

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

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January 28, 2003

MEMBERS

Alaska State
Chamber of
Commerce

Commander, 17th Coast Guard District (M)
P.O. Box 25517
Juneau, AK 99802

Alaska Wilderness
Recreation & Tourism
Association

SUBJECT: PWSRCAC Recertification Application

Chugach Alaska
Corporation

Dear Sir:

City of Cordova

The Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council (PWSRCAC) hereby applies for recertification as the alternative voluntary advisory group for Prince William Sound, per Sec. 5002 (o) of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990.

City of Homer

This is our first application under the guidelines in the Coast Guard's Sept. 16, 2002, Federal Register notice, which established a streamlined process for two years (including the year covered by this application) out of every three. This notice stated that a streamlined application need only "describe any substantive changes to the information provided at the last triennial recertification."

City of Kodiak

Accordingly, we have kept this application as brief as possible, limiting ourselves to truly substantive developments since our last recertification. This required the omission of numerous other, but still important, developments at RCAC over the past year, so we stand ready to furnish any additional information you may require.

City of Seldovia

City of Seward

City of Valdez

City of Whittier

Community of
Chenega Bay

Substantive Changes

Community of
Tatitlek

Ice Detection Radar

2002 saw installation and startup of the first of two VHF radar systems on Reef Island for detecting icebergs that could threaten oil tankers and other vessels. This successful multi-year project was a cooperative effort with the Coast Guard and numerous other stakeholders. In December of 2002 the Coast Guard presented a Public Service Commendation to Rhonda Arvidson, our manager for this project.

Cordova District
Fishermen United

Kenai Peninsula
Borough

Kodiak Island
Borough

Best Available Technology

During the 2002 session of the Alaska Legislature, the council's Legislative Affairs Committee focused on securing funding for a Best Available Technology review and conference by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. The appropriation had been defeated in the 2001 session but passed in 2002, thanks in considerable part to our efforts. The Best Available Technology process will provide an orderly mechanism for reviewing and updating oil-spill prevention and response technologies for Prince William Sound.

Kodiak Village Mayors
Association

Oil Spill Region
Environmental
Coalition

Prince William Sound
Aquaculture
Corporation

Dispersant Research

For years, the council has been concerned about the scarcity and low quality of research into the efficacy and toxicity of chemical dispersants when used on spilled oil. This year, as in the past, the council commissioned several dispersant research projects and white papers.

Perhaps most importantly, the council made a presentation on the need for coordinated dispersants research to the Alaska Regional Response Team. As a result, the ARRT is convening its Science and Technology Work Group to identify the kind of dispersants research needed to help answer outstanding questions. The council plans to stay involved in this multi-stakeholder process.

Response Gap

We have identified a regulatory gap that allows loaded oil tankers to sail in weather conditions so severe that tanker save capability by tugs cannot be drilled, and response to an oil spill would be impossible. We are seeking ways to narrow or close this safety gap.

Tanker Oil Spill Contingency Plans

We persuaded industry and regulators to restore response requirements for areas outside Prince William Sound that had been dropped from the tanker contingency plans during the renewal process that started in 2001.

Formation Of Finance Committee

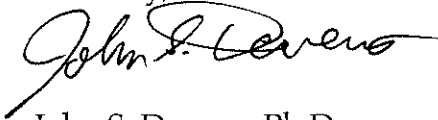
In March 2002, our board formed a four-member subcommittee to oversee our financial affairs. It meets regularly to review financial statements and other financial matters in far greater detail than was feasible by the board acting as a committee of the whole at board meetings.

Weather Stations

We have co-funded installation of a weather station network with Prince William Sound Oil Spill Recovery Institute. As a result, near real-time wind and weather data will be available on the Internet.

Please contact me if there is anything further we can do to complete the recertification process.

Sincerely,



John S. Devens, Ph.D.
Executive Director

cc: Richard Ranger, Liaison
Alyeska Pipeline Service Co.