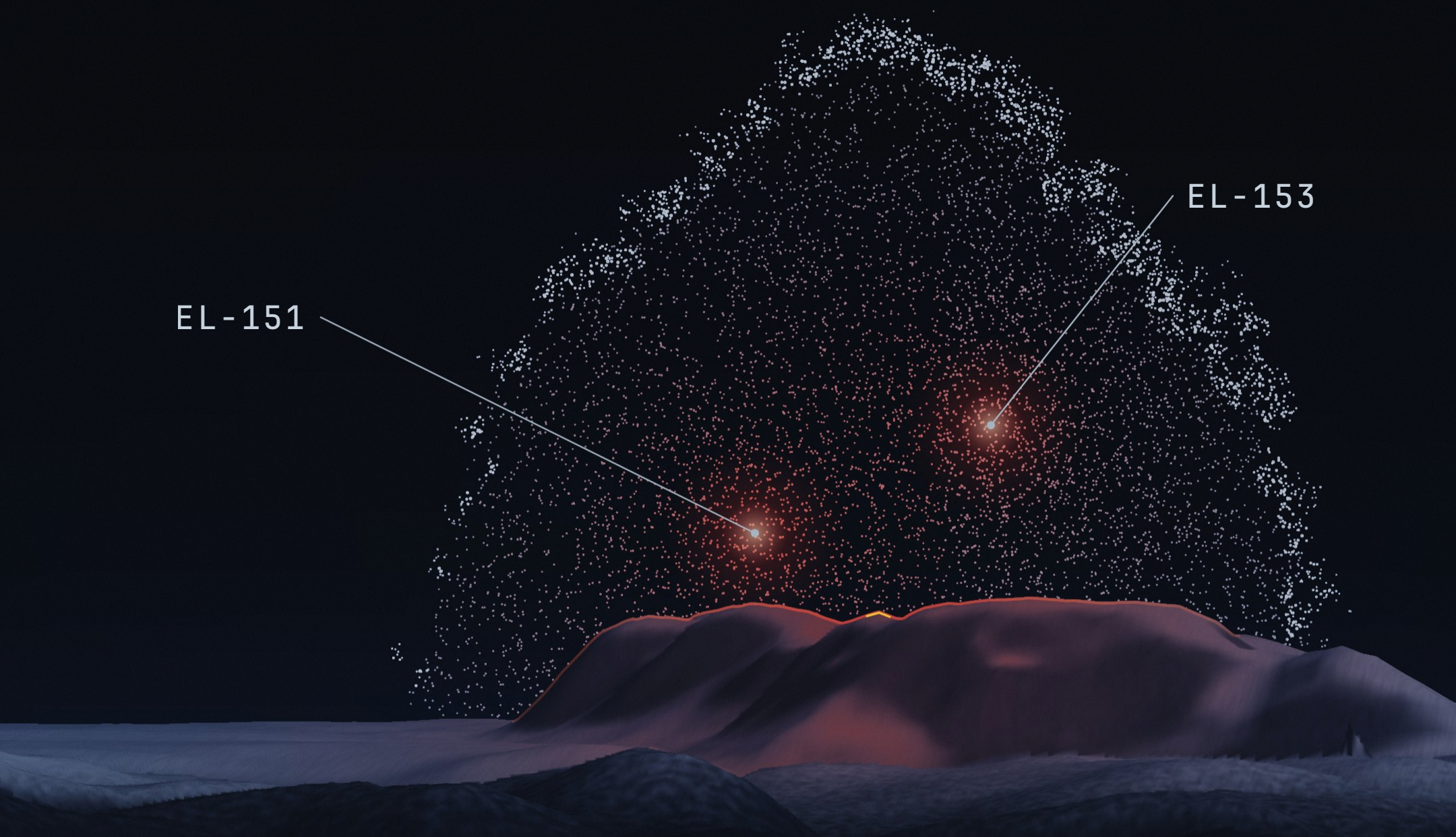


KENAI PENINSULA

The sky has no state rule.

The ground does now.

Two drones seeded the clouds. The borough answered.



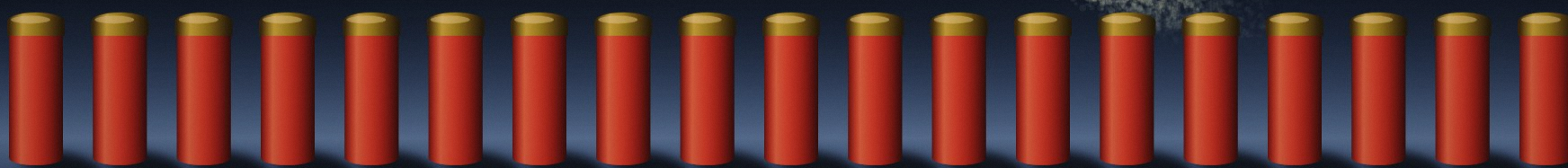
On August 23rd Rainmaker flew two drones it calls autonomous from near the head of Kachemak Bay. On October 20th the borough Assembly voted 7 to 0, two absent, to require a lease or permit for weather modification on borough land.

