

**Home Heating Oil Tank Spill Assistance Pilot Project**

**FY2019 Request: \$300,000**  
**Reference No: 61864**

**AP/AL:** Appropriation  
**Category:** Health/Human Services  
**Location:** Statewide  
**Impact House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)  
**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2018 - 06/30/2023

**Project Type:** Life / Health / Safety  
**House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)  
**Contact:** Kristin Ryan  
**Contact Phone:** (907)269-7604

**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

Releases from home heating oil tanks can pose a risk to the health and safety of Alaskans through potential impacts to drinking water sources or harmful vapor migration into homes. Over the long term, releases that are not properly cleaned up can present barriers for future real estate transactions or development of the site. The Division of Spill Prevention and Response proposes a pilot program to assist residential responsible parties in responding to home heating oil releases which can be costly to clean up, leading to financial hardship and inability to respond.

<b>Funding:</b>	<u>FY2019</u>	<u>FY2020</u>	<u>FY2021</u>	<u>FY2022</u>	<u>FY2023</u>	<u>FY2024</u>	<u>Total</u>
1052 Oil/Haz Fd	\$300,000						\$300,000
<b>Total:</b>	\$300,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$300,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input type="checkbox"/> On-Going
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill	

**Operating & Maintenance Costs:**

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	0
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Prior Funding History / Additional Information:**

**Project Description/Justification:**

Releases from home heating oil tanks are extremely difficult to investigate and cleanup under the current regulatory framework, which more succinctly addresses larger sites and fully capable responsible parties. Provided they have the financial capacity to respond, property owners who experience a release from a home heating oil tank typically incur significant upfront cost in responding to the initial release. Responsible parties in these situations often do not respond to the release because of the high cost of investigation and cleanup.

The regulatory requirements for the level of cleanup is high, and Alaska statute requires the Department of Environmental Conservation recover the cost to the state of the investigation and oversight of the cleanup of spills. As a result, many releases from home heating oil tanks are not cleaned up in a timely manner and become contaminated sites that can languish for years. Under this pilot project, funds would be used to mitigate the human health and environmental risks related to unresolved and high-risk home heating oil tank releases.

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It is most efficient and protective to clean up spills soon after they occur, rather than years later. Current statutes and regulations, including the cost of state oversight that results, do not incentivize residential responsible parties to report spills. Providing an incentive to promote reporting will likely result in more sites being reported and cleaned up. The primary aim of this project is to address these widespread issues in a productive way for Alaskans and the environment.

This project contributes to meeting the department's performance measure to protect public health and the environment by identifying, overseeing and conducting the cleanup and management of contaminated sites.