



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

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MEMBERS

July 6, 2020

Alaska State Chamber of Commerce

Rear Admiral Matthew T. Bell
Commander - 17th Coast Guard District
United States Coast Guard
PO Box 25517
Juneau, AK 99802-5517

Chugach Alaska Corporation

City of Cordova

RE: Docket USCG-2020-0188
Application for Recertification of Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council

City of Homer

City of Kodiak

Dear Admiral Bell:

City of Seldovia

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Committee volunteers, and staff of the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council (PWSRCAC), I take this opportunity to express our support for the recertification of the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council (CIRCAC) as the alternate voluntary advisory group for that region as authorized under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA 90). CIRCAC works within the mandates of OPA 90 to make significant improvements to overall safe operations of oil movement throughout Cook Inlet, working effectively and efficiently with local, state, and federal legislators and regulators, as well as a diverse number of local native and commercial interests, as envisioned by Congress through OPA 90.

City of Seward

City of Valdez

City of Whittier

Community of Chenega

Community of Tatitlek

Cordova District Fishermen United

CIRCAC has a great track record of helping to ensure environmentally safe marine transportation and oil facility operations in their region. This is exemplified by their work with regulators and industry to monitor and address recent spills in Cook Inlet and their continued work to ensure oil spill prevention and response programs in their region continue to be evaluated and improved. Some examples of work they have undertaken during the past three years which has had a positive effect include:

Kenai Peninsula Borough

Kodiak Island Borough

Kodiak Village Mayors Association

- Cook Inlet Pipeline Integrity Assessment, which documented a full catalog of Cook Inlet's undersea pipeline system to seek ways to reduce risk
- Recommending substantive changes to strengthen oil spill contingency plans, ensure facilities are adequately staffed, and verify that plans are executable
- Expanding the Geographic Response Information Database (GRID) in scope and accessibility
- Upgrading the Cook Inlet Ice Monitoring Camera Network with modern video technology
- Completing a multi-year near-shore habitat assessment
- Launching a new study of marine snow as an oil transporter

Oil Spill Region Environmental Coalition

Port Graham Corporation

Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation

While the PWSRCAC and CIRCAC have made a concerted effort over the last 4 years to increase our collaborative efforts, we believe we were particularly successful in doing so regarding the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation's recent public scoping process on oil spill prevention and response regulations. Together we were able to leverage our resources to address issues of mutual concern, and to better educate and inform our stakeholders on these important issues.

The PWSRCAC has enjoyed working collaboratively with our counterparts in Cook Inlet, have seen their effectiveness first-hand, and strongly support their request for recertification. If you have any questions or require additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me at 907-255-5116, or via e-mail at schantz@pwsrcac.org. Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Donna Schantz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Donna Schantz
Executive Director