

JAY S. HAMMOND, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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March 15, 1982

Mr. Richard H. Sims, Chairman
Water Resources Board
Department of Natural Resources
Division of Land and Water Mgmt.
Pouch 7-005
Anchorage, AK 99510

Dear Dick:

Thank you for your analysis and suggestions regarding coordination of the DGGs water data collection program with the needs of DOT/PF's capital improvement projects.

A mechanism for coordination does exist through a memorandum of agreement between DGGs and the USGS Water Resources Division. Traditionally, the USGS has provided the information to DOT/PF on request. By tying the USGS and DGGs together into a single program, DGGs automatically becomes aware of the water data information need of DOT/PF.

Your suggestion that DGGs analyze on an annual basis the capital improvement projects has considerable merit, and I have requested Ross Schaff, State Geologist, to discuss with DOT/PF how this can be accomplished.

Thank you again for apprising me of your concerns, and for your constructive suggestions.

Sincerely,



John W. Katz
Commissioner

cc: Ross Schaff

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
between
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY,
AND
STATE OF ALASKA,
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES,
DIVISION OF GEOLOGICAL AND GEOPHYSICAL SURVEYS
FOR
ALASKA WATER RESOURCE EVALUATION PROGRAM

I. Purpose:

It is the purpose of this memorandum of agreement to outline mutual responsibilities and obligations of the State Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys and the U.S. Geological Survey (DGGS and USGS) in matters related to the collection and analysis of Alaska water resource information.

II. Background:

There is a need to establish in principle and in practice a comprehensive Alaska Water Resource Evaluation Program which coordinates water-data collection activities of various government agencies.

The USGS and DGGS are the principal State and Federal agencies involved in water data collection and analysis.

The U.S. Geological Survey Water, Resources Division, (USGS-WRD) Alaska District, has authority for water data collection and analysis for the Federal Government. It has a long record of performance in Alaska and has served as the primary water data collection agency for federal, state, and local governments. Although other federal agencies collect water data, the USGS-WRD has coordinating responsibility under authority of OMB Circular A-67 over these agencies.

The Department of Natural Resources has management authority for Alaska's water resources. The Division of Geological

and Geophysical Surveys (DGGS) has statutory authority for water data collection statewide (AS41.08) and serves as a coordinator of water-data collection by state agencies. DGGS also collects water data commonly under joint funding agreements with the USGS WRD on a matching or direct contract agreement.

III. Agreements:

The parties herein, therefore, agree to the following.

1. Jointly prepare within 90 days of the signing of this document a 5 year statewide water resource evaluation program plan for the State of Alaska. This 5 year plan will be reviewed and updated on or before September 30 of each year.
2. Present the Alaska Water Resource Evaluation program plan to the Alaska Water Resources Board and solicit their support and formal commitment to the program.
3. Cooperate in the coordination of the various local, state and federal agencies involved in water data collection.
4. Ensure, within time and funding available, that the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Water Management, has water resource information available to it sufficient to manage Alaska's water resources.
5. Develop a system of routine needs analysis of various state, federal and public water information users.
6. Determine the suitability of existing data storage and retrieval systems for statewide water information dissemination and decide on a mutually compatible system within 6 months after the signing of this Agreement.
7. Where and when possible cooperatively fund water resource projects utilizing State and Federal dollars which have been allocated to each agency.
8. Plan together the allocation of Joint DGGS and USGS funds for water resource evaluation on a project by project basis by September 30 of each year. The project description, objectives, products and costs will be approved by the Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources and the U. S. Geological Survey.

9. Implement water resource evaluation projects in a cost saving manner by coordinating field work, sharing equipment, and publishing results.
10. The maps, records or reports resulting from this program shall be made available to the public as promptly as possible. The maps, records or reports may be published by either the USGS-WRD or by DGGs as mutually agreed upon. The maps, records or reports published by either party shall contain a statement of the cooperative relations between the parties.
11. Participate jointly in informing the public on technical matters related to water resources of the State.

V. General Provisions:

1. Direct contacts between USGS-WRD or DGGs and other Federal, State and local agencies are in no way limited by this agreement. Such contacts are encouraged to promote more effective communication and coordination.
2. Nothing herein will be construed as obligating USGS or DGGs to violate any laws or regulations.
3. No member of, or delegate to, Congress or resident Commissioner shall be admitted to any share or part share of the Agreement, or to any benefit that may arise therefrom.
4. This Memorandum of Agreement will become effective on the date of the last signature. This agreement may be modified at anytime upon joint approval, will be reviewed annually to assure adequacy and may be terminated by either agency upon 90 days written notice.

THIS AGREEMENT WAS REVIEWED AND REAFFIRMED BY THE PARTIES SHOWN BELOW:

Ross Schaff
Director and State Geologist
Division of Geological &
Geophysical Surveys
Department of Natural Resources
State of Alaska

BY:

DATE:

John H. Schaff
November 2, 1981

Philip Emery
District Chief
Water Resources Division
U S Geological Survey
U S Department of Interior

BY:

DATE:

Philip A. Emery
Oct. 29, 1981

John Katz, Commissioner, State of Alaska, Department of
Natural Resources

BY:

DATE:

John W. Katz
Nov 15, 81