State of Alaska
FY2014 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.

Results

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

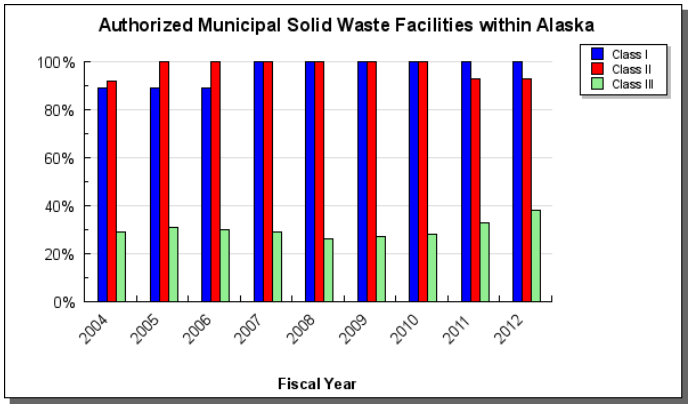
Core Services

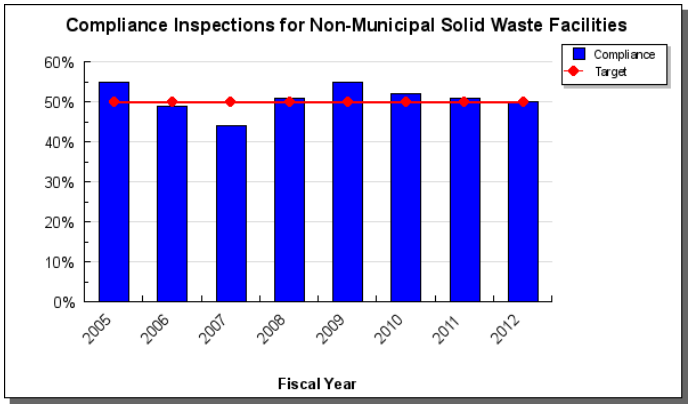
- Achieve environmental protection by requiring appropriate management of Alaska's landfills and safe pesticide use.
- Protect public health with regulated food, seafood, and public facilities.
- Provide laboratory testing services, analytical and technical information for assessment of risks to public health, welfare, and the environment.
- Verify safe drinking water and compliance with Safe Drinking Water Act requirements.

Measures by Core Service

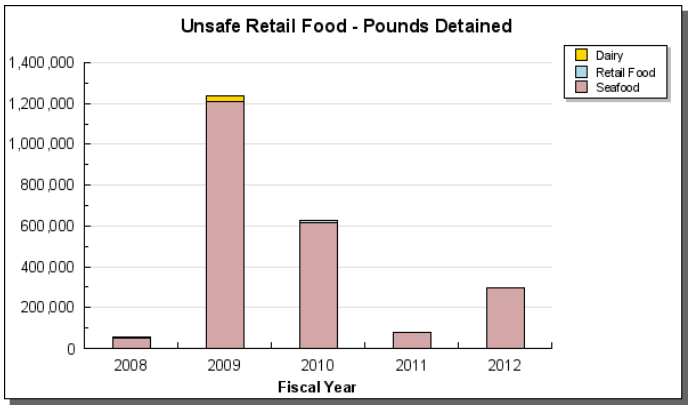
(Additional performance information is available on the web at http://omb.alaska.gov/results.)

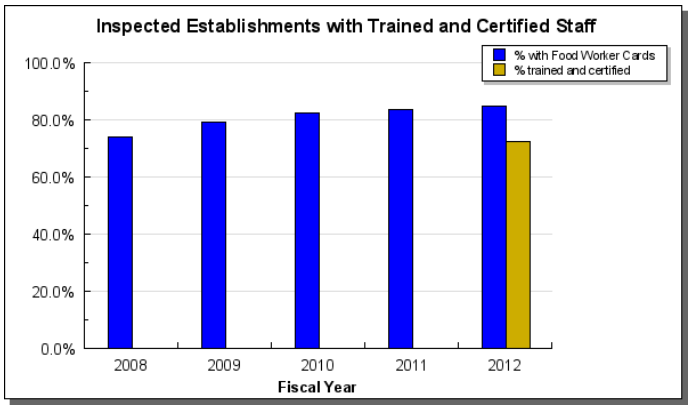
1. Achieve environmental protection by requiring appropriate management of Alaska's landfills and safe pesticide use.

