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The state of Alaska to host cruise ship wastewater technology workshop in February

Workshop another step in implementing citizens' cruise ship initiative

JUNEAU, Alaska -- The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) will hold a public workshop on pollutant reduction and removal technologies that may have potential to be installed on cruise ships. The workshop is scheduled for February 18 at Centennial Hall in Juneau.

“Leading cruise ship operators already have installed advanced wastewater treatment systems on their ships, but do not yet meet all of the pollution discharge limits required by the cruise ship initiative passed by Alaskan voters in 2006,” said Lynn Kent, director of DEC’s Division of Water. “The citizens’ initiative requires very clean wastewater discharges—cruise ships have to meet more stringent wastewater discharge requirements than shore-based facilities. This workshop provides a forum to explore new and emerging technologies that could potentially be adapted for use on cruise ships to meet stringent permit requirements slated to take effect in 2010.”

DEC is producing an inventory and evaluation of existing and emerging control technologies to reduce or remove pollutants from treated effluent of large cruise ships. DEC is specifically looking at technologies to reduce levels of ammonia, copper, nickel and zinc.

DEC’s contractors will present draft findings at the workshop. The meeting will include technical sessions on technologies that have been applied to shore-based facilities and as yet untested wastewater technologies and specifics on how they might be applied on vessels.

For more information on the workshop or cruise ship programs go to DEC's website at: www.dec.alaska.gov/water/cruise_ships/ and http://www.dec.state.ak.us/water/cruise_ships/EffluentAmmMetalRemoval.htm.