



9110-04-P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

United States Coast Guard (USCG)

[USCG-2015-0751]

Cook Inlet Regional Citizen's Advisory Council (CIRCAC)

Charter Renewal.

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Notice of Recertification.

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SUMMARY: The purpose of this notice is to inform the public that the Coast Guard has recertified the Cook Inlet Regional Citizen's Advisory Council (CIRCAC) as an alternative voluntary advisory group for Cook Inlet, Alaska. This certification allows the CIRCAC to monitor the activities of terminal facilities and crude oil tankers under the Cook Inlet Program established by statute.

DATES: This recertification is effective for the period from September 1, 2015 through August 31, 2016.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: LTJG Katharine Martorelli, Seventeenth Coast Guard District (dpi), by phone at (907)463-2809, email [Katharine.E.Martorelli@uscg.mil](mailto:Katharine.E.Martorelli@uscg.mil) or by mail at P.O. Box 25517, Juneau, Alaska 99802.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

## Background and Purpose

As part of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, Congress passed the Oil Terminal and Oil Tanker Environmental Oversight and Monitoring Act of 1990 (the Act), 33 U.S.C. 2732, to foster a long-term partnership among industry, government, and local communities in overseeing compliance with environmental concerns in the operation of crude oil terminals and oil tankers.

On October 18, 1991, the President delegated his authority under 33 U.S.C 2732 (o) to the Secretary of Transportation in Executive Order 12777, section 8(g) (see 56 FR 54757; October 22, 1991) for purposes of certifying advisory councils, or groups, subject to the Act. On March 3, 1992, the Secretary re-delegated that authority to the Commandant of the USCG (see 57 FR 8582; March 11, 1992). The Commandant re-delegated that authority to the Chief, Office of Marine Safety, Security and Environmental Protection (G-M) on March 19, 1992 (letter #5402).

On July 7, 1993, the USCG published a policy statement, 58 FR 36504, to clarify the factors that shall be considered in making the determination as to whether advisory councils, or groups, should be certified in accordance with the Act.

The Assistant Commandant for Marine Safety and Environmental Protection (G-M), re-delegated recertification authority for advisory councils, or groups, to the Commander, Seventeenth Coast Guard District on February 26, 1999 (letter #16450).

On September 16, 2002, the USCG published a policy statement, 67 FR 58440, that changed the recertification procedures such that applicants are required to provide the USCG with comprehensive information every three years

(triennially). For each of the two years between the triennial application procedures, applicants submit a letter requesting recertification that includes a description of any substantive changes to the information provided at the previous triennial recertification. Further, public comment is not solicited prior to recertification during streamlined years, only during the triennial comprehensive review.

On September 1, 2014, the Coast Guard recertified the Cook Inlet Regional Citizen's Advisory Council through August 31, 2015. Under the Oil Terminal and Oil Tanker Environmental Oversight Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2732), the Coast Guard may certify, on an annual basis, an alternative voluntary advisory group for Cook Inlet, Alaska. This advisory group monitors the activities of terminal facilities and crude oil tankers under the Cook Inlet Program established by Congress, 33 U.S.C. 2732 (b).

#### Recertification

By letter dated August 20, 2015, the Commander, Seventeenth Coast Guard certified that the CIRCAC qualifies as an alternative voluntary advisory group under 33 U.S.C. 2732(o). This recertification terminates on August 31, 2016.

Dated: August 20, 2015.

D. B. ABEL

Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard Commander,  
Seventeenth Coast Guard District

[FR Doc. 2015-24335 Filed: 9/24/2015 08:45 am; Publication  
Date: 9/25/2015]