

State Charges Violations of Alaska's Environmental Act on Cordova Man

JUNEAU — The state has filed a criminal complaint in Cordova District Court against a Cordova trailer court operator, charging him with violations of Alaska's environmental protection act.

Attorney General John E. Havelock said William J. McLaughlin, owner and operator of a trailer park which borders on Eyak Lake near Cordova, is charged with "polluting the water of the State of Alaska by allowing sewage to flow from the McLaughlin Trailer Court . . . into Eyak Lake."

Dr. Max Brewer, commissioner of the Department of

Environmental Conservation, said the complaint was brought after McLaughlin failed "to take any meaningful steps to correct a condition which poses a serious environmental and health hazard to Cordova's residents."

Brewer said his department had made "numerous attempts" to persuade McLaughlin to upgrade the trailer court's inadequate sewage treatment sewage system, but "all our attempts were fruitless because no effective action was taken."

Contaminated Eyak Lake water, which was used last spring by Cordova as a municipal

source after the city's water reservoirs went dry, apparently caused an outbreak of gastrointestinal illnesses which affected many Cordova residents.