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JUN 23 1995

JUN 27 1995 RCAC/MS

Mr. William M. Walker
President
Prince William Sound Regional
Citizens' Advisory Council
750 W. 2nd Ave., Suite 100
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2168

Dear Mr. Walker:

Your request for recertification of the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council (RCAC) as the alternative voluntary advisory group in lieu of council for Prince William Sound, Alaska, is approved. The approval, pursuant to the provisions of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA 90), Section 5002(o), is effective July 1, 1995, through June 30, 1996. A notice of the recertification will be published in the Federal Register.

Your application for recertification was evaluated in accordance with the policy statement published in the Federal Register on July 7, 1993, (58 FR 36505), which clarified the factors that the Coast Guard would consider in making its determinations as to whether advisory groups should be certified in accordance with OPA 90, as outlined in Section 5002(o), the Oil Terminal and Oil Tanker Environmental Oversight and Monitoring Act (the Act). The policy statement advised that the Coast Guard would solicit and consider comments from industry and government, as well as the general public, in its' evaluation process.

The Coast Guard received nineteen comments which supported recertification of the RCAC without reservation. Comments received from Arco Marine indicated that the RCAC has made a concerted effort to improve relations with the tanker industry, however, they indicated that there are several significant issues which must be addressed if the RCAC is to be effective. We are enclosing a copy of Arco Marine's comments for your information and any necessary action. I believe they are worthy of the Council's consideration. I would specifically recommend that you address and document each issue Arco Marine has raised. Your application for recertification next year should include documentation of the steps you have taken to address the issues raised by Arco Marine, and of any progress made in resolving these issues.

Subj: RECERTIFICATION OF PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND RCAC

Our evaluation of your application and supporting comments indicates that the RCAC has put forth a commendable effort during the past year to build positive relationships with industry and government. The process of bridging the gap between the RCAC and industry is an evolving one which will take time, and considerable effort to create the respect and trust that is envisioned by OPA 90. Therefore, I expect the RCAC to continue to work diligently toward reaching this goal.

We appreciate Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council's endeavor to provide oversight and monitoring of the terminal facilities and tanker operations in Prince William Sound, Alaska, and look forward to working with you during the coming year.

Sincerely,



J. C. CARD
Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard
Chief, Office of Marine Safety,
Security and Environmental Protection

Encl: (1) Arco Marine's Comments