

Senate Finance Subcommittee
Department of Environmental Conservation
FY 01 Operating Budget

Chairman, Senator Leman
Senator Miller
Senator Elton

GF Allocation: \$11,933.7

Subcommittee Recommendation of GF Allocation: \$11,806.5

Administrative Services: The subcommittee eliminated one of two Public Information Officer positions, in cooperation with the Commissioner. Increased information dissemination opportunities via the Internet, in addition to internal efficiencies, will decrease the reliance on personnel.

Statewide Public Services: In cooperation with the Department, the subcommittee removed a portion of general funds (\$35.0) in the environmental crimes program. The department will hire a trained investigator at a lower cost than the trooper agreement.

Environmental Health: Ensure that one of the three Environmental Health Officers rehired by the Department, due to increased fee collections, is stationed at Unalaska, the largest international fishing port in the nation.

Air Quality: The Department overspent its FY 00 General Fund Match needed to capture federal funds for the Air Quality program. In cooperation with the Department, the subcommittee replaced General Funds (\$80.0) with \$80.0 of Clean Air Protection Funds.

Water Quality: The subcommittee increased the Department's budget with \$507.3 in Federal Receipts. This one-time appropriation is to ensure the Department has the capability to rebuild and streamline the water quality permitting program. Industry and DEC began this effort through a FY 00 interim Water Quality Stakeholders Working Group. The Legislature intends to thoroughly examine the efforts of the Department during the FY 01 budget cycle.

Contaminated Sites: Funding for the Board of Storage Tank Assistance (\$90.8) is deleted from the FY 01 operating budget, however, legislation has been introduced (HB 432) to extend the board. A fiscal note will be attached to that bill.

Facility Construction and Operation: The General Fund Match requirement for federal funds was reduced by (\$118,800) with a concomitant increase in Federal Receipts.