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July 28, 2023

Rear Admiral Megan Dean
Commander - 17th Coast Guard District
United States Coast Guard

Docket Number: USCG-2023-0392

Admiral Dean:

I am writing on behalf of Hilcorp in support of recertification of the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council (CIRCAC). Since its creation, CIRCAC has been one of the Cook Inlet's leading organizations for promoting programs to prevent spills, enhance safety in both marine transportation and oil facilities operations, and protect Cook Inlet's waters, shorelines, cultural, natural and wildlife resources.

Hilcorp appreciates CIRCAC's commitment and contributions to better regulatory oversight and safety measures. This includes conducting risk assessments, sharing data, developing applicable tools and strategies, evaluating best available technology, engaging the public, and thoroughly reviewing contingency plans and regulations that prioritize prevention while promoting safety.

CIRCAC has been proactive in working with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) on a suite of regulatory updates. Hilcorp especially values CIRCAC's work with ADEC, industry partners and with various public outreach campaigns to educate and support updates that strengthen the state's spill response rules.

CIRCAC has expanded its Ice Camera Network through collaboration with its industry partners, including Hilcorp, and multiple local, state and federal agencies. The information provided by these cameras has significantly reduced the risk of an incident in Cook Inlet's dynamic winter conditions and highlights CIRCAC's ability to develop partnerships and share information.

CIRCAC's science program provides valuable data about coastal habitats, physical oceanography and oil behavior. CIRCAC recently entered a three-year agreement with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) to compile historical contaminants data from Cook Inlet into an integrated database for online access.

CIRCAC continues to provide to its stakeholders and the public an avenue to work with industry and regulators to ensure safe operations in the region. Since its inception, CIRCAC has formed and strengthened partnerships and encouraged consensus decision-making. Through this process, CIRCAC brings a varied group of stakeholders together to create environmental monitoring and oil spill prevention programs to promote safe production and transportation of oil in Cook Inlet.

Hilcorp requests that you recertify CIRCAC so that it can continue to build on its work and positively impact the future of Cook Inlet.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Luke Saugier', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Luke Saugier
Senior Vice President, Hilcorp Alaska