

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

JAY S. HAMMOND, GOVERNOR

POUCH 0 - JUNEAU 99811

December 8, 1978

Alaska Water Resources Board
ATTN: Richard Simms, Chairman

Dear Chairman Simms:

Your participation in the revision of Alaska's Water Quality Standards has been most helpful and appreciated. As a result of discussions with you and other members of the public, we have become exceedingly aware of people's concerns. We have tried diligently to incorporate those concerns and suggestions into the regulations, wherever appropriate, while still ensuring protection for beneficial uses of the water. Also, I hope that our lengthy discussions have given you a better appreciation of how the Water Quality Standards can be used to protect the quality of Alaska's waters and still allow necessary economic and social growth for Alaska.

The revised regulations are in the final stages of in-house review and editing. We expect to send them to the Lt. Governor's office for filing within the next couple of weeks. Thirty days after filing they will be in effect. Many changes have been made to clarify and improve the readability of the regulations since we last discussed them. In addition, a variance provision was included to allow for short term excursions from the standards in certain instances. Also a provision has been added on enforcement discretion to clarify that the department will consider wastewater disposal permit status, compliance with engineering plans and compliance with best management practices before deciding to take enforcement action on violations of the Water Quality Standards.

Enclosed are a latest draft of the regulations, a preliminary response to comments paper which discusses the more significant modifications made in the regulations, and a short summary of the regulations for your information.

Chairman Simms


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As soon as the regulations are completed and sent to the Lt. Governor's office each of you will receive a final copy including a final response to comments paper.

Thank you again for your exceptional interest and help in this process.

Sincerely,



Jonathan W. Scribner
Director
Division of Water Programs

Enclosures

cc: Members of Water Resources Board
: Brent Petrie