



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

In Anchorage: 3709 Spenard Road / Suite 100 / Anchorage, Alaska 99503 / (907) 277-7222 / FAX (907) 277-4523
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MEMBERS November 11, 2013

Alaska State
Chamber of
Commerce

Dear Stakeholder,

Alaska Wilderness
Recreation & Tourism
Association

Changes to how dispersants are authorized for use during an oil spill are being proposed by the Alaska Regional Response Team (ARRT). The ARRT is a combination of federal, state and local agencies that share responsibilities for managing oil and chemical spill responses in Alaska.

Chugach Alaska
Corporation

To help you understand the issues, the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council (PWSRCAC) has prepared two documents -

City of Cordova

- Overview of Changes to Oil Dispersant Guidelines for Alaska - provides a brief summary and analysis of the draft oil dispersant authorization plan contents.
- Discussion Points for Public Meetings - contains suggested discussion topics and questions that could be asked during public meetings based upon our initial analysis.

City of Homer

City of Kodiak

City of Seldovia

City of Seward

City of Valdez

City of Whittier

The current version of the dispersant decision use document is named "Oil Dispersant Guidelines for Alaska," and the proposed new document will be renamed "Oil Dispersant Authorization Plan." For clarification, reference to the former document will be "guidelines" while reference to the new document will be "plan."

Community of
Chenega Bay

What are dispersants?

Chemical dispersants are substances applied to spilled oil with the goal of dispersing the oil into the water column rather than leaving it floating on the surface in a slick. The PWSRCAC has long had concerns about the use of chemical dispersants as an alternative spill response method. According to state and national policy, mechanical recovery (removing oil using equipment) takes priority over the use of dispersants. After years of promoting research and testing to increase knowledge about dispersants and the environmental consequences of their use, the council in 2006 adopted a position against the use of dispersants in the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill region (see our website: www.bit.ly/OilSpillDispersants). A short summary of issues regarding dispersants is included at the end of the attached discussion points.

Cordova District
Fishermen United

Kenai Peninsula
Borough

Kodiak Island
Borough

Kodiak Village Mayors
Association

Oil Spill Region
Environmental
Coalition

What are the dispersant guidelines and why do they exist?

The decision to use dispersants during an oil spill response must be made quickly as dispersants work best on freshly spilled oil. The current ARRT Dispersant Guidelines are meant to speed up the decision-making and approval process for dispersant use. The guidelines establish parameters for pre-authorization, which means that in some areas dispersants could be applied without consulting local governments or stakeholders.

Port Graham
Corporation

Prince William Sound
Aquaculture
Corporation

The proposed dispersant plan is available for review on the ARRT website: www.bit.ly/DraftDispersantsPlanARRT. This plan will replace the current guidelines for Alaska, which date back to 1989: www.bit.ly/AnnexFofCurrentGuidelines. These revisions were needed because there has been new scientific research and improvements in equipment over time.

The ARRT wants to hear from you.

The ARRT has asked for members of the public and stakeholder groups to review the draft Oil Dispersant Authorization Plan, and is providing opportunities for comment and discussion. The review process includes public meetings in the PWSRCAC region in Kodiak, Valdez and Anchorage in November. The public comment period runs from November 13, 2013 through February 14, 2014, and instructions on how to participate in this process are provided on the ARRT website: alaskarrt.org.

Public meeting times and locations (in our area):

Anchorage - November 15, 2013

Public Meeting 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm
Federal Annex Building
222 West 7th and 8th Avenues
Anchorage, AK 99513

Kodiak - November 18, 2013

Public Meeting 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm
Koniag, Inc.
194 Alimaq Dr.
Kodiak, AK 99615

Valdez - November 20, 2013

Public Meeting 1:00 pm to 5:00pm
City Council Chamber
212 Chenega St.
Valdez, AK 99686

Note there are additional times for tribal consultation meetings. Please refer to the ARRT website (alaskarrt.org) for more information on these meetings.

If you should have any questions or want to discuss this information further, please contact Joe Banta (banta@pwsrcac.org) or Mark Swanson (mark.swanson@pwsrcac.org). Other project managers are well informed and available to speak on this subject (check www.pwsrcac.org for a staff directory).

Sincerely,



Mark A. Swanson,
Executive Director