

# STATE OF ALASKA

**DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION**  
**OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER**

**SEAN PARNELL, GOVERNOR**

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July 29, 2011

Dennis McLerran  
Regional Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10  
1200 6<sup>th</sup> Ave., Ste 900  
Seattle, WA 98101

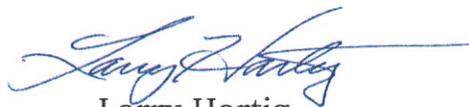
Dear Mr. McLerran:

The Environmental Protection Agency approved primacy for the State of Alaska for the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System program on October 31, 2008. The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the two agencies, executed at the time of primacy approval, scheduled transfer of authority in four phases over a period of three years. The first three phases have been completed. The fourth and final phase, consisting of authority for permits for primarily oil and gas facilities, cooling water intake/discharges and munitions, along with all remaining facilities not previously transferred, was scheduled for October 31, 2011.

You asked that we consider a delay in the scheduled date for this final transfer of authority. After a thorough and detailed review of permit status, schedules and workloads, we responded in March, 2011 that we would consider a delay until October 31, 2012. We participated in the process to amend the MOA and understand that you have recently made the formal decision to effectuate the transfer delay.

We appreciate your effort to postpone the transfer of this final phase by one year and are committed to realizing the benefit of focusing the combined resources of both agencies to the substantial workload associated with the oil and gas sector permits.

Sincerely,



Larry Hartig  
Commissioner

Enclosures: Amended APDES MOA, Appendices B and E-4, Amended Program Description