

Develop Application to Meet EPA eReporting Rule**FY2021 Request: \$1,000,000****Reference No: 62910****AP/AL:** Appropriation**Project Type:** Information Technology /
Systems / Communication**Category:** Health/Human Services**Location:** Statewide**House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)**Impact House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)**Contact:** Amber LeBlanc**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2020 - 06/30/2025**Contact Phone:** (907)465-6594**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

Provides federal authority for the Division of Water to develop an application that complies with federal eReporting rules, as well as combines and modernizes the 10 unique applications that are currently used for tracking and reporting on the status of wastewater permits.

Funding:	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	Total
1002 Fed Rcpts	\$1,000,000						\$1,000,000
Total:	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,000,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input 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:	1,000,000	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	
Totals:	1,000,000	0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:**Project Description/Justification:**

The Department of Environmental Conservation is required to follow the eReporting rule, which replaces most paper-based Clean Water Act, National Pollutant Discharge and Elimination System (NPDES) permitting and compliance monitoring reporting requirements with electronic reporting. The eReporting rule states that any compliance report submissions required from permitted facilities under the terms of their NPDES permit, along with general permit coverage applications, must be accepted electronically from regulated facilities and reported to the EPA Integrated Compliance Information System or ICIS-NPDES system. The department has delegated authority from EPA to implement the NPDES program in Alaska as the Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (APDES) Program and as such, requires data systems that comply with the eReporting rule for APDES permit application and compliance information.

The department maintains 10 unique applications used in the various aspects of tracking and reporting on the status of wastewater permits, including documenting inspections, compliance test results submitted by permittees, enforcement actions, and an online permit application. This leads to inefficiencies from duplicative data entry as these systems, for the most part, do not interact with each other, which also poses a risk for error if information doesn't match across systems.

In 2018, a scoping assessment project identified the needs and developed a plan for future information systems investments to enable the department to meet the requirements of the eReporting rule, as well as to provide comprehensive support for the wastewater permitting, compliance, and enforcement programs, replacing the existing 10 applications. There is opportunity to expand the scope to meet other program needs not currently met in the existing applications, such as tracking cruise ships' scheduled visits to Alaska in conjunction with each ship's permit. Reducing the number of applications also frees up resources in the development team to work on other priority issues, and may reduce staffing needs over the long term.

A modernized data management system addresses the urgent need for a modern system that allows the department to efficiently and transparently carry out its mission of environmental stewardship. Existing federal grant funds are available to be used towards this project.