provided on-going analytical testing for the sulfolane contamination in the North Pole ground and drinking water.

- The State Veterinarian collaborated with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to conduct surveillance for Avian Influenza in both wild and domestic bird populations in the State as part of the State Animal Disease Response Plan.
- The Office of the State Veterinarian worked with a new dairy producer in Delta Junction; as a result, a new grade "A" dairy was permitted. Alaska entrepreneurs have greatly expanded their product lines and are producing a wide variety of cheeses and frozen desserts; the program has provided consultation, technical assistance and public outreach to ensure safe products are being offered for sale to the public.
- The Solid Waste program issued permanent closure to eight 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 1980's.
- The Solid Waste program permitted five additional rural Class III landfills in FY2010. This continues the positive trend for rural outreach that the Solid Waste program staff started in FY2009.
- The Solid Waste program issued a general permit for disposing of wood waste from timber operations in Southeast Alaska. This general permit will allow for an efficient means of approval for 15 to 20 separate disposal sites over the next five years.
- 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 local species.
- The Pesticides program issued a permit to the Alaska Railroad Corporation to apply herbicide along the railroad right of way between Anchorage and Seward. Since the Corporation was transferred from Federal to State control, this is the first successful pesticide permit they have received.

Contact Information
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**Environmental Health  
RDU Financial Summary by Component**

*All dollars shown in thousands*

	FY2010 Actuals				FY2011 Management Plan				FY2012 Governor			
	UGF+DGF Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds	UGF+DGF Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds	UGF+DGF Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds
<b>Formula Expenditures</b> None.												
<b>Non-Formula Expenditures</b>												
Environmental Health Director	417.4	0.0	0.0	417.4	349.7	0.0	0.0	349.7	360.5	0.0	0.0	360.5
Food Safety & Sanitation	3,347.7	136.9	442.7	3,927.3	3,772.3	60.9	439.8	4,273.0	3,921.9	60.9	438.5	4,421.3
Laboratory Services	1,842.9	307.9	508.8	2,659.6	1,908.8	333.0	1,148.4	3,390.2	2,078.7	383.0	1,153.6	3,615.3
Drinking Water	1,821.8	96.5	3,490.1	5,408.4	2,246.1	0.0	4,606.0	6,852.1	2,387.6	0.0	4,735.1	7,122.7
Solid Waste Management	1,645.0	21.8	246.3	1,913.1	1,928.3	0.0	342.2	2,270.5	2,047.9	0.0	344.4	2,392.3
<b>Totals</b>	<b>9,074.8</b>	<b>563.1</b>	<b>4,687.9</b>	<b>14,325.8</b>	<b>10,205.2</b>	<b>393.9</b>	<b>6,536.4</b>	<b>17,135.5</b>	<b>10,796.6</b>	<b>443.9</b>	<b>6,671.6</b>	<b>17,912.1</b>

**Environmental Health**  
**Summary of RDU Budget Changes by Component**  
**From FY2011 Management Plan to FY2012 Governor**

*All dollars shown in thousands*

	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Gen (UGF)</u>	<u>Designated</u> <u>Gen (DGF)</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Federal</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
<b>FY2011 Management Plan</b>	<b>6,862.8</b>	<b>3,342.4</b>	<b>393.9</b>	<b>6,536.4</b>	<b>17,135.5</b>
<b>Adjustments which will continue current level of service:</b>					
-Environmental Health Director	10.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.8
-Food Safety & Sanitation	53.0	96.6	0.0	-1.3	148.3
-Laboratory Services	59.8	30.1	0.0	5.2	95.1
-Drinking Water	71.1	40.4	0.0	129.1	240.6
-Solid Waste Management	44.9	34.7	0.0	2.2	81.8
<b>Proposed budget increases:</b>					
-Laboratory Services	0.0	80.0	50.0	0.0	130.0
-Drinking Water	0.0	30.0	0.0	0.0	30.0
-Solid Waste Management	0.0	40.0	0.0	0.0	40.0
<b>FY2012 Governor</b>	<b>7,102.4</b>	<b>3,694.2</b>	<b>443.9</b>	<b>6,671.6</b>	<b>17,912.1</b>