THE PAYLOAD, PER RAINMAKER'S REPORT

19 flares. 374 grams of silver iodide.

Each red flare dispersed about 19.7 grams. The new form asks every applicant for each flare's quantity, type, manufacturer, serial number and total weight, plus a safety data sheet for anything released.

19.7 G EACH



ILLUSTRATIVE FLARE

374 G

MACRO • TILT 00 • 0700 UTC
59°47'N • 151°03'W

RADAR, AUGUST 23RD

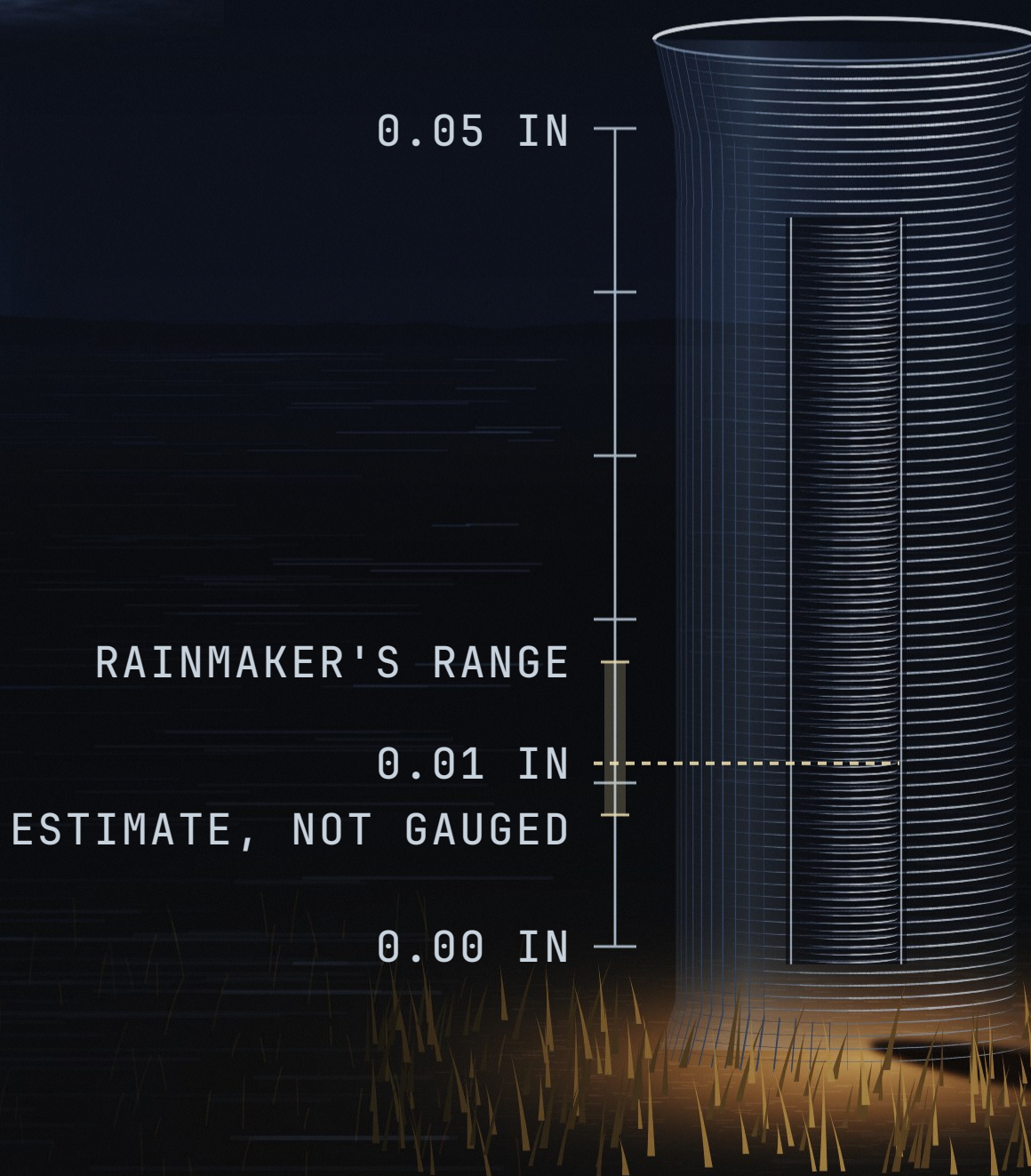
Radar saw it. The water was modeled.

Rainmaker's report puts the first radar signature 40.4 minutes after release, during seven seeding missions between 0618 and 0954 UTC. DEC calls the result a modeled estimate, not a measurement of water collected at the ground.

RAINMAKER'S ESTIMATE

19 million gallons. About 0.01 inches.

Rainmaker puts the added precipitation at 57.62 acre-feet across 249.53 square kilometers, with a range of 41.70 to 89.35. Spread over that area, Rainmaker says, it's about a hundredth of an inch.



0954 UTC. Seeding ends.

Nobody needed a state permit to start.



Whose sky is it?

