

Dear Plan Holder:

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) is currently engaged in a multi-year, multi-phase project to comprehensively review and update the oil discharge prevention and contingency plans regulations in 18 AAC 75. ADEC is beginning Phase 2 of this project, reviewing and revising the oil pollution prevention regulations in 18 AAC 75 Article 1. These revisions may significantly affect your daily operations. We are therefore soliciting your input as a representative of the regulated community to assist us in determining the scope of revisions necessary to ensure that the state has the most effective and efficient oil pollution prevention regulations possible.

ADEC would like your participation in an informal workgroup to help us answer the following basic questions regarding our oil pollution prevention regulations:

- Should ADEC's oil pollution prevention regulations be revised, in whole or in part, to be more in line with similar federal regulations, such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasures (SPCC) regulations in 40 CFR 112?
- Should the Prevention Plan section (Part 2) of the ADEC Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plan (C-Plan) regulations be removed from the C-Plan and be promulgated as separate oil pollution prevention regulations (similar to federal regulations)?
- What sections of 18 AAC 75 Article 1 (Oil Pollution Prevention Requirements) need updating to reflect current trends in pollution prevention and industry standards?
- What sections of 18 AAC 75 Article 1 (Oil Pollution Prevention Requirements) need revision to increase their efficacy?
- What sections of 18 AAC 75 Article 1 (Oil Pollution Prevention Requirements) are no longer valid in light of current industry practices?

Enclosed with this letter is a copy of the current 18 AAC 75 Article 1 regulations for your review. The current regulations are also on our website at <http://www.state.ak.us/dec/regulations/index.htm>.

The current oil pollution prevention regulations became effective in 1992 after passage of more stringent oil spill statutes following the Exxon Valdez oil spill, and have remained essentially unchanged since then. The prevention regulations currently cover the following topics:

- General oil pollution prevention
- Oil transfer requirements
- Laden oil tank vessels
- Laden oil barges
- Exploration and production facility operations
- Crude oil transmission pipeline leak detection, monitoring, and operations
- Oil storage tank requirements
- Secondary containment for aboveground oil storage tanks

- Facility piping
- Railroad tank car operations

ADEC is proposing to review and revise the regulations regarding the topics listed above, and to consider additional oil pollution prevention regulations on the following topics:

- Employee training
- Recordkeeping
- Inspections

If you are willing to assist us in this endeavor, please respond to this letter no later than August 20, 2004 with the name and contact information of the person that will represent your interests. If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact Mr. Craig Wilson of my staff (telephone: 907-465-5204, email: craig_wilson@dec.state.ak.us).

Sincerely,

Bill Hutmacher
Program Manager

Enclosed: 18 AAC 75, Article 1