ADEC Is Beginning to Develop APDES Construction General Permit

June 8, 2009

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) is assuming the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for stormwater discharge on October 31, 2009. This means that EPA permits for stormwater management (such as the Construction General Permit (CGP), Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP), and the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit) will be managed by ADEC starting October 31, 2009.

With the transfer of the NPDES program to the Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (APDES) Program, the EPA permits will automatically be adopted as ADEC permits with no changes to the permit language. The EPA CGP is scheduled to expire June 30, 2010 and will be reissued by ADEC. ADEC is planning to reissue the CGP by March 1, 2010 so the construction industry will know the permit requirements prior to the beginning of the construction season.

In developing the APDES CGP our goal is two-fold

1. Follow the EPA requirements for the stormwater permits, and
2. Modify the CGP (to the extent allowed under number 1) to better fit Alaska conditions.

To meet our goal ADEC is providing two periods for input into the development of the APDES CGP. The proposed process of developing the APDES CGP is the following:

1. Collect ideas and comments from public on improvements to CGP (June to July 24, 2009)
2. ADEC reviews comments and writes draft CGP (August and September)
3. Official Public comment period on the CGP (October and November)
4. ADEC reviews comments and revises CGP (December to February, 2010)
5. APDES CGP becomes effective (estimated March 1, 2010).

We realize this is the busy season, but it is also the season when you notice what works, or doesn't work, in the Construction General Permit.

Here's how your ideas and comments can be useful to us:

1. Realize ADEC can not be any less strict than EPA regulations;
2. Identify vague or poorly understood terms or sections of the permit (such as common area of development, final stabilization in arid climates, stabilization to qualify for winter shutdown, etc.)
3. Be specific with your comments – give page number or permit section;
4. Send your comment to the following mail address, fax number, or email address; and
5. If you can't get them to us by July 24th then save them and give them to us during the official public comment period.

Send your ideas and comments to:

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