

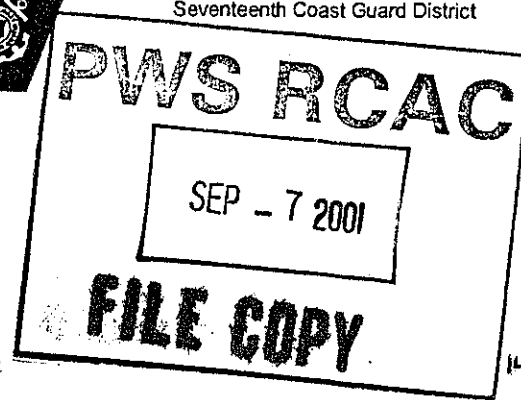
U.S. Department
of Transportation

United States
Coast Guard



Commander
Seventeenth Coast Guard District

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16451
7 September 2001

Mr. John Allen
Board President
Prince William Sound Regional Citizen's Advisory Council
3709 Spenard Rd.
Anchorage, AK 99503

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Dear Mr. Allen,

After review of the certification package submitted by the PWS RCAC, the comments received through the public process, and the feedback from my staff and field units, I certify the PWS RCAC as an alternative voluntary advisory group permitted under Subsection 5002(o) of the Oil Pollution Terminal and Oil Tanker Environmental Oversight and Monitoring Act of 1990. This recertification terminates on January 31, 2002.

Of the twenty comments the Coast Guard received, 19 were supportive of recertification and noted the positive efforts, good communication, and broad representation of PWS communities as PWS RCAC carries out its responsibilities as intended by the Act. One commenter recommended the Coast Guard not certify the PWS RCAC because it is not broadly representative of all interests and communities in the area.

The Native Village of Eyak did not support recertification, stating that "the Native Village of Eyak has never been represented by the PWS RCAC. For this reason, the Native Village of Eyak does not support the recertification of the PWS RCAC as broadly representative of the interests and communities in the area." I recommend that you establish contact with the Native Village of Eyak to ensure their concerns are reflected in the PWS RCAC's activities. Additionally, I have recommended to the President of the Village's Traditional Council that they open a dialog with you concerning membership on the PWS RCAC Board of Directors, if they desire, as membership of native villages is consistent with Section 2732(d)(2)(A)(iii) of OPA 90.

I am granting your certification with the understanding that PWS RCAC plans to make certain administrative changes prior to the next certification cycle. This includes correcting travel policies to be consistent with the intent of OPA 90, as well as implementing any appropriate recommendations that may arise from the PWS RCAC policies and procedures audit that the Coast Guard has undertaken with your cooperation. I firmly believe that the results of the audit will strengthen the PWS RCAC and improve your ability to affect improvements in PWS.

I am pleased to note that the PWS RCAC continues to make great progress on projects that promise to significantly improve oil terminal and tanker operations in PWS, such as the ice radar

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project, the Valdez Marine Terminal's fire prevention and response system, and development Geographic Response Strategies. These are just examples of your excellent work over the last year and are representative of the fine work the PWS RCAC has engaged in over the last decade.

My staff and I look forward to continued work with you on our common goal of improving the safe and environmentally sound transport of oil in PWS and surrounding communities.

Sincerely,



T. J. BARRETT

Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard

Commander, Seventeenth Coast Guard District