

**Department of Environmental Conservation  
Final Response to Comments**

**For**

**Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System**

**Individual Permit AK0062278**

**ExxonMobil Alaska LNG, LLC**

**Cook Inlet Geotechnical Survey**

**Public Noticed May 22, 2015 – June 22, 2015**

**June 29, 2015**



**Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation  
Wastewater Discharge Authorization Program  
555 Cordova Street  
Anchorage, AK 99501**

## 1.0 Introduction

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (Department or DEC) is issuing an Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (APDES) individual permit AK0062278 – ExxonMobil Alaska LNG LLC (EMALL), Cook Inlet Geotechnical Surveys (Permit).

### 1.1 Summary of Facility / Permit

ExxonMobil Alaska LNG LLC will be conducting a geotechnical survey program in Cook Inlet to inform engineering decisions on the Cook Inlet pipeline crossing and marine terminal for the Alaska LNG Project. The geotechnical survey program includes 42 boring locations within the areas delineated along the east side and the west side of Cook Inlet. During geotechnical surveys, the following industrial discharges will be permitted to occur:

- Outfall 001 – Geotechnical Drilling Fluids and Drill Cuttings at the Seafloor; and
- Outfall 002 – Deck Drainage

The discharges of Geotechnical Drilling Fluids and Drill Cuttings at the Seafloor will require an authorization for a zone of deposit and two sizes of chronic mixings for turbidity based on borehole locations either on the east or west side of Cook Inlet. The rectangular shaped chronic mixing zones extend from the surface of the water to the seafloor and are centered on the point of discharge from Outfall 001 and longitudinally oriented in the prevailing current directions as described below.

<u>Mixing Zone Location</u>	<u>Dilution Factor</u>	<u>Mixing Zone Length</u>	<u>Mixing Zone Width</u>
• East side of the Cook Inlet (Nikiski area)	1500	1378 m 689 m (each direction)	93 m
• West side of the Cook Inlet (Between Beluga and Tyonek)	3000	1856m 928 m (each direction)	105 m

### 1.2 Opportunities for Public Participation

The Department developed the Permit per the requirements in the Alaska Administrative Code (AAC), specifically 18 AAC 15 – Administrative Procedures, 18 AAC 70 – Alaska Water Quality Standards (WQS), and 18 AAC 83 – APDES Program. DEC is issuing the Permit after considering all substantive public comments on the Draft Permit and Fact Sheet. To ensure public, agency, and tribal notification and opportunities for participation, the Department:

- notified potentially affected tribes via letter, fax and/or email that the Department would be working on the Permit;
- posted the Preliminary Draft Permit and Fact Sheet on-line for a five-day applicant review on May 15, 2015 and notified tribes, local governments and other agencies. The Preliminary Draft Permit applicant review period was shortened upon request by the applicant per 18 AAC 83.120(m);

- posted the public notice on the Department’s public notice web page for a 30-day public review of the Draft Permit, Fact Sheet, and related documents on May 22, 2015 and notified tribes, local governments and other agencies concurrently. The public notice period closed on June 22, 2015;
- posted the Proposed Final Permit on-line for a one-day applicant review ending June 29, 2015. The Proposed Final Permit review period was shortened upon request by the applicant per 18 AAC 83.120(m); and
- sent email notifications via the APDES Program List Serve when the Preliminary Draft, Draft, and Proposed Final Permits were available for review.

During the draft comment period the Department did not receive comments on the Draft Permit, Fact Sheet, and supporting documents.

### **1.3 Final Permit**

The Final Permit was adopted by the Department on **June 30, 2015**. Given there were no comments received during the public notice period, there have been no substantive changes to the Draft Permit and Fact Sheet in Developing the Final Permit and Fact Sheet. However, there were minor changes from the Draft Permit documents after public notice to clarify information and to correct typographical and grammatical errors.