



Regional Citizens' Advisory Council / "Citizens promoting environmentally safe operation of the Alyeska terminal and associated tankers."

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MEMBERS

February 8, 2006

Testimony at the Regulatory Commission of Alaska Public Meeting

Alaska State
Chamber of
Commerce

Hello, my name is Susan Sommer and I am a Project Manager for the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council or "RCAC." The RCAC is an independent non-profit corporation whose mission is to promote environmentally safe operation of the Valdez Marine Terminal and associated tankers. Our work is guided by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, and our contract with Alyeska Pipeline Service Company. PWSRCAC's 18 member organizations are communities in the region affected by the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill, as well as commercial fishing, aquaculture, Native, recreation, tourism, and environmental groups.

Alaska Wilderness
Recreation & Tourism
Association

Chugach Alaska
Corporation

City of Cordova

City of Homer

City of Kodiak

City of Seldovia

City of Seward

City of Valdez

City of Whittier

Community of
Chenega Bay

On June 28, 2004, the RCAC submitted a report to the Regulatory Commission of Alaska titled "Trans-Alaska Pipeline System Dismantling, Removal and Restoration (DR&R): Background Report and Recommendations." I have brought a copy of that report and request that it be entered into the record of these proceedings.

Our principal concern is that funding will be available and will be used to mitigate the environmental risks and impacts of TAPS and the Valdez Marine Terminal when oil stops flowing and the system must be decommissioned, dismantled, and its right-of-way restored as required in the grant and lease.

Community of
Tatitlek

To this end, the RCAC makes the following broad policy recommendations to the Regulatory Commission of Alaska:

Cordova District
Fishermen United

1) Petroleum pipeline owners should be required to establish external trust accounts for the receipt of all past and future petroleum pipeline dismantlement, removal and restoration (DR&R) collections necessary for the accomplishment of their intended purpose.

Kenai Peninsula
Borough

Kodiak Island
Borough

2) Regulations should be developed to ensure that DR&R funds collected in the future are sufficient and will be employed in a timely manner for their intended purpose.

Kodiak Village Mayors
Association

Oil Spill Region
Environmental
Coalition

3) Because uncertainties inherent in long-range forecasting make it difficult, if not impossible, to forecast the amounts necessary for DR&R in the distant future, all petroleum pipeline DR&R collection schedules should be reviewed

Prince William Sound
Aquaculture
Corporation

and updated periodically to ensure that collection levels are appropriate to their particular task.

4) Changes in ownership of pipeline interests necessitate that each owner be responsible via transparent accountancy for its DR&R in proportion to its usage and share of its Trans-Alaska Pipeline System DR&R collection.

More detail on these and other recommendations of the RCAC can be found in the report previously mentioned.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide public input on this important issue.