



## ***DEC Press Release***

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **EPA, DEC Renew Commitment to Work Together for the Environment**

May 10, 2004—Juneau—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation have signed an improved partnership agreement to jointly address Alaska's most pressing environmental problems.

“DEC and EPA Region 10 have both put hard work into forging this agreement.....and it shows,” said EPA Region 10 Administrator John Iani. “By identifying clear environmental priorities, setting common goals and agreeing to complementary strategies, we will accomplish a great deal in our efforts to preserve and protect Alaska.”

DEC Commissioner Ernesta Ballard agreed. “DEC and EPA Region 10 share a common mission of protecting Alaska's environment. This agreement represents a strong partnership, one that will go a long way to accomplishing our mission in a way that builds trust, openness and public confidence. I look forward to working together under the excellent terms of this agreement.”

The agreement establishes mutual priorities and performance expectations for both agencies during FY 05 and a joint workplan for guiding performance partnership grant funds for DEC's air quality and water quality programs. It is a continuation of the State of Alaska's relationship with the U.S. EPA to foster excellence in state and federal environmental programs under the National Environmental Performance Partnership System.

To view the agreement, visit EPA's website at [www.epa.gov/r10](http://www.epa.gov/r10).

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