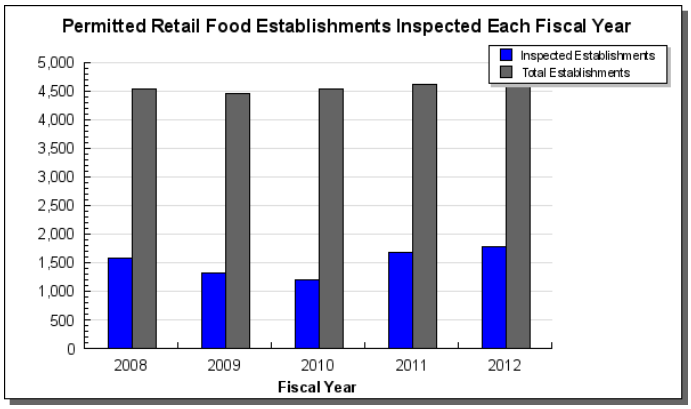


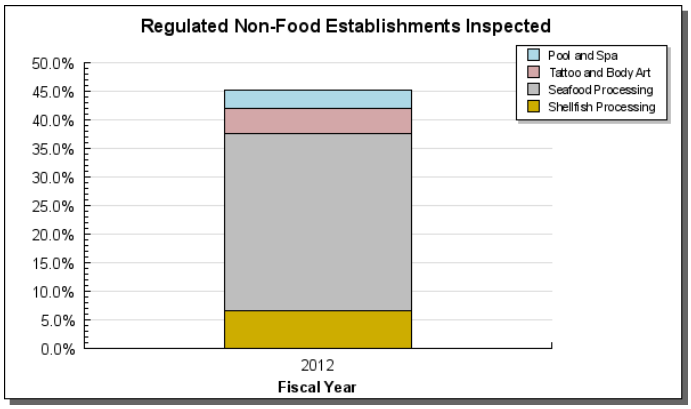


2. Protect public health with regulated food, seafood, and public facilities.

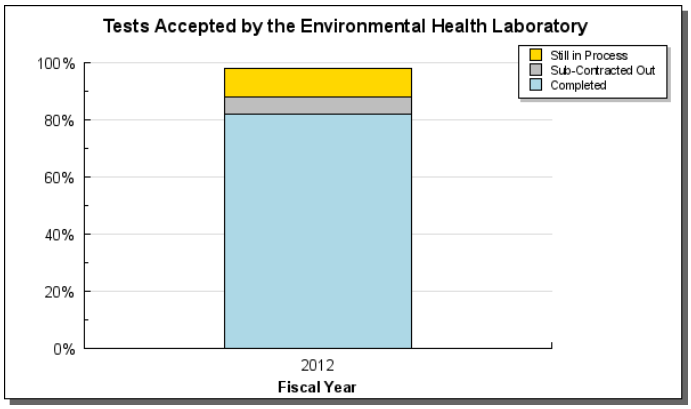


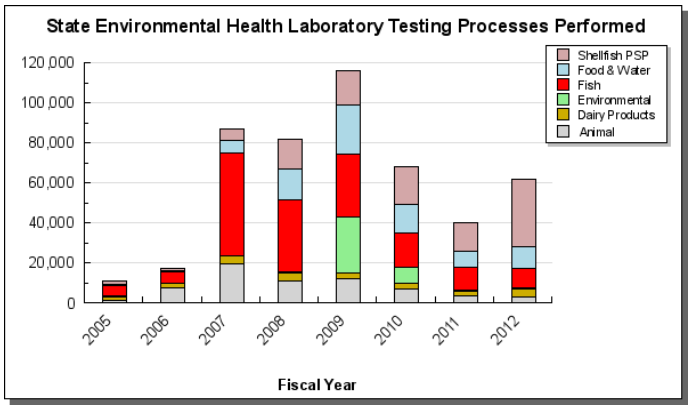


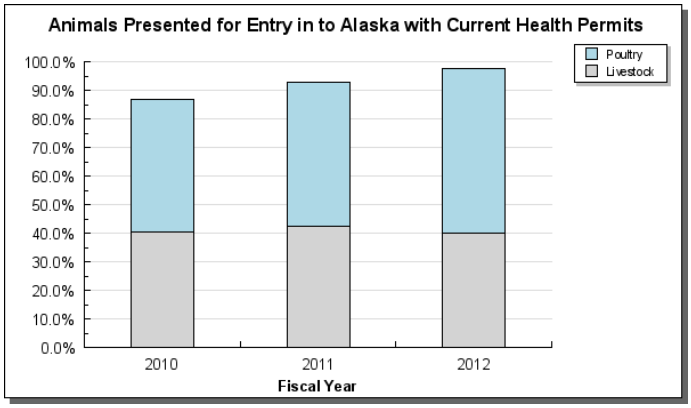




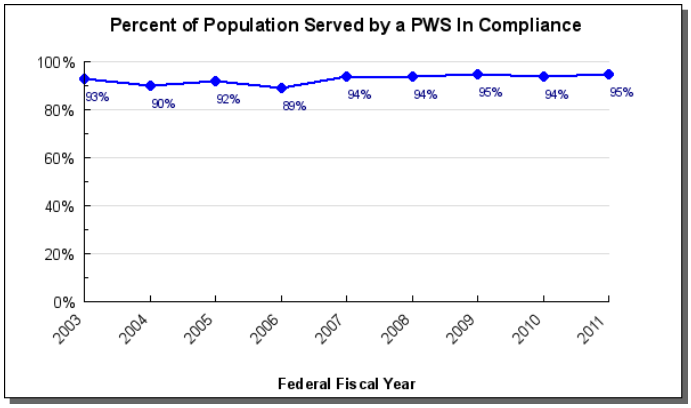
3. Provide laboratory testing services, analytical and technical information for assessment of risks to public health, welfare, and the environment.

