



# Department of Environmental Conservation

**Resource Development Council**

**Jason Brune, Commissioner**

**March 21, 2019**



WRONG MINE  
WRONG PLACE  
WRONG MAN

# SAY NO TO JASON BRUNE



Jason Brune, Commissioner designee for the Department of Conservation, speaks to the House Resources Committee at the Capitol on Friday, March 14, 2019. (Michael Penn | Juneau Empire)

Like 'Willie Nelson  
regulating pot?' Public  
skeptical of  
commissioner's Pebble  
past



You Are Here: [DEC / Commish / Cannabis Industry Info](#)

## CANNABIS INDUSTRY INFO

The Cannabis industry is a new and developing industry in Alaska. A number of programs at the Department of Environmental Conservation have requirements or guidance relevant to Alaska's Cannabis industry. Below are links to information intended to assist Cannabis businesses in navigating the department's environmental and public health requirements.



# DEC's Mission

Conserving, improving, and protecting Alaska's natural resources and environment to enhance the health, safety, economic, and social well-being of Alaskans.



# How is DEC Organized?



# What does DEC do?

## AIR QUALITY



Air Compliance  
Air Non-point & Mobile Sources  
Air Permit  
Monitoring & Quality Assurance

## SPILL PREVENTION & RESPONSE



Contaminated Sites  
Prevention, Preparedness & Response  
Response Fund Administration

## WATER QUALITY



Village Safe Water  
State Revolving Fund  
Technical Assistance & Financing  
Compliance  
Cruise Ships  
Wastewater Discharge Authorization  
Water Quality Standards, Assessment and Restoration

## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH



Drinking Water  
Food Safety & Sanitation  
Laboratory Services  
Pesticides  
Solid Waste  
State Veterinarian



# “ALASKA IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS”

- Protection of human health and the environment and resource extraction are NOT mutually exclusive
- Predictable, science-based, timely permitting process
- Strong partnerships with local and tribal governments, ANCs, businesses, and other organizations

# Proving It



Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation  
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

Search DEC



You Are Here: [DEC](#) / [Commish](#) / [Press-Releases](#) / [EPA Toxics Release Inventory Not A Reflection Of Risk](#)

## EPA TOXICS RELEASE INVENTORY NOT A REFLECTION OF RISK

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—March 5, 2019

MEDIA CONTACT: [Laura Achee](#), 907-465-5009

ANCHORAGE, AK—Today's release of the annual Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) National Analysis for 2017 by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency provides an inaccurate picture of the chemical releases into Alaska's environment. Substances are placed on the TRI list based on their potential to cause adverse effects to human health or the environment. However, it is important to note that the TRI data alone do not reflect actual exposures or risk posed by releases, since almost all of the releases are regulated under permit conditions designed to limit human and environmental exposure.

"Nearly all of the reported releases in Alaska consist of rock and low-grade mineral ore that are disposed of in state-permitted and monitored disposal sites, engineered to prevent harm to the environment and human health," said Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Jason Brune. "Big mines like Red Dog move a significant amount of material as part of their daily operations, but such actions do not adversely impact human health and the environment. Characterizing such releases as toxic is disingenuous at best."

Since 1998, when metal mining was added to the TRI, over 99 percent of Alaska's reported releases have consisted of naturally occurring trace minerals found in rock and low-grade mineral ore excavated from mine sites. Much of the reportable mineral content is stable and non-reactive or safely bound in the host rock. For releases from all industries other than those characterized from the movement of rock and low-grade mineral ore in metal mining, Alaska ranks amongst the lowest in the nation.

[2017 TRI analysis and TRI Web-based tools](#)





# Regulation Reform

- Governor tasked each department with reviewing regs
  - Over 100 identified for elimination/significant reform (nearly half from DEC)
    - One example that will undergo significant reform: C Plans
      - Nearly 50 pages of regs need to, and can be simplified.
  - We need your help to make Alaska open for business!



