

Questions and Answers Regarding Proposed Water Regulations
Division of Mining, Land and Water
Department of Natural Resources
November 1, 2023

Question: Has the Instream Flow Water Reservation Program been suspended? Can you verify the current status of that program, and if it has been suspended, why hasn't it been published in the Alaska Online Public notices or otherwise?

Answer: The reservation of water program has not been suspended and continues to be staffed. The Department of Natural Resources is planning to hold scoping meetings in the future to evaluate possible changes to the reservation of water regulations. It is anticipated this will be an interactive process with multiple stakeholders.

Question: Does the department have a timeline for beginning the new scoping process?

Answer: The department is managing a number of other regulation packages and plans to take up reservation of water scoping in 2024, after the currently proposed changes to water regulations have been adopted. This timeline will provide adequate time to collect input on possible changes to the reservation of water program.

Question: Can the deadline for comments be extended?

Answer: The department will extend the November 13 comment deadline to allow the public more time to review the proposed changes and to submit questions and/or comments. The new comment deadline will be Thursday, November 30, 2023. A supplemental public notice of this extension will be issued as soon as possible.