



"Citizens promoting environmentally safe operation of the Alyeska terminal and associated tankers."

3709 Spenard Road, Suite 100
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
907-277-7222/Fax: 907-277-4523

P.O. Box 3089 / 130 S. Meals, Suite 202
Valdez, Alaska 99686
907-834-5000 / Fax: 907-835-5926

PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND
REGIONAL CITIZENS' ADVISORY COUNCIL

Highlights of Recent Activities
February 9, 2010

The council board met in Anchorage, January 21-22.

- The board passed a resolution commending the professionalism displayed by the Crowley crew, the crew of the tanker *Kodiak*, and personnel of the Alyeska Ship Escort/Response Vessel System for their response on January 17 after the *Kodiak* lost power while transporting crude oil out of Prince William Sound.
- The board amended council by-laws to include Port Graham Corporation as a member, and seated Diane Selanoff as the representative of the organization.
- The board heard testimony from representatives of Crowley Maritime and the U.S. Coast Guard regarding the fuel spill from the tug *Pathfinder* on December 23, 2009.
- The board approved sending a letter to the Coast Guard's 17th District in Juneau requesting that the Vessel Traffic System in Prince William Sound be required to use the ice detection radar system. The council has been concerned about the ice radar system, which has been offline since September 2009.

Other significant recent developments at the council include:

Escort legislation:

Federal legislation took a big step forward on October 23rd, when the U.S. House of Representatives approved the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010. This bill contains language to preserve the dual escort system for double-hull tankers. The council is working to make sure the same language is included in the final version of the U.S. Senate bill.

Pathfinder spill:

The council continues to track issues relating to the *Pathfinder* fuel spill incident. During and immediately after the incident, the council maintained a blog with timelines, photos, and details from the incident. Also included were press releases from Crowley, the Coast Guard, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, and the council. Currently, investigations

by the Coast Guard and Crowley are still under way. Charlie Nalen of Crowley Maritime stated at a special POVTS meeting in January that initial results indicated gross human error.

Unannounced drill:

On December 10, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation surprised Alyeska with an unannounced oil spill drill. The council has been advocating for true no-notice drills for a number of years. Council staff participated as observers. While the drill went fairly well considering it was the first to test nighttime response on open water, there were lessons learned. One of the most important problems noted related to the lengthy work shifts expected of those first on the scene.

For more information on the council and its work, contact:
Amanda Johnson, Public Communications Project Manager
907-277-7222

amanda.johnson@pwsrcac.org

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