

U.S. Department
of Transportation

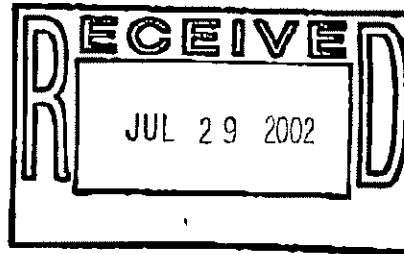
United States
Coast Guard



Commander
Seventeenth Coast Guard District

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JUL 23 2002

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 Prince William Sound Regional Citizen's Advisory Council (PWSRCAC), the comments received through the public process, and the feedback from my staff and field units, I certify the PWSRCAC 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 re-certification terminates on January 31, 2003.

Of the twenty four comments the Coast Guard received, twenty three were supportive of recertification and noted the positive efforts, good communication, and broad representation of the Prince William Sound communities as PWSRCAC carries out its responsibilities as intended by the Act.

One commenter recommended the Coast Guard de-certify the PWSRCAC because it is not broadly representative of all interests and communities in the area. The Native Village of Eyak did not support re-certification, stating the PWSRCAC does not adhere to Tribal sovereignty rights because they have not established a government-to-government relationship with the Tribes in the Prince William Sound area. They further state the funding received by the RCAC needs to be reallocated to ensure tribal interests are represented. I have taken into consideration not only their letter, but your response as well in my decision to grant re-certification. I appreciate you offering a membership seat to the Village following the last re-certification period, and request you continue to maintain an open line of communication with the Native Village of Eyak, and keep the door open for their membership on the RCAC if they express the desire to do so.

I am pleased to hear the progress the RCAC has made on many of the items of concern from last fall's audit, and look forward to your continued effort to comply with the audits' recommendations. I hope you will look at this audit as a tool to use and assist with any public scrutiny. Additionally, following the guidelines of OMB Circular A-122 is ultimately for your benefit. Use of this Circular will provide you with a proper framework for sound financial and management practices; and responsible accounting methods for the funds you receive.

Subj: PWS RCAC

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The PWSRCAC continues to make great progress on the myriad of projects undertaken to improve safety and quality of the marine environment. Your accomplishments over the last year and decade are truly noteworthy, and continue to make a noticeable difference in "how we do business".

My staff and I look forward to continue working with you on our common goal of improving the safe and environmentally sound transport of oil in the Prince William Sound and surrounding communities.

Sincerely,



J. W. UNDERWOOD

Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard

Commander, Seventeenth Coast Guard District