State of Alaska
Department of Natural Resources
Public Information Center
550 W. 7th Ave., Ste 1260
Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone: 907.269.8400
Fax: 907.269.8901
TTY: 907.269.8411

September 20, 2017

Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys releases its 5,000th publication

(Fairbanks, AK) – Since its inception in 1911 as the Alaska Territorial Department of Mines, with a single employee, the Alaska Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys (DGGS) and its predecessors have published a trove of public geological and geophysical research. These publications have been used to discover and develop the state's oil, gas, coal, and mineral resources, manage groundwater, and protect Alaskans from geologic hazards.

Earlier this month, the division celebrated the release of its 5,000th publication, titled "Potential maximum permanent flooding maps for the communities of Chignik and Chignik Lagoon, Alaska."

With publication of this report on Sept. 1, DGGS achieved an average rate of releasing one publication every four business days since statehood in 1959. Publications include traditional maps, interactive maps and tools (such as digital elevation datasets), reports, and data releases.

"DGGS is small in size but it is a vital part of state government. Its scientists are highly productive and are constantly publishing information that supports local communities and our resource-based economy," said Natural Resources Commissioner Andy Mack.

The Chignik and Chignik Lagoon maps, available at dggs.alaska.gov/pubs/id/29753, show the potential maximum coastal flooding that could occur after a large earthquake. Very large earthquakes in this part of Alaska can be accompanied by permanent uplift in some areas and permanent subsidence in others. In this case, subsided areas along the coast have the potential to be permanently flooded. The maps were developed in collaboration with University of Alaska Fairbanks geoscientists as part of a tsunami study in which researchers combined historical observations and computer simulations to model potential earthquakes and the resulting tsunamis. The maps will be used by community planners, emergency managers and residents to prepare for post-earthquake recovery and to proactively plan future community and infrastructure development.

DGGS archives and maintains public access to 510 terabytes of digital and map-based geological, geophysical and geochemical data through its interactive maps, tools, and databases (maps.dggs.alaska.gov). In FY2017, more than 993,000 documents were downloaded from the division's website (dggs.alaska.gov) and the website drew 23.6 million web page views.

CONTACT: Kenneth Papp (DGGS), 907-451-5001, kenneth.papp@alaska.gov

De Anne Stevens (DGGS), 907-451-5014, deanne.stevens@alaska.gov

Dmitry Nicolsky (Alaska Earthquake Center), 907-474-7397, djnicolsky@alaska.edu

###

STAY CONNECTED:

DNR Newsroom: http://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/dnr_newsroom.htm

DNR on Social Media: http://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/social_media.htm

DNR Public Information Center: http://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/pic/

###

STAY CONNECTED:
DNR Newsroom: http://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/dnr_newsroom.htm
DNR on Social Media: http://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/dnr_newsroom.htm
DNR Public Information Center: http://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/dnr_newsroom.htm