



Alaska Hazardous Waste Program

So, what's up with Alaska hazardous waste?

CURRENTLY

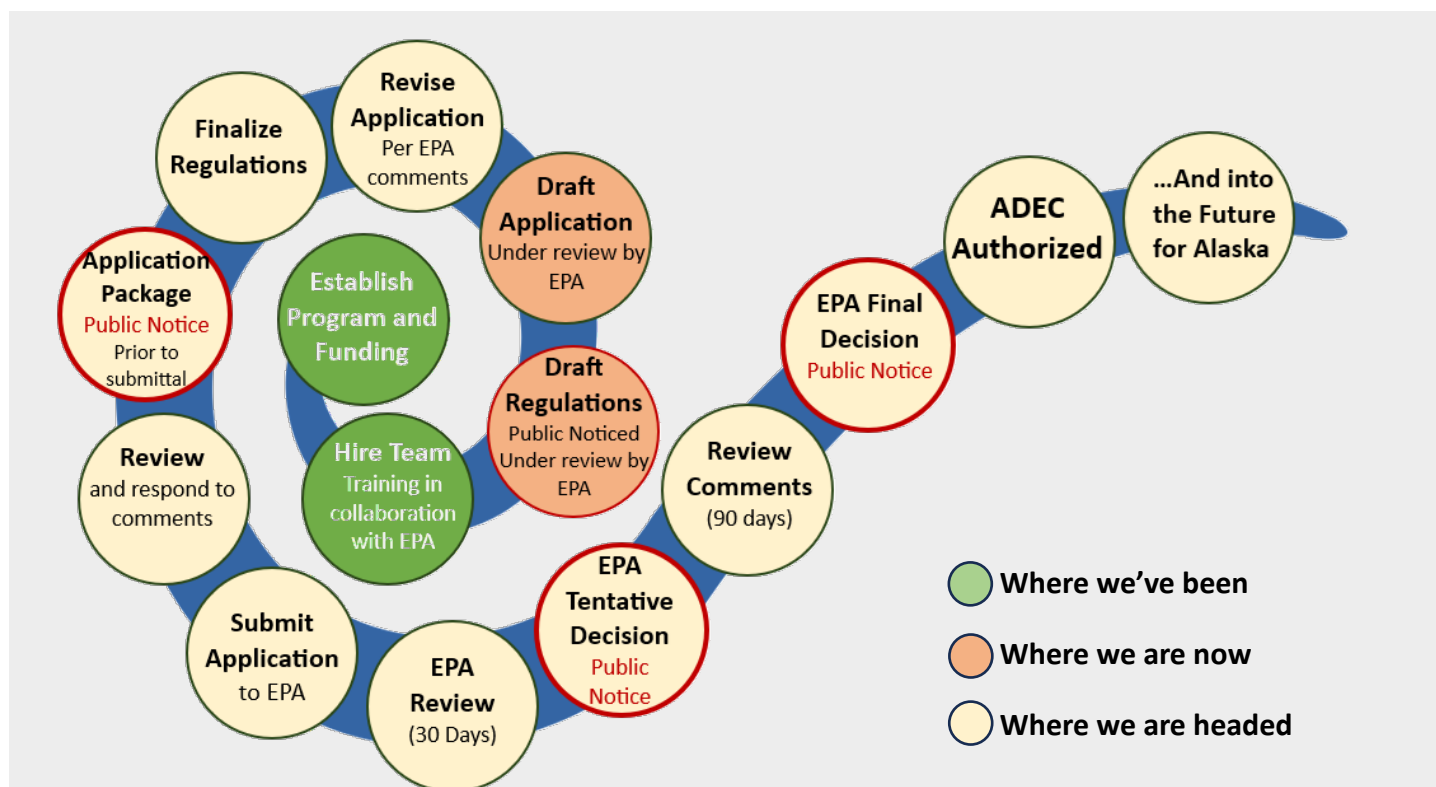
Hazardous waste is regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the State of Alaska, and the Federal Regulations in 40 CFR 260 to 40 CFR 279

COMING SOON

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) is developing an application for authorization to regulate hazardous waste in Alaska in lieu of EPA.

What is the process for authorization and how can I have input?

ADEC has started the process to apply to EPA for authorization. The process is outlined in 40 CFR 271, and we have agreed on some additional steps in the process. Three additional opportunities for formal comment are included in the process.



Formal public comment opportunities are outlined in red. To ensure you are aware of the public notice posting and deadlines, sign up for our listserv at

<https://dec.alaska.gov/eh/hazardous-waste/>

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Ok, so what does this mean for me?

Once the program is authorized, hazardous waste in Alaska will be regulated by Alaskans who are aware of the unique conditions and challenges in the state. The Alaska hazardous waste regulations (18 AAC 62), which are currently under review by EPA, primarily adopt the federal regulations that are the current standards. However, we have changed 4 items from the federal regulations.

Electronics

Electronics may be managed as universal waste when reclaimed or recycled, which would negate the need for a waste determination and allow streamlined requirements for storage and transport.



Reporting

All hazardous waste handlers would review and update their notification each year. Additionally, for 5 years, large quantity generators would be required to complete an Annual Report on their hazardous waste management. This will provide a quality data set for Alaska and a better understanding of hazardous waste generation in the state.

Unified Guidance

The Unified Guidance provides a framework and recommendations for the statistical analysis of groundwater monitoring data. Facilities would be required to follow these recommendations to provide the most effective statistical analysis for a particular data set.

Environmental Cleanup

Environmental cleanups would address both Hazardous Waste Program requirements and Contaminated Sites Program requirements in the same process. The cleanup standards will be the most stringent of the two programs for each individual contaminant. This will provide for faster and more protective cleanups.

The greatest impact of the regulations will be on large quantity generators with additional reporting requirements, but that will end in 5 years and revert to biennial reporting. Small quantity generators and transporters will have a simple notification annually, which ADEC can walk them through in a few minutes. For very small quantity generators and household hazardous waste, there is no change to the regulations, but ADEC intends to launch an outreach campaign as soon as we are authorized to educate individuals and small businesses on proper hazardous waste management.

In the interim, we will be happy to provide more information via email, telephone, virtual presentation, or in person to help clarify our process and plans.

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In addition, as part of the authorization process, EPA will be providing the opportunity for tribal consultation. For more information, contact: Eileen Naples, RCRA Team Lead, EPA R10

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