



Alaska Department of Natural Resources



Permitting Initiative

Fairbanks Public Forum

September 30, 2011

Presentation Outline



- **DMLW Backlog Project**
- **DEC and ADF&G Permitting**
- **Permitting Coordination**
- **Federal Issues**
- **Automation**
- **New Activities**
- **Outreach**



DMLW Backlog Project

DEC and ADF&G
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DMLW Backlog Project – *Staffing*

- In the process of recruiting and hiring
- Addressed the DCOM transition
- Currently filled 21 of 36 vacant positions since 1 July 2011.
- Training in progress



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DMLW Backlog Project – *Status*

- Inventory backlogged cases
- Categorize the cases
 - Type
 - Complexity
- Prioritize and assign cases (after categorization)



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DMLW Backlog Project – *Efficiency Review*

- Evaluating/proposing statute and regulation modifications that help create efficiencies
- Creating IT tools to better manage case loads
- Mapping out business processes
- Analyzing processes, products, and organizations structure to create efficiencies
- Continually assess, analyze, and improve the process



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DEC Permitting

- **Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Program (APDES) – wastewater permitting**
 - **State Primacy**
 - ✦ Phases I-III
 - ✦ Phase IV, Oil and Gas
 - **Challenges**
 - ✦ Backlog of permits
 - ✦ Level of EPA oversight
 - ✦ Lack of documentation on previous permits
 - ✦ Permit Challenges



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DEC Permitting

- **Streamlining**
 - Integrated waste management and disposal authorizations (not new)
 - General permits
 - On-line permit application
 - On-line permit data submittal
 - Electronic receipt of Temporary Water Use Permits from DNR with links to permits and contaminated sites database



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ADF&G Permitting

Habitat Permitting

- Timeliness and approval rates good
- Major projects will tax resources

Enhancement Permitting

- Cooperative relationship restored
- Seeking consensus on needed research
- Internal policy to ensure consistency

Permitting Small Businesses (Mariculture/Direct Market)

- Complex requirements
- Multiple agencies
- Mariculture regulations revised
- Next step: Interagency cooperation



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**Permitting
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Permitting Coordination

- Coordination works—favored by industry, agencies, and the public
- Large projects are already coordinated statewide
- Smaller projects used to be coordinated in the coastal zone by DCOM



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Federal Permitting Issues

- Most significant permitting delays are on the federal side
- Even though these obstructions are worse during this federal administration, they have always been there



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Federal Permitting Issues – *Coordination*

- Federal agencies are not coordinated
- State coordination has filled the vacuum and federal agencies have willingly accepted state coordination
- We need to push for federal coordination
 - President's Arctic Permitting Team
 - OCS Coordination legislation



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Federal Permitting Issues –

- Fighting back on Overreach
- Health Impact Assessments
- State/Federal Permitting Group



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Permitting Automation

- Unified Permitting Project has received additional funding and is progressing
- Evaluating a change of implementation of the Business Process Modeling
- Efforts underway to retool the Coastal Project Questionnaire to serve as a diagnostic tool for small to medium projects



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New Activities

- Currently developing permitting white papers for:
 - Shale Oil
 - Underground Coal Gasification
 - Geothermal Energy
 - Hydrokinetic
 - Wind
 - Rare Earth Elements



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- Meet with stakeholders
- Meet with legislators
- Public meetings



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Do you have ideas?

- Tell us this evening
- Submit your comments on line:

http://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/Priorities/Permitting_Reform.html