ADEC Eroding Landfills Session Notes – AFE 2012

This session was presented by Susan Erben, Trisha Bower, Kitrina Persson, and Sandi Woods of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC). ADEC has begun a 4-year project to inventory and prioritize coastal and river erosion that has the potential to cause hazardous substances and garbage from Alaska’s eroding landfills into the ocean and rivers. The project area covers Alaska’s western coast from the Northwest Arctic Borough south, the Aleutians, and river communities up to 300 miles upriver from the coast.

* The state will be identifying any areas that are 1) a landfill 2) a contaminated site or 3) a dump site. This includes fuel storage, mining, and old military sites.
* Any clean up areas with responsible parties were eliminated from the list of sites to visit and identify.
* The possible list of 150 communities will be narrowed to a smaller list by ADEC.
* Priority sites are sites where there is a threat to human health and environment and contaminants.
* The communities have to be coastal communities so the focus is northern and western coastal communities.
* The point of the program is to identify problem sites. There is not money available with this program to fix the problems. This program will help the state and federal agencies prioritize funding.
* The program is funded by the Coastal Impact Assistance Program.
* ADEC will be gathering information from 2012 to 2014.
* ADEC will issue a final report in 2015 with site specific recommendations.
* ADEC is coming up with the criteria for ranking the severity of impacts to the communities. They are not seeking village or tribal input on this process.