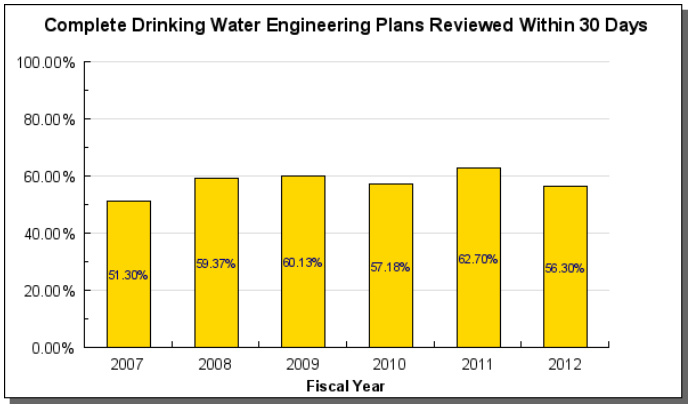


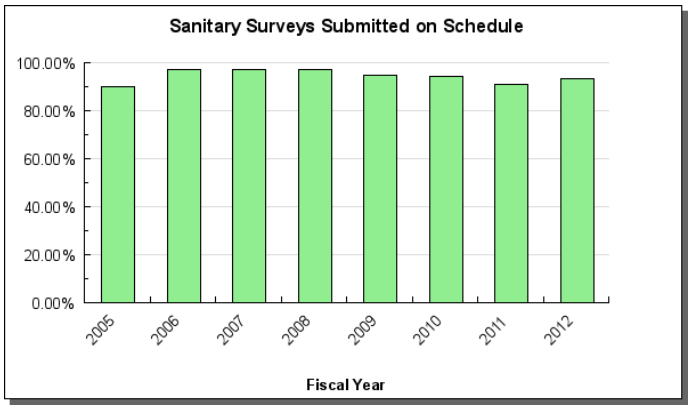


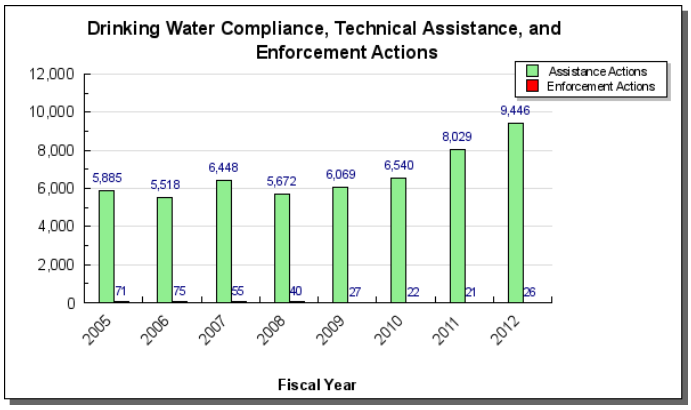


4. Verify safe drinking water and compliance with Safe Drinking Water Act requirements.









Major RDU Accomplishments in 2012

- The Food Safety and Sanitation (FSS) Program participated in numerous recall events assessing whether unsafe foods were sold in Alaska. As a result, the Program issued 44 press releases in FY2012 advising consumers about recalls involving unsafe products that had been found in Alaska stores, and worked with distributors and retail stores to ensure removal of those products. Additionally, the Program issued public health advisories, such as warnings against eating untested shellfish that may have been contaminated with Paralytic Shellfish Poison (PSP).
- The FSS Program continued successful implementation of the food worker training system. The Department provides online food worker training and testing for food workers throughout the state. Inspection staff have found that approximately 73% of permitted facilities have employees who meet food safety training and certification requirements and 85% of permitted facilities have food workers with food worker cards.
- The FSS Program implemented revisions to the Alaska Food Code (18 AAC 31) to exempt several low-risk activities, such as home baking of dry goods, small public events, and child care centers that serve snacks, from some requirements.
- The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)-funded contract for a statewide review and documentation of Alaska public water system (PWS) Construction and Operation Approvals was completed. The Regulatory Engineering project, a significant project to provide clarity to the restructure of the Drinking Water regulations (18 AAC 80), and help PWS owners and consulting engineers best determine treatment options for water systems, was extended until September 2013.
- The Drinking Water (DW) Program wrote and distributed customized annual Compliance Monitoring Summaries to 690 community and non-transient non-community public water systems in FY2012. These summaries notify and inform 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 PWS.
- DW Program staff in the Fairbanks and Anchorage offices responded to general flooding along the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers, as well emergencies associated with the extreme storms along the Northwest Alaskan coast.
- The DW Program addressed noncompliance with Safe Drinking Water Act requirements and the Alaska Drinking Water regulations (18 AAC 80) for 132 PWS that were on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Significant Non-Compliers (SNC) List (now referred to as the Enforcement Targeting Tool (ETT) List). Public water systems on this list have a history of non-compliance with the DW regulations; by addressing these systems, they are brought back into compliance with the DW regulations. Being in compliance with the DW regulations affords greater public health protection for consumers' drinking water from an Alaska PWS.
- The Alaska State Environmental Health Laboratory (ASEHL) passed proficiency tests to maintain certifications as an official testing laboratory for dairy, shellfish analysis, food microbiology, drinking water, Equine Infectious Anemia, and brucellosis.
- The ASEHL provided technical support in creating, awarding, and implementing the Recreational Shellfish

