



DEC NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DEC seeks public comment on Alaska Food Code *Schedules public workshops statewide*

January 24, 2005-- The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) will hold workshops throughout the state to solicit public comment on the updated Alaska Food Code.

The proposed changes include an enhanced food safety program, Active Managerial Control (AMC). AMC requires food establishments to have standard operating procedures and a self-assessment process to be conducted by trained and certified food protection managers and food handlers.

DEC's Environmental Health Director, Kristin Ryan, says DEC will continue to inspect food establishments, but food will be safer under the new regulations. "We're not stepping out of the food safety business, we're stepping up. Despite our best efforts, we knew that inspections alone were not enough to ensure food safety throughout the state," Ryan said. "Under the new program, we will continue inspections and have a system in place that ensures your food is safely prepared by trained and knowledgeable food handlers." DEC also will now be able to establish civil fines for serious, repeat violators.

Workshops are scheduled from 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM at the following locations:

January 27	Ketchikan	Ted Ferry Civic Center, 888 Venetia Ave.
January 28	Juneau	DEC, 410 Willoughby, Main Conf. Room, Suite 201
February 3	Soldotna	Kenai Borough Building, Assembly Chamber
February 4	Fairbanks	Noel Wien Library, 1215 Cowles St.
February 23	Palmer	Matsu Telephone Assn., 480 Commercial Dr.
February 25	Bethel	Yup'it Piciryarait Cultural Center and Museum 420 Chief Eddie Hoffman Highway
March 2	Anchorage	Federal Building, Exec. Dining Rm., 222 West 7 th
March 3	Glennallen	New Caribou Restaurant, Mile 187 Glenn Highway
March 4	Valdez	Valdez Civic Center

DEC is taking public comment until 5 PM, March 15, 2005. For more information, visit our website at www.state.ak.us/dec/eh or contact Kimberly Stryker at 907-269-7583.