



City of Palmer  
**PRESS RELEASE**

November 30, 2010

**Palmer Receives Best in State from Alaska Rural Water Association**

The City of Palmer was awarded the Wastewater System of the Year from the Alaska Rural Water Association at their annual conference in Anchorage on November 18. Two operators, John Berberich and Dane Shaver, received the award for their training, participation and exemplary knowledge base as operators and for the quality of the overall process. The Palmer facility was determined to be the best operating Waste Water Treatment Plant in the Association membership.

Palmer received a \$2.5 million dollar American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grant in 2009 which enabled new technology to be instituted at the 47.74 acre facility. Over the summer, covers made of HDPE with R14 HD foam insulation were installed on top of two of the three treatment lagoons, keeping the ponds at a consistent temperature within a 5-degree variance. This allows microorganisms to react with the affluent and break it down at a highly efficient rate. The end result is a cleaner affluent discharge, one that meets new, more strict standards sent by the Environmental Protection Agency for 2011. The Palmer Waste Water Treatment Plant is among a small number of facilities in Alaska which will be in compliance with the new EPA standards.

The success of the covers has made the Palmer Plant a model for treatment plants operated by other rural municipalities. The new technology has been successfully used in the continental United States for at least ten years, but the Palmer application is the first in Alaska.



Palmer Waste Water Treatment Plant



Operators John Berberich and Dane Shaver with award from Alaska Rural Water Association November 17, 2010

*For further information, contact Carter Cole, Director of Public Works at 745-3400.*

**City of Palmer**