Beach Monitoring Pilot Program for PSP.

- The ASEHL certified 16 new private laboratories to test drinking water and contaminated site samples.
- The Office of the State Veterinarian (OSV) performed surveillance testing for Avian Influenza, Johne's Disease, Scrapie, Chronic Wasting Disease, brucellosis, and tuberculosis upon request from livestock producers and during visits to agricultural fairs (Palmer, Kenai, Fairbanks, Delta Junction, and Kodiak) as part of the State Animal Disease Response Plan.
- The OSV provided hundreds of additional tests to support new cheese and frozen dessert manufacturers. Alaska entrepreneurs have greatly expanded their food product lines and are producing a wide variety of cheeses and frozen desserts; the Division has provided consultation, technical assistance, and public outreach to ensure safe food products are being offered for sale to the public.
- The Solid Waste (SW) Program authorized permanent closure of two inactive reserve pits on the North Slope of Alaska. Inactive reserve pits are non-permitted drilling waste disposal sites left behind from oil and gas exploration and production activities that occurred prior to 1980.
- The SW Program increased the percentage of permitted Class III landfills to 38%. This is an improvement from 33% in FY2011 and 28% in FY2010. This positive trend is a result of increased rural outreach that the Solid Waste Program initiated in FY2009.
- SW Program staff instructed or presented at 11 separate rural landfill management training sessions.
- The SW Program inspected 38 Class III landfills in FY2012, which is the largest number of inspections of rural landfills that the program has accomplished in one year, and is an increase over the 34 Class III landfill inspections in FY2011.
- The Pesticide Program continued efforts to increase its presence in underserved and more remote areas of Alaska by performing inspections in communities that have not recently been inspected, including Nome, Dutch Harbor, Bethel, and Little Diomede. The program also visited Anchor Point and Talkeetna, performing agriculture use inspections and providing technical assistance regarding the pesticide Worker Protection Standard to protect the health of farm workers.

Key RDU Challenges

The Division of Environmental Health manages basic environmental health areas, including 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.

Alaska has primacy for all the currently finalized and promulgated federal drinking water rules; there are currently over 19 federal rules with amendments, revisions, and clarifications which impact Alaska's approximately 1,550 PWS. The DW Program is implementing several complex new federal rules, notably the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2), the Stage 2 Disinfectants/Disinfection By-products Rule (Stage 2), and the Ground Water Rule. The DW Program must complete revisions of the DW regulations (18 AAC 80) and the reorganization of Articles 2 (Engineering section) and 6 (Surface Water Treatment section) to keep pace with these new federal drinking water rules. This reorganization will clarify implementation options and appropriate treatment technologies for the new, and complex, federal surface water rules. The necessary DW regulations changes will also clarify the design engineer's role and responsibility in the requirements to obtain Approval to Construct and Approval to Operate certificates for public water systems.

