

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security



United States
Coast Guard

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Seventeenth Coast Guard District

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10 MAR 2009

Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council
Attn: Dr. John S. Devens, Executive Director
3709 Spenard Road, Suite 100
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Dear Dr. Devens:

After review of the recertification package submitted by the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council (PWSRCAC), 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 (OPA 90). This recertification terminates February 28, 2010.

One factor I considered when reviewing your recertification application was the level of effectiveness of the Council's communications with industry and government personnel. All too often during the past year I have witnessed or have heard of instances where Council staff members or representatives have taken a confrontational and/or a non-cooperative approach when engaged with government personnel. I fear this approach diminishes the creditability and effectiveness of the Council. You should be well aware that the Council's interests and the interests of those citizens they represent will best be served by maintaining and fostering productive long-term partnerships with industry and government agencies. I will continue to stress the importance of our positive working relationship to Coast Guard personnel and ask that you convey the same to Council staff members and representatives.

Under the guidelines established by the Coast Guard in 2002, this re-certification fell under the streamlined inspection process and as such only substantive changes were reported by your office and public comment was not sought by the Coast Guard.

My staff and I look forward to continued work with you to maintain and improve safe and environmentally sound transportation of oil in Prince William Sound.

Sincerely,

A. E. BROOKS

Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard

Commander, Seventeenth Coast Guard District

Copy: Sector Anchorage
MSU Valdez
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