John M. Asplund
Water Pollution Control Facility

NPDES Renewal and 401 Certification

Who we are

John M. Asplund Water Pollution Control Facility

Operated by Anchorage Water & Wastewater Utility (AWWU), the John M. Asplund Water Pollution Control Facility (Asplund) is Alaska's largest wastewater treatment facility. Located at Point Woronzof, our facility collects and treats approximately 30 million gallons of wastewater every day from Anchorage and the Mat-Su and Kenai Peninsula Boroughs. Wastewater is screened, clarified and disinfected before it flows to Cook Inlet.



Take a virtual facility tour at ***tinyurl.com/pjja98u3****, or* ***scan here:***

What is NPDES?

The **National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System** (NPDES) is the permit program that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) uses to ensure that all federal and state water quality standards are maintained in surface and groundwater across the country.

The current NPDES permit for Asplund has expired. AWWU submitted the permit renewal application at the end of 2025. Before the EPA makes their determination to renew or deny the permit renewal, a 45-day public comment period is held.

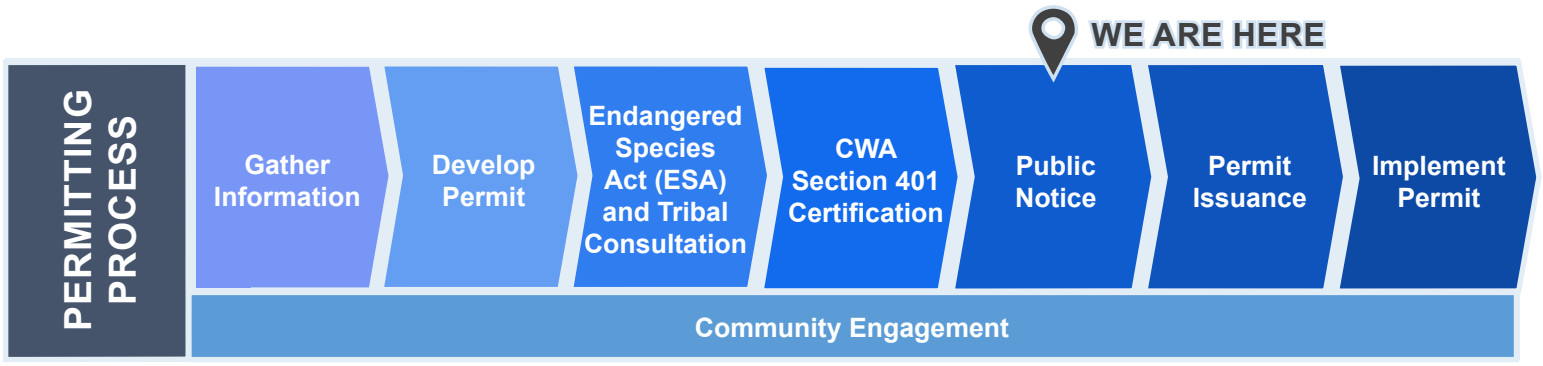
Aplund has consistently met the water quality requirements set by EPA to ensure Cook Inlet water quality is protected.

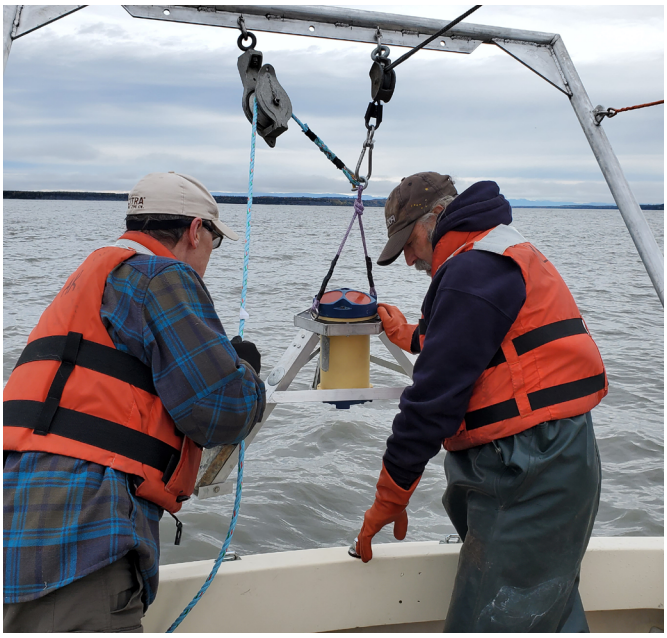




Where are we in the permitting process?

AWWU has been collecting data from its own water, as well as sampling Cook Inlet itself since 1985, to ensure water quality standards are maintained. Additional data collection and contaminant sampling for this permit began in 2022. AWWU submitted the permit renewal application at the end of 2025.





The work that got us here

Because Asplund provides primary treatment, additional monitoring is required to ensure the effluent discharge does not adversely affect Cook Inlet's water quality. Not only does AWWU regularly sample the Water Quality in Cook inlet, it also samples the sediment and aquatic life. As part of the permit requirements, AWWU most perform routine monitoring to maintain compliance.

Read the results in the Asplund Wastewater Treatment Facility Annual Monitoring Reports at ***awwu.biz/water-quality/cook-inlet-water-quality****, or* ***scan here****:*

Going above and beyond

Additional work for the permit renewal

- Three years of water, sediment, and fish sampling data were conducted to better understand the impacts of effluent discharge.
- Specialized models were used to understand the dilution of specific contaminants in Cook Inlet. Furthermore, the outfall was inspected, and confirmed, by divers ensuring the outfall is intact and functioning properly.
- A risk assessment was conducted to understand how the toxicity of the effluent impacts the Cook Inlet Beluga Whale and its prey.