

U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security

United States  
Coast Guard



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Dr. John S. Devens  
Executive Director  
Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council  
339 Hazlet Avenue  
Valdez, AK 99686

Dear Dr. Devens,

After review of the certification package submitted by the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council (PWSRCAC), and correspondence received through the public comment process, 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 (the Act). This re-certification terminates on February 28, 2006.

Of the 17 letters received during the public comment period, 16 were positive. These letters in support of the re-certification consistently cited PWSRCAC's broad representation of the respective community's interests, appropriate actions to keep the public informed, improvements to both spill response preparation and spill prevention, and oil industry monitoring efforts that combat complacency – as intended by the Act.

One commenter, the Native Village of Eyak (NVE), recommended the Coast Guard de-certify the PWSRCAC because it neither represents the NVE, nor can it afford representation to the NVE through membership on the PWSRCAC Board of Directors. The NVE further states that a separate Tribal oversight group should be created, and advisory group funding be directed to it. I have taken into consideration not only their letter, but your response as well in my decision to grant re-certification. I request you continue to maintain an open line of communication with the NVE, and allow for their membership on the PWSRCAC if they express the desire to do so.

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 Prince William Sound and surrounding communities.

Sincerely,

JAMES C. OLSON  
Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard  
Commander, Seventeenth Coast Guard District