Alaska's food safety system has undergone many positive changes in recent years, but continues to lack the resources to complete necessary inspections of regulated facilities. The Department has prioritized the inspection of higher risk facilities in order to minimize risk to consumers. As a result, inspections at lower risk facilities have been nearly eliminated. High risk food facilities include food processors, full-service restaurants, labor camps, and food service at hospitals and nursing homes. Medium risk facilities include schools that reheat already-prepared food and retail food store operations. Low risk facilities include warehouses, hot dog carts, and convenience stores.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recommends that high risk retail food facilities be inspected three times per year (4,395 inspections in Alaska annually). For medium risk facilities, the recommendation is two times each year

(2,700 annual inspections) and for low risk, one inspection each year (1,811 annual inspections). Overall, while the 1,788 retail food inspections that the Department conducted in FY2012 represented an increase over the previous year, the number was still far below the 8,906 recommended by the FDA.

The ASEHL is meeting the challenge to develop new validated testing methods using current technologies. We continue to work with the Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometer (ICP/MS) that detects total metals and methyl mercury at very low levels. The Division has procured the Ultra-high Performance Liquid Chromatography (UPLC) equipment, used for testing marine toxins at concentrations 100 times more sensitive than the conventional instrumentation currently in use, but we are still in the process of validating and implementing it. It is anticipated that this instrument could replace the mouse bioassay for PSP in shellfish once it is validated and compliance samples are run. The Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) that was signed into law in January 2011 adds more stringently defined quality programs and a laboratory accreditation process for labs supporting food processing industries. The ASEHL is working to meet these requirements, as well as improve compliance with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP), which requires outreach to increase data integrity and permit compliance.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2014

New federal drinking water rules, including the Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act and the Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCT), will become effective in next year. Alaska must be ready to adopt these regulatory requirements to retain primacy over implementation of the rules; the Department has requested an increment to fund the monitoring, reporting, and enforcement required by these adoptions. Several other new rules, which cover perchlorate maximum contaminant levels (MCL), hexavalent chromium MCL, and additional volatile organic chemicals (VOCs) MCLs, are expected within the next few years. These new rules will have additional monitoring, reporting, and treatment requirements for Alaska PWS, engineering plan review requirements, and both compliance and enforcement requirements for the Alaska DW Program.

Contact Information

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Environmental Health
RDU Financial Summary by Component

All dollars shown in thousands

	FY2012 Actuals				FY2013 Management Plan				FY2014 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
Formula Expenditures												
None.												
Non-Formula Expenditures												
Environmental Health Director	404.2	0.0	0.0	404.2	436.3	0.0	0.0	436.3	436.6	0.0	0.0	436.6
Food Safety & Sanitation	3,852.0	72.4	509.4	4,433.8	4,141.3	62.7	497.3	4,701.3	4,141.3	62.7	497.3	4,701.3
Laboratory Services	2,081.8	378.9	751.0	3,211.7	3,316.2	237.3	818.9	4,372.4	2,916.5	237.3	1,118.9	4,272.7
Drinking Water	2,314.3	302.9	4,146.5	6,763.7	2,441.5	0.0	4,844.3	7,285.8	2,791.6	0.0	4,844.3	7,635.9
Solid Waste Management	1,684.0	296.8	270.6	2,251.4	2,007.5	0.0	301.3	2,308.8	2,007.5	0.0	301.3	2,308.8
Totals	**10,336.3**	**1,051.0**	**5,677.5**	**17,064.8**	**12,342.8**	**300.0**	**6,461.8**	**19,104.6**	**12,293.5**	**300.0**	**6,761.8**	**19,355.3**

Environmental Health
Summary of RDU Budget Changes by Component
From FY2013 Management Plan to FY2014 Governor

All dollars shown in thousands

	Unrestricted Gen (UGF)	Designated Gen (DGF)	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds
FY2013 Management Plan	**8,607.9**	**3,734.9**	**300.0**	**6,461.8**	**19,104.6**
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:					
-Environmental Health Director	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3
-Laboratory Services	-399.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	-399.7
-Drinking Water	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Proposed budget increases:					
-Laboratory Services	0.0	0.0	0.0	300.0	300.0
-Drinking Water	350.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	350.0
FY2014 Governor	**8,558.6**	**3,734.9**	**300.0**	**6,761.8**	**19,355.3**