

Loren Leman, P.E.

Tonya,

I commend you, Commissioner Brune and others in your Department who are trying to make the wastewater regulations more user friendly, useful, easier to understand, and less burdensome and costly through a major rewriting project. I know this is a monumental task--likely far greater than you anticipated when you started.

While I agree with the basic premises behind the revisions, and even much of the work, you need to know that there are impacts to actions, perhaps some that you did not anticipate. I am hearing from practitioners in the engineering profession who know my background as an engineer with more than trivial experience in this area, as a legislator, and now as a member of the Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors. They are expressing concern about impacts from the proposed regulations--and are identifying issues that probably will not be resolved in the remaining four days allowed for public comment. I hope many, perhaps all, of these engineers will submit their comments to you. But even if they do, I believe the public interest will be better served by reestablishing a working group or steering committee of talented, experienced professionals who can work through issues to produce a recommended product that we really can be proud of.

I suggest extending the public comment period by at least 60 days to give time for this committee to be identified, organize, function, and produce advice to resolve significant issues that remain. Even 60 days may not be enough time to do this work, but it would be a good start.

Perhaps more than any other engineer currently active in Alaska, I am experienced with wastewater engineering, the overarching Alaska Statutes, and the associated regulations. I hope you will take my comments as constructive advice. I am not seeking a spot on the steering committee, but would be happy to recommend other talented professional engineers who would do an outstanding job serving on it.

Respectfully submitted,

Loren Leman, P.E.  
PO Box 190773  
Anchorage, AK 99519-0773