

Until about five years ago, DEC policy allowed small residential dischargers (less than 500 gpd) to be permitted to discharge through a marine outfall if sewage had been processed by a septic tank (DEC, 1997; Strickland, 2012; Leman, 2012). This seemed like a reasonable policy for many remote locations, particularly in Southeast Alaska, where land for subsurface disposal is scarce and marine waters have good flushing. However, since DEC assumed primacy of much of wastewater disposal, EPA no longer allows its to issue these permits (Strickland, 2012). DEC

regulations require secondary treatment before discharge to land surface or through a marine outfall (18 AAC 72).