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**Global experts to present at Cruise Ship Wastewater Technologies Workshop on Wednesday**

**Meeting designed to exchange information on the science of wastewater treatment technologies**

JUNEAU, Alaska – Six experts from the European Union, Canada and the United States are scheduled to speak on existing applications and emerging technologies during Wednesday’s Cruise Ship Wastewater Technologies Workshop. The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is sponsoring the meeting. It will take place at Centennial Hall in Juneau with registration beginning at 8:00 am. An evening session for the public is scheduled from 6:00 – 8:00.

The workshop is being held to help fulfill provisions of the Cruise Ship Initiative passed by Alaskan voters in 2006. Leading cruise ship operators have installed advanced wastewater treatment systems, but do not yet meet all of the required pollution discharge limits. The initiative calls for very clean wastewater discharges—cruise ships have to meet more stringent wastewater requirements than shore-based facilities.

“DEC is not aware of treatment systems that are readily available to be installed on all vessels by 2010 and that would produce effluent meeting water quality standards as set forth by the initiative,” said Lynn Kent, director of DEC’s Division of Water. “We are looking forward to hearing from industry and academic experts on promising approaches.”

DEC will use the results of the workshop to write its final technical feasibility report, an evaluation of technologies that could improve wastewater quality. It is scheduled for release in April. Workshop findings and the remainder of the effort will be reflected in the permits DEC issues to cruise lines in the future.



For the workshop agenda go to DEC's website:

[http://www.dec.state.ak.us/water/cruise\\_ships/pdfs/WORKSHOP\\_AGENDA\\_2\\_16\\_09.pdf](http://www.dec.state.ak.us/water/cruise_ships/pdfs/WORKSHOP_AGENDA_2_16_09.pdf)