

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

In Anchorage:

3709 Spenard Road / Suite 100 / Anchorage, Alaska 99503 / (907) 277-7222 / FAX (907) 277-4523

In Valdez:

P.O. Box 3089 / 130 South Meals / Suite 202 / Valdez, Alaska 99686 / (907) 834-5000 / FAX (907) 835-5926

MEMBERS

December 1, 2010

Alaska State
Chamber of
Commerce

Commander, 17th Coast Guard District (M)
PO Box 25517
Juneau, Alaska 99802

Alaska Wilderness
Recreation & Tourism
Association

Attn: LCDR Michael R. Franklin
Inspections & Licensing

Chugach Alaska
Corporation

Dear Sir:

City of Cordova

Please find enclosed the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council's application 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

City of Kodiak

In accordance with procedures developed during our last comprehensive recertification (in 2008), this year's application is based on a questionnaire developed by the Coast Guard for the recertification process. This year's package includes the following:

City of Seldovia

City of Seward

- Completed questionnaire using the form provided by the Coast Guard
- Draft news release on the availability of our application for review and comment
- Annual report of the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council
- CD-ROM containing electronic versions of our budget and five-year Long-Range Plan; our most recent financial audit; and our funding contract and most recent contract addendum with Alyeska Pipeline Service Co.

City of Valdez

City of Whittier

Community of
Chenega Bay

Community of
Tatitlek

Cordova District
Fishermen United

As discussed with the Coast Guard prior to submission, we have attempted to make this application both smaller and easier to review, first, by referring the reviewer to our annual report where it covers information also needed for recertification, and, second, by submitting some of the larger backup documents on CD-ROM as described above.

Kenai Peninsula
Borough

As this is the first time we have prepared a questionnaire-based recertification application, we are aware that some information that would benefit the process may inadvertently have been omitted. If so, please bring any such omissions to our attention and we will promptly rectify them.

Kodiak Island
Borough

Kodiak Village Mayors
Association

Finally, we thought it would be worthwhile to discuss a significant level of activity we were drawn into over the past year that is not specifically addressed in the recertification questionnaire. I refer to the enormous interest in the history and lessons of the Exxon Valdez oil spill and in citizen oversight that was generated by the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

Oil Spill Region
Environmental
Coalition

Port Graham
Corporation

As a result of this incident, we received numerous inquiries from Gulf citizens, from the news media, from elected officials, and from the federal commission

Prince William Sound
Aquaculture
Corporation

investigating the BP spill. Our council is identified in the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 as a "demonstration program." Consequently, we have always considered informing the public—particularly in response to direct requests—about citizen oversight, and about the lessons learned in Prince William Sound on oil-spill prevention and response, to be one of our ancillary responsibilities under the Act. We were encouraged to do so in this case by key congressional offices and, accordingly, we assisted as we could with such information requests.

We interacted with numerous news organizations, ranging from reporters here in Alaska, to local newspapers and television stations in the Gulf, to national-level newspapers, broadcast networks and cable outlets from the United States and abroad.

We also received numerous inquiries from Gulf citizens and, upon request, gave them our perspective on how lessons learned in Alaska on citizen oversight and on oil spill prevention and response might be applied in the Gulf. In addition, we facilitated tours of Prince William Sound by three groups of visitors from the Gulf, numbering about 26 persons in total, plus, in one case, four national media organizations that accompanied the visitors. Part of this facilitation included arranging meetings of the Gulf visitors with various stakeholders in Prince William Sound, including the Coast Guard.

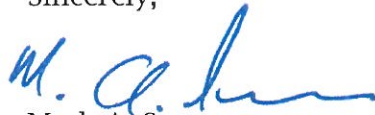
We were repeatedly contacted by state and federal elected officials about possible legislation to respond to the Gulf spill, including legislation to create citizen oversight in the Gulf of Mexico and in the Alaskan Arctic. These officials included not only members of the Alaska congressional delegation, but federal elected officials from other states as well. In July, PWSRCAC Project Manager Joseph Banta was invited to testify before the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary at a hearing titled "Exxon Valdez to Deepwater Horizon: Protecting Victims of Major Oil Spills." The subject of his testimony was the long-term economic harm from the Exxon Valdez oil spill.

In addition, we met with UAA Chancellor Fran Ulmer in her role as a member of President Obama's National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling, and with commission co-chair William Reilly, who was EPA administrator at the time of the Exxon Valdez spill.

Throughout these meetings and conversations engendered by the Gulf oil spill, we emphasized the value of citizen oversight in helping promote the partnership among regulators, industry companies, and citizens that we believe is working effectively in Alaska to prevent a recurrence of the complacency and lapses in vigilance identified by Congress as causes of the Exxon Valdez spill.

If you need additional information, please contact Stan Jones in our Anchorage office or me in our Valdez office.

Sincerely,



Mark A. Swanson
Executive Director

cc: Barry Roberts, Liaison, Alyeska Pipeline Service Co.
PWSRCAC Board of Directors