



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, Washington 98101-3140

June 10, 2008

The Honorable Larry Hartig
Commissioner
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
410 Willoughby Avenue, Suite 303
P.O. Box 111800
Juneau, Alaska 99811-1800

Re: Completeness Determination for State of Alaska Submission for NPDES Program Approval

Dear Commissioner Hartig:

We have received the request for approval of the Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (APDES) program pursuant to section 402(b) of the Clean Water Act (CWA). I am aware of how hard both your staff and mine have worked on these documents and look forward to working with you throughout the remaining approval process.

On May 1, 2008, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) received the proposed APDES program submission. In subsequent days, EPA received addenda to the application from the state, as described in your June 9, 2008 letter. We then began the 30 day regulatory completeness review. With the assurance provided in your June 9, 2008 letter, to make revisions to the APDES regulations, we have determined that the program submission is administratively complete for the purpose of 40 CFR 123.21. Under separate cover, we have sent a table of comments identified during the completeness review for the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) to correct prior to EPA's final decision. In the upcoming months as we complete the approval review process, we may find additional issues. We will inform you of those as we find them and work with you to resolve them.

This letter also confirms that EPA and ADEC have mutually agreed to extend the review period beyond the 90 day regulatory requirement (40 CFR 123.21(d)) in order to accommodate a longer public involvement process. Our agreement extends the timeframe for EPA to make its final decision to October 31, 2008. In accordance with CFR 40 CFR 123.61, EPA will soon publish in the Federal Register a notice of the public hearings and comment period along with a summary of the State's proposed program. EPA will also publish notices in Alaska's newspapers and send notices to individuals identified on the interested person's mailing list.

I would like to congratulate you and everyone at the State on their fine effort. If my staff can assist you in any way, please feel free to call me at (206) 553-1234. You can also call Christine Psyk, Associate Director of our Office of Water and Watersheds, at (206) 553-1906.

Sincerely,

/s/

Elin D. Miller
Regional Administrator

Enclosure

cc: Lynn Kent, Director