



# Fact Sheet

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Proposes to modify a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit to Discharge Pollutants Pursuant to the Provisions of the Clean Water Act (CWA) to:

**City and Borough of Wrangell  
Wastewater Treatment Plant**

Public Comment Start Date: May 29, 2025

Public Comment Expiration Date: June 30, 2025

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## **THE EPA PROPOSES TO MODIFY THE NPDES PERMIT**

The EPA proposes to modify the NPDES permit for the facility referenced above. Specifically, the EPA is proposing to modify the outfall location identified in the permit. The remainder of the permit is unchanged and not subject to modification. Therefore, the EPA is only accepting comments on the modified outfall location.

This Fact Sheet (FS) includes:

- information on public comment, public hearing, and appeal procedures, and
- a description of the proposed modification and its basis.

## **CWA § 401 CERTIFICATION**

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) has stated it will not be reopening the Clean Water Act Section 401 water quality certification for this permit. The proposed modification includes the conditions set forth in the final CWA section 401 certification that was issued in September 2023

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

On December 5, 2024, the EPA issued the final NPDES permit for the City and Borough of Wrangell Wastewater Treatment Plant. Due to the circumstances described in Part I.A. of this fact sheet, the final permit must be modified to set forth the new outfall location and associated receiving water sampling locations. Pursuant to 40 CFR 124.14(c), the EPA is only accepting comments on the modified part of the permit.

Persons wishing to comment on the permit modification or request a public hearing may do so in writing by the expiration date of the Public Comment period. A request for a Public Hearing must state the nature of the issues to be raised as well as the requester's name, address and telephone number. All comments and requests for Public Hearings must be in writing and should be submitted to the EPA as described below.

By the expiration date of the public comment period, all written comments and requests must be submitted to [stoddard.jamey@epa.gov](mailto:stoddard.jamey@epa.gov). If you are unable to submit written comments via email, please call (206) 553-0523.

After the Public Comment period expires, and all comments have been considered, the EPA will make a final decision regarding permit modification. If no substantive comments are received, the tentative conditions in the permit modification will become final, and the permit will become effective upon the effective date in the permit. If substantive comments are received, the EPA will address the comments and issue the permit modification. The permit will become effective on the date specified in the final permit, unless an appeal is submitted to the Environmental Appeals Board within 30 days pursuant to 40 CFR 124.19.

## **DOCUMENTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW**

The draft NPDES permit, fact sheet and other information can be downloaded from the internet at: <https://www.epa.gov/npdes-permits/npdes-permit-wrangell-wastewater-treatment-plant-alaska>.

For technical questions regarding this Fact Sheet, contact Jamey Stoddard at (206) 553-6110 or [stoddard.jamey@epa.gov](mailto:stoddard.jamey@epa.gov). Services can be made available to persons with disabilities by contacting Audrey Washington at (206) 553-0523.

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## **I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### **A. GENERAL INFORMATION**

The NPDES permit for the City and Borough of Wrangell Wastewater Treatment Plant (NPDES Permit No. AK0021466) was reissued on December 5, 2024, with an effective date of November 1, 2025. This fact sheet provides information on the proposed modification of the receiving water monitoring locations specified in Parts I.D. and VI. of AK0021466.

In September 2024, the City of Wrangell's outfall line was damaged by a boat anchor. Repairs to the outfall line were completed in March 2025, and the diffuser – the end of the outfall line where effluent is discharged – is now located about 100 feet from the prior location at a similar depth and distance from shore. The new location of the diffuser was verified by GPS during repair work.

Permit Part VI contains two maps – Figure 1 and Figure 2 – showing the location and coordinates of receiving water monitoring sites that must be sampled as part of the Receiving Water Monitoring Program requirements in Permit Part I.D. The receiving water monitoring locations correspond to the location of the outfall diffuser. Since the location of the outfall diffuser has changed since the permit was renewed, the receiving water monitoring sites need to be updated.

Permit Part VI has been modified by replacing Figure 1 and Figure 2 with updated maps to reflect the new location coordinates of the outfall diffuser and associated receiving water sampling sites. No other provision or condition of the permit has changed.

## **II. CAUSE FOR MODIFICATION**

NPDES permits may be modified for the causes identified in 40 CFR 122.62.

40 CFR 122.62(a)(1) provides that NPDES permits can be modified when there are material and substantial alterations or additions to a permitted facility which occurred after permit issuance which justify the application of permit conditions that are different or absent in the existing permit.

The change in the location of the outfall is a material and substantial alteration to the Wrangell WWTP that occurred after permit issuance; therefore, this permit modification reflects the new location of the outfall and meets the cause for modification at 40 CFR 122.62(a)(1).

## **III. OTHER LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

### **A. ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT**

On October 15, 2024, the National Marine Fisheries Service concurred with EPA's determination that renewal of AK0021440 is not likely to adversely affect any ESA-listed species or designated critical habits under their jurisdiction. This permit modification will have no impact on threatened or endangered species.

**B. ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT**

When AK0021466 was renewed in December 2024, the EPA concluded the permit will not adversely affect any essential fish habitat; this permit modification will not adversely affect EFH for any species.

**C. CWA § 401 CERTIFICATION**

ADEC has stated it will not be reopening the Clean Water Act Section 401 water quality certification for this permit. The proposed modification is consistent with the final CWA Section 401 certification issued in September 2023.

**D. PERMIT EXPIRATION**

This modification does not change the expiration date of the permit, which is five years after the effective date, or October 31, 2030.