

DIVISION OF WATER FY95 OPTION 2

This option assumes that the Division of Water will merge with the Division of Mining. The merge results in necessary funding of the Director's position and support from other sources. This option assumes funds which would have supported the directors office would be used for the purposes they were originally intended.

Staffing under Option 2:

- * Lay off 1 Hydro II in Anchorage (PFT)
- * fill vacant positions
 - 1 Hydro II in Fairbanks (PFT)
 - 1 NRT I/II in Fairbanks
 - *1 NRT I/II in Anchorage (PFT) if GF/PR are available
 - *1 DPC II in Anchorage (PPT) if GF/PR are available
- * Possible sharing of positions with Mining

Changes in Service:

The loss of Division status will hinder the ability to work as equals in water management on a state and federal level. The Director has done an outstanding job bring water as a resource to the attention of the people of the state and other resource agencies. As a water spokes person with no ties to other divisions and their conflicts and problems the Division of Water received the attention it has needed to gain the respect of other agencies and local governments. Losing the Division of Water will harm the reputation of State water management.

Due to general fund reductions of \$101.1k in FY95 the Division will fill only one of two approved NRT I/II positions unless program receipts exceed expectations. This results in one additional adjudicator in the Northern Region and will enhance the Northern Regions ability to react to new and backlogged water rights applications and temporary water use permits. It also allows the Fairbanks office to work on their backlog of expired permits related to mining and other development projects. Two adjudicators in Fairbanks means the public is more likely to receive assistance when needed as both office and field presence will be enhanced. The Hydro. II position in Fairbanks will also be filled under this option. This hydrologist will continue work on existing projects in the Northern Region (Healy Coal Mine, Minnie Street groundwater contamination, Fish Creek hydrology, placer mining TMDL) and other project that require hydrologic evaluation. The hydrologist will assist water right adjudicators in evaluation of effects of appropriation requests on prior water right holders and the environment.

The positive results in the Norther Region will be balanced by negative results of budget cuts in the Southcentral Region. The NRT I/II will not be fill in the Anchorage office unless program receipts exceed expectations. Staff will be held at status quo and the water rights backlog will likely be maintained or increased depending on the amount of development activity in the region. Water rights applications could be backlogged for a year or longer under current budget levels. General fund cuts reduces travel and contractual budgets resulting in minimum field presence. In addition the DPC II position in Anchorage will not be filled unless program receipts exceed expectations, resulting in backlogs of water management and hydrologic data entry into several important data base systems used by DOW, other state agencies, the private sector and the public. Current accurate data is important to good water resource management and decision making.

The Southcentral Office will also be forced to layoff a Hydro. II position (currently filled). This is the only hydrologist on staff with specific expertise in groundwater hydrology. In a region as dependent on groundwater as Southcentral Alaska, this represents a loss of ability within DNR to respond to and manage this critical resource.

The FY95 budget authorized cut an additional \$121.9 in GF/PR based on the total PR received in FY93. It is anticipated that DOW will be required to request from LB&A authorization to collect and spend PR in excess of FY95 authorized.

75.2K of the GF reduction was taken in personnel services. 26.1K in GF and 121.9K in GF/PR was taken in 200-500 line items. This results in a major cut to our travel, contractual, and supply funds available in FY95. I have spoken with Kerwin Krause and there may be ways to combine expenses (Travel and Trucks).