

CIRCAC Disagrees With ADEC Proposal To Overhaul The State's Oil Spill Plan

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The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) is proposing an overhaul of the state's oil discharge prevention and contingency plans regulations, something the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council ([CIRCAC](#)) says is unnecessary.

According to ADEC Commissioner Jason Brune the current regulations “weaken our ability to prevent and respond to catastrophic spills”. Brune [opened](#) the current laws to public review on October 15 stating they were too “burdensome” to industry.

Michael Munger the Executive Director of CIRCAC: *“We question the DEC’s motivation. They justified this review because it’s unnecessarily burdensome to industry. These laws are working well as written, we vigorously oppose the change in oil spill prevention and response laws, and are recommending the DEC leave them alone.”*

Munger said that CIRCAC is encouraging anyone interested in “preserving the stringent industry oversight we have come to expect to tell ADEC to leave Alaska’s oil spill prevention and response regulations and statutes alone”.

Munger: *“These laws have been subjected to multiple revisions and recommended improvements already, they’re doing what they were intended to do. We consider these laws to be the strongest oil spill prevention laws in the United States.”*

In the release from the ADEC, Brune went on to say that this overhaul is based on lessons learned following the devastating Exxon Valdez oil spill: *“I’ve heard from many Alaskans that contingency plans are unnecessarily burdensome while lacking corresponding environmental benefits. To achieve Governor Dunleavy’s goal of being open for business, today we are beginning a fully transparent scoping process seeking the public’s input.”*

Scoping comments may be submitted online at <http://alaskadec.commentinput.com> and must be received by the DEC no later than 11:59 pm on January 15, 2020.