FEDERAL

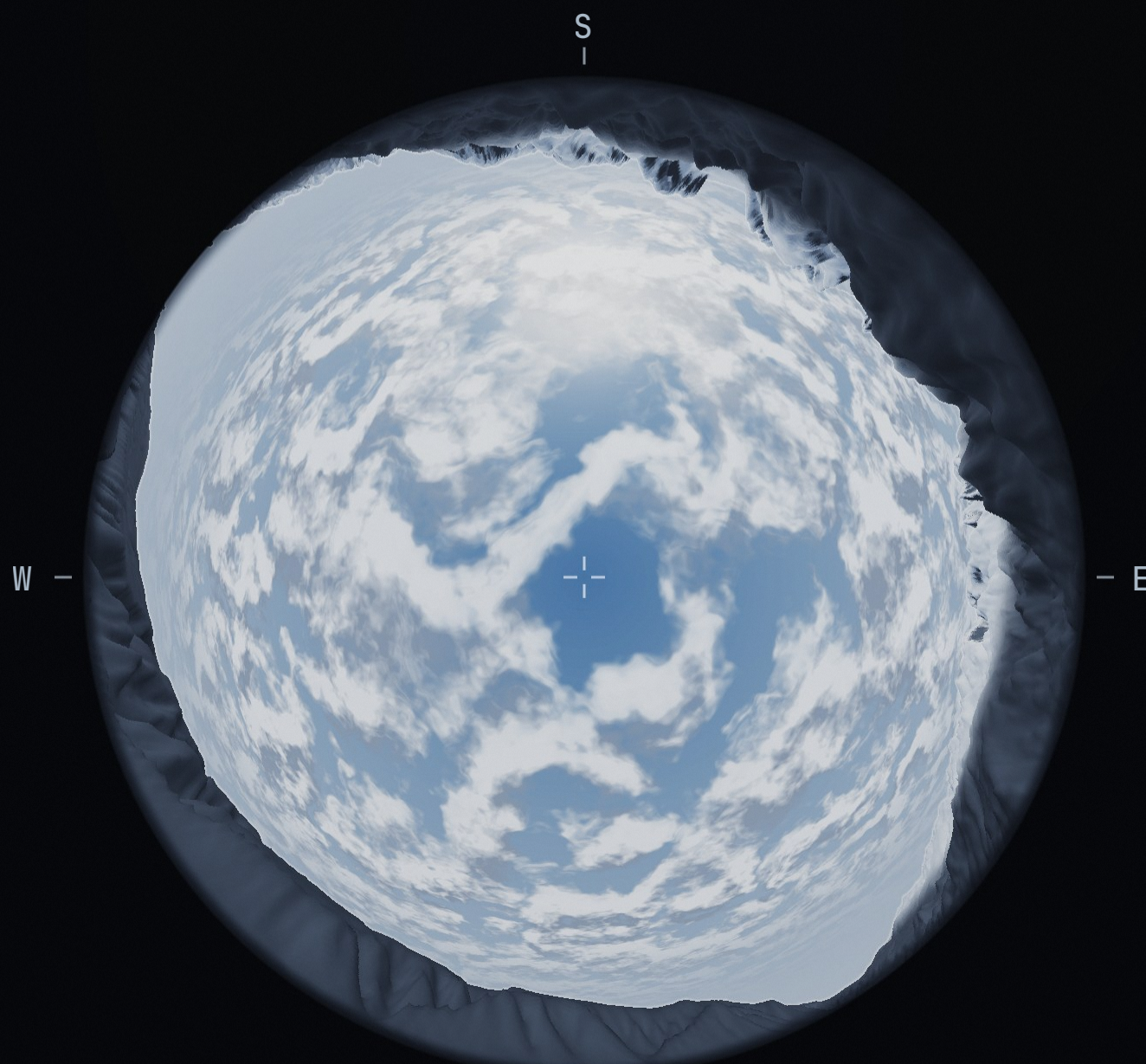
Reporting, not a comprehensive permitting program, DEC says.

STATE

No DEC permit required. No framework specific to weather modification. DNR sent a letter of no objection.

— BOROUGH

Can't fully regulate weather modification or airspace, its legal memo says. So it ruled its own land.



KPB 17.10.165, ENACTED 7 TO 0, OCTOBER 20TH

Before seeding from borough land, name the outcome. Then list ten things.

- 1 CHEMICAL TYPE
- 2 CHEMICAL QUANTITY
- 3 FLARES BY QUANTITY, TYPE, MANUFACTURER, SERIAL NUMBER, WEIGHT
- 4 TOTAL PYROTECHNIC MATERIAL
- 5 SAFETY DATA SHEETS
- 6 FREQUENCY OF ATTEMPTS
- 7 DURATION AND ALTITUDE OF EACH FLIGHT
- 8 TOTAL DURATION OF ALL FLIGHTS
- 9 MAXIMUM FLIGHTS ATTEMPTED
- 10 RELEASE COORDINATES AND PREDICTED IMPACT AREAS

Skip the signed closeout and it's \$1,000 a day, plus a 5-year ban.

CASUAL-USE BOROUGH LAND, BANNED OUTRIGHT

The borough asked the Legislature to ban cloud seeding or require a permit.

Which should Alaska choose?