# Legislative Update

- SB 51 Tier 3
- SB 70 Repeal Ocean Ranger Program
- Budget



# DEC Budget

- Repeal Ocean Ranger Program (-\$3,426.0 Other)
- Withdraw Funding for Dairy Regulation (-\$179.6 GF & -1 FTE)
- Remove Economist Position (-\$124.3 GF & -1 FTE)
- Statewide Support – Executive Branch 50% Travel Reduction (-\$165.7 GF)



# Governor's Roadshow: Statewide Discussion of a Permanent Fiscal Plan

Governor Mike Dunleavy  
Donna Arduin, OMB Director  
Kevin Clarkson, AG  
Bruce Tangeman, Revenue

- **Locations and Times:**  
**Monday, March 25:**  
The Cannery Lodge  
2101 Bowpicker Ln. #13, Kenai  
6:00 – 8:00 PM (doors open at 5:30)
- **Tuesday, March 26:**  
49<sup>th</sup> State Brewing Co  
717 West 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Anchorage  
6:00 – 8:00 PM (doors open at 5:30)
- **Wednesday, March 27:**  
Old St. Joe's Civic Center  
407 Bering St., Nome  
4:30 – 6:30 PM (doors open at 4:00)
- **Thursday, March 28:**  
Westmark Fairbanks Hotel &  
Conference Center  
813 Noble St., Fairbanks  
6:00 – 8:00 PM (doors open at 5:30)
- **Friday, March 29:**  
Mat Su Resort  
1850 East Bogard Rd., Wasilla  
6:00 – 8:00 PM (doors open at 5:30)



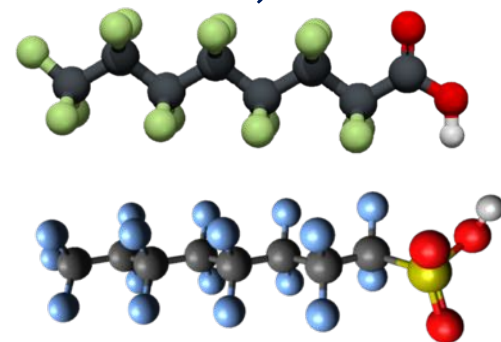
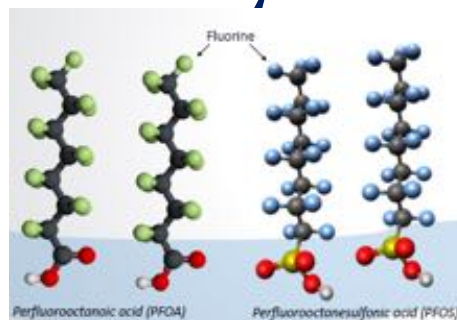
# Major Issues facing DEC: PM 2.5

- Air quality in Fairbanks
  - Fairbanks voters passed initiative in October, 2018 removing FNSB's authority to regulate wood stoves and other wood/coal fired heating devices
  - DEC took over
    - Continue to allow NOASH (No other alternative source of heat) waivers
  - Serious SIP (State Implementation Plan) forthcoming
    - Required actions though some may demonstrate economic/technical infeasibility



# Major Issues facing DEC: PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances)

- What are PFAS
  - Family of around 5,000 chemicals
  - Do not break down easily
  - Build up in humans and animals
  - Toxic

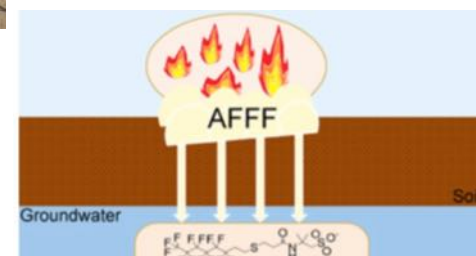


## Products, sources and history

- Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF)  
Consumer Products- non-stick and stain-resistant products used in furniture, ski waxes, raingear, cooking utensils, paints, plastics, adhesives, personal care products (such as dental floss) convenience food packaging

## Major Sources of Releases

- Manufacturing
- Releases from fire suppression activities
- Wastewater Treatment Plants
- Landfills





# PFAS Contamination in Alaska

## Communities with Drinking Water Impacts and Contaminated Sites

- Eielson/Moose Creek
- Fairbanks Municipal Fire Training Center
- Fairbanks International Airport
- North Pole
- Utqiagvik- Airport
- Gustavus Airport
- Dillingham - Airport
- King Salmon – Airport
- Yakutat - Airport





# State Actions

What happens when PFAS is detected above levels of concern?

