

## Safe Drinking Water for Alaskans

### **The ADEC Drinking Water Program has requested a 1.6 million increment (increase) in their budget.**

With the additional funding from an increment requested in the FY2007 budget, the Drinking Water Program will continue to obtain and maintain the states drinking water primacy program. Primacy allows the program to exercise regulatory control of implementation of all federal rules affecting (PWS), providing systems with flexibility for Alaska's specific conditions. Additional staff and resources will assure that the program is able to adopt federal rules within specified time-lines, as well as provide much needed tailored guidelines and technical assistance to PWS. PWS will be able to adapt to ongoing changes more readily and experience less difficulty maintaining compliance. If ADEC does not adopt regulation on new rules or enforce existing rules to EPA's requirements, the state could lose primacy for all the DW regulations. A 2002 national needs assessment found that Alaska needed 99 employees to implement all federal rules and initiatives according to the federal schedule of rule promulgation. The Drinking Water program currently has 45. To date funding shortfall and prolonged vacancies could put the privilege of primacy at risk, as well as PWS compliance and the public health protection of residents and visitors. Without primacy Alaska's PWS would deal directly with EPA on compliance and enforcement issues. If the State does not adopt EPA rules (nine over the next several years), or achieve other goals, EPA can hold back grants and loans until their expectations have been met. Should the State miss EPA required milestones, EPA could permanently reduce the annual DWSRF capitalization grant.

These new rules impact Alaska's approximately 1,630 federally regulated PWS who serve approximately 616,000 Alaskans.

### **Where will the money come from?**

- ▶ The program will use federal funds that will be available with increased state match funds. (Approximately \$847,200 Federal Funds / \$847,200 State Match Funds)

### **How will the money be used?**

- ▶ Fill current vacant positions. Due to increasing costs, and a lack of federal grant funds the program has left four positions vacant to remain within the available budget. That makes it difficult for staff to respond to customer needs.
- ▶ Hire five new engineers; six environmental program specialists; two environmental technicians and one administrative support person to help implement new rules.

### **What will the new staff do?**

- ▶ Timely Rule Implementation which is necessary to keep primacy.
- ▶ Timely plan review processing on submitted complete plans sets.
- ▶ **Fully** implement the compliance enforcement strategy. Historically the program has been able to do compliance assistance *or* enforcement; limited resources restricted the program from adequately addressing both at the same time. This two prong approach will better enable the program to assist in protecting public health.
- ▶ Staff will develop outreach material to assist PWS owners and operators on the new rules.
- ▶ Staff will be able to spend more one on one time with PWS on compliance and technical assistance as well as enforcement on systems who do not comply with Safe Drinking Water Standards.
- ▶ Additional engineering staff will enable the program to adequately address the number of engineering plan submitted.
- ▶ There will be less need for Alaskan PWS to deal directly with EPA because the program will have more staff to enable more direct contact with the systems.

### **How do these new Rules affect PWS and their customers?**

#### **The Consumer Confidence Report (**

- ◆ Effects all Community Water Systems (CWS)
  - ◆ Became effective in Alaska in 2000
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- ◆ Requires systems to give consumers important information on the safety of their local drinking water. This right-to-know information is required by amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act.

## **The Public Notification Rule**

- ◆ Effects all regulated PWS
- ◆ Became effective in Alaska in 2004
- ◆ Requires public water systems to provide timely notice to their customers if there is any situation that may pose a public health risk in a tiered system depending on the severity of the situation.

## **The Lead and Copper Rule, Minor Revisions,**

- ◆ Effects CWS and non-transient non-community water systems (NTNCWSs)
- ◆ This rule became effective in Alaska in 2004.
- ◆ The changes fall into seven broad categories: 1) Demonstration of Optimal Corrosion Control; 2) Lead Service Line Replacement Requirements; 3) Public Education Requirements; 4) Monitoring Requirements; 5) Analytical Methods; 6) Reporting and Record Keeping Requirements; 7) Special State Primacy Considerations.

## **The Arsenic Rule**

- ◆ Effects Approx. 100 systems
- ◆ Effective in Alaska on January 11, 2006
- ◆ Reduces the MCL (maximum contaminant level) of arsenic for drinking water from 50 ppb to 10 parts per billion (ppb).

## **The Long Term 1 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule**

- ◆ Effects Approx. 290 (PWS < 10,000)
- ◆ Expected to be effective in Alaska in 2006
- ◆ Requires PWS to control Cryptosporidium and other pathogenic microbes not previously required.

## **The Disinfection By-Products Rule**

- ◆ Effects Approx. 395 systems
- ◆ Became effective in Alaska in
- ◆ Requires PWS to limit exposure to the by-products of disinfectants used to treat the water.

## **The “Stage 2 Disinfection Byproducts Rule” (Stage 2 DBP),**

- ◆ Effects all Surface Water Systems
- ◆ Expected to be effective in Alaska in 2006
- ◆ Requires PWS to find monitoring sites where higher levels of DBPs are likely to occur and use these new locations for compliance monitoring.

## **The Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule**

- ◆ Effects Approx. 290 systems
- ◆ Expected to be effective in Alaska in 2006
- ◆ Requires PWS to expand the treatment requirements for pathogens. The “Long Term 2 Enhanced Health Effects gastrointestinal illness which can be severe in people with weakened immune systems.
- ◆ Health Effects

## **The Radionuclide Rule**

- ◆ Effects all regulated PWS
- ◆ Effective in Alaska on January 11, 2006
- ◆ Requires a new standard for uranium and for the combined radium/uranium standard
- ◆ Health Effects: a carcinogen; kidney toxin

## **The Variances and Exemptions Rule**

- ◆ Effects all regulated PWS
- ◆ Effective in Alaska on January 11, 2006
- ◆ Provides options that states can use to help small drinking water systems implement EPA's drinking water standards.

## **The Ground Water rule**

- ◆ Effects Approx. 900 systems
- ◆ EPA estimated promulgated Fall 2006
- ◆ Requires GW PWS to provide additional monthly monitoring of their source water. Depending on the results of this monitoring, they may be required to install disinfection treatment.

