

Workgroup Meeting of the Cook Inlet Subarea PPOR Workgroup

April 4, 2007 10:00 AM
AVTEC Auditorium
519 4th Ave.
Seward, AK

Attendees:

Peter Armato, NPS	Mark Janes, Nuka Research
John Bauer, ADEC	Jack Jensen, Tesoro Alaska
Catherine Berg, USFWS	Jim Lewis, Seward Harbor
Valerie Blajeski, ADFG	John Kwietniak, Tesoro Alaska
Vinnie Catalano, CIRCAC	Doug Mutter, DOI
Mark DeVries, COTP, USCG	Bob Petit, ADEC
John French, PWSRCAC	Jeff Pierce, SWAPA
Meg Hahr, NPS	Tim Robertson, Nuka Research
Shelly Hall, NPS	Linda Robinson, PWSRCAC
Steve Howell, CIRCAC	John Whitney, NOAA
Larry Iwamoto, ADEC	

Larry Iwamoto opened the meeting and gave a brief welcome, familiarized the group with the facility, and provided a safety briefing as well.

Tim Robertson led the introductions of members present and gave an overview of the project status. He related that the documents developed by the workgroup would become a section of the Cook Inlet Subarea Contingency Plan (SCP). This section would contain the supporting documents to include an Introductory Section, a Site Assessment Matrix (SAM) and the PPOR documents.

He noted that the identification of PPOR sites was accomplished with input from the South West Alaska Pilots Association (SWAPA) and other local individuals with firsthand knowledge of the waters around Cook Inlet during the first work group meeting. This process led to 51 sites being identified. These were separated into 5 mapped areas that were developed into PPOR documents. The sites were researched for pertinent information that will be available to future decision makers. The information was placed in the draft Site Assessment Matrix (SAM) and in the draft PPOR documents, where it is displayed graphically and in informational tables. The aerial photos for the documents will be included as they become available.

Mr. Robertson stated the goal of the meeting is to review the PPOR products that have been produced, provide necessary edits in the content and format of the document and if appropriate grant approval for submission to the Cook Inlet Subarea Committee for inclusion of the PPOR Documents in the Subarea Contingency Plan. He listed the products that need review and approval prior to submission. They are:

- The text that will introduce the PPOR in the SCP
- The Index Map
- The Site Assessment Matrix and key
- The PPOR Documents- charts, tables and photos
- The Subarea Risk Assessment Maps

He noted the inclusion of open water PPOR that was brought forward as a discussion point by ADEC staff and that the workgroup will consider the inclusion of this in the final products.

Mr. Robertson led the group in a review of the PPOR products that have been developed for the subarea. Individual edits were captured as offered and will be included in the updated documents.

Relating to the PPOR developed for the Kachemak Bay area the discussion was opened to address the potential development of an “open water” PPOR for the lower portion of Cook Inlet.

John Bauer led the discussion relating to how the issue came up in a recent navigational forum regarding taking a leaking vessel to a PPOR. If a leaking vessel needed stabilization, most areas designated currently as PPORs would experience significant consequences if it was brought in prior to stopping the leak and the act of moving the vessel could possibly increase the discharge of oil. John Whitney reviewed data regarding the currents in Cook Inlet and historical data gathered from the 1987 T/V Glacier Bay spill. He noted after the initial stabilization of the vessel in 1987, upon moving it for off-loading at Nikiski, a larger secondary spill then occurred. This resulted in a wide dispersal of oil due to the currents in the area. The group discussed the merits of a PPOR that could be used to stabilize a vessel away from shore that would not be subject to the amount of current in Nikiski. It was noted that currently all tankers in Cook Inlet are now double-hulled and the usual freight vessels fuel tanks are double bottomed. Also offered were the inherent and unique risks in Cook Inlet and that all contingencies should be considered. Written comments from Scott Pegau formerly of the Kachemak Bay NERRS were reviewed and contained additional information regarding the currents in Cook Inlet.

The group was not able to reach a consensus on the inclusion of an open water PPOR with the information at this meeting. It was decided that as a strategy and/or a specific place of refuge, the merits of an open water PPOR need to be discussed further. A sub group was formed to address issues of:

- Should this be designated as a PPOR or a strategy
- How would it fit into the SCP in the PPOR section and
- Where would be the most likely spots to designate as a PPOR in Cook Inlet.

The Open Water PPOR subgroup agreed to convene in mid-May to discuss these issues and come up with specific recommendations for the overall work group. Volunteers for the meeting were offered and a call for additional members will be extended to the entire work group.

Cook Inlet Subarea Potential Places of Refuge Workgroup

The remaining PPOR documents were reviewed and all edits in content and format will be included in the final draft. This will be posted on the web site for a final review by the workgroup.

The members present agreed that after the final plans are posted on the web for public and workgroup review for 30 days and if no significant changes are offered, the Cook Inlet PPOR Documents will be considered approved by the workgroup and forwarded to the Subarea Committee for their approval and inclusion in the SCP update.

Action Items:

- Nuka Research will make changes to the Risk Maps, SAM and the PPOR Documents to capture the information and edits collected in the meeting and will research additional information as directed.
- Nuka Research will notify the work group that the comment period on current products on the web will be extended until May 1.
- Nuka Research will send an email notification to all workgroup members seeking volunteers for the Open Water PPOR Group and establish a date for the meeting in May.
- Nuka Research will collect all additional comments and edits and incorporate them in the documents. All draft products will be posted to the web and the workgroup will be notified.