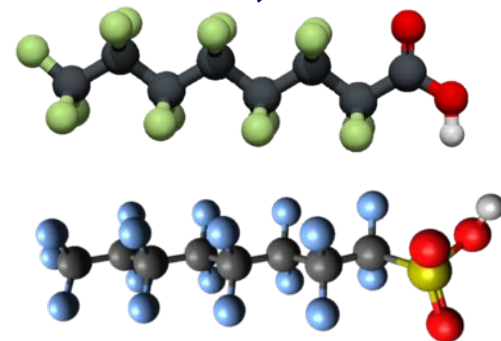
- Bottled water has been provided by state or responsible party
  - Additional sampling conducted to identify potentially impacted wells
  - Public outreach including meetings, fact sheets, and websites
  - Collaboration on long-term solutions including water treatment systems or connection to public water where available
- 
- DOT has announced that AFFF testing will no longer occur





# Major Issues facing DEC: PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances)

- EPA moving forward with Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) process for PFOA and PFOS, two of the most well-known and prevalent PFAS chemicals
- PFAS Action Act of 2019, co-sponsored by Sen. Murkowski would mandate EPA within one year of enactment declare PFAS as hazardous substances eligible for cleanup funds under EPA Superfund law, and also enable a requirement that polluters undertake or pay for remediation
- DEC has pulled back its regulation package from 2018 and will follow the lead of the EPA





# Major Issues facing DEC: Honey Buckets

- Nearly 3,000 rural Alaska homes from ~30 “unserved” villages lack running water and a flush toilet
- Significant human health and environmental risk
- Funding estimates are over \$1 billion
- How do we fix this problem?





# Honey Buckets





# Water and Sewer Projects

- Village Safe Water grants to construct rural water and wastewater facilities
- Municipal Loan program to assist larger communities with low interest loans for construction of sanitation facilities (water, sewer, solid waste)

Implementing the Alaska Sewer and Water Challenge to find cost effective ways to serve remaining communities.





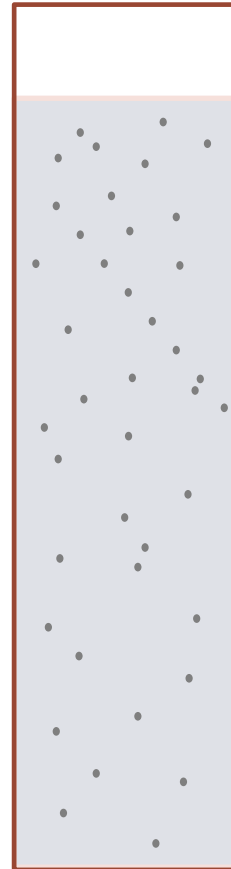
## Other Current Issues

- 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of EVOS on Sunday
- ANCSA Contaminated Lands
- WOTUS Comments
- Consistency of individual environmental ethic
  - #TGDL



# A Higher Standard? Discharges into Alaska's waters

- Large cruise ship permit allows up to 40 fecal coliform bacteria in 100 ml

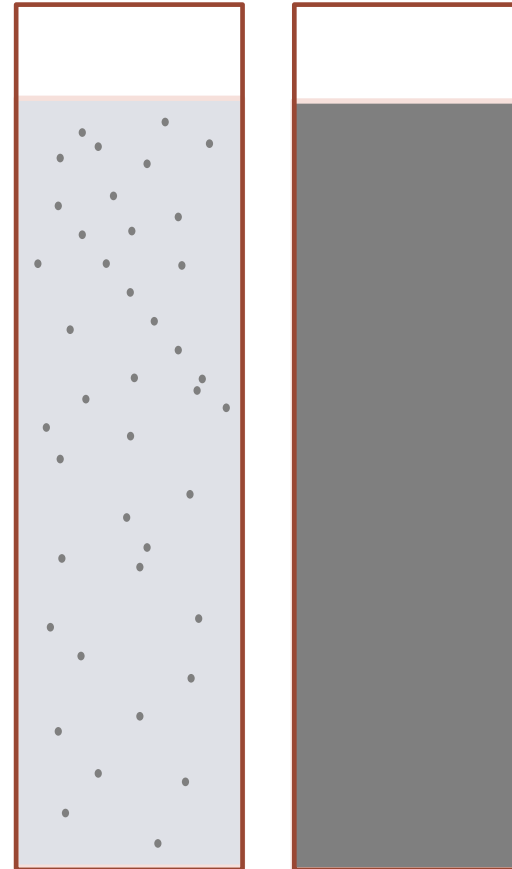




# A Higher Standard?

## Discharges into Alaska's waters

- Large cruise ship permit allows up to 40 fecal coliform bacteria in 100 ml
- Local waste water treatment facility permit allows up to 1.5 million fecal coliform bacteria in 100 ml.





# Honey Buckets

Estimates are that 95%+ of commercial fishing boats use honey buckets exclusively

Clean Water Act states:

“It is illegal to discharge raw or insufficiently treated sewage within three miles from shore or within a no-discharge zone (where applicable).”







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## Questions?

