

LETTER OF PROMULGATION

1. The Cook Inlet Subarea Contingency Plan is the guideline for establishing operations in the event of a major response effort to an oil spill or hazardous material release. This volume supplements the *Alaska Federal/State Preparedness Plan for Response to Oil & Hazardous Substance Discharges/Releases* (the Unified Plan).
2. Information contained herein will be disseminated to agencies and personnel involved in various response and cleanup activities.
3. The Cook Inlet Subarea Contingency Plan is the result of a joint planning effort. Members of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Coast Guard, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, the U.S. Department of Interior, and other Federal, State, local and industry participants contributed to this document.
4. We solicit comments and recommendations to improve this Plan. Please forward your comments to any of the following agencies:

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COOK INLET SUBAREA CONTINGENCY PLAN

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UNIFIED PLAN & SUBAREA CONTINGENCY PLAN DESCRIPTIONS

The Cook Inlet Subarea Contingency Plan is a supplement to the *Alaska Federal/State Preparedness Plan for Response to Oil & Hazardous Substance Discharges/Releases* (commonly referred to as the Unified Plan). The Unified and the Subarea Contingency plans represent a coordinated and cooperative effort by government agencies and were written jointly by the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of the Interior, and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. The Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA 90) law requires the USCG and the USEPA to prepare oil spill response plans for the State of Alaska, which is designated as an entire planning region under federal guidelines. Alaska statute requires the ADEC to prepare a state-wide plan addressing oil and hazardous substance discharges. The Unified Plan meets these Federal and State planning requirements.

OPA 90 requires the development of Area Contingency Plans for the inland and coastal zones of each Federal region. For the Federal region of Alaska, there are three Coast Guard Captain of the Port (COTP) zones and one inland zone. The three Captain of the Port zones are: 1) Southeast Alaska; 2) Prince William Sound area; and 3) Western Alaska (which includes the rest of coastal Alaska from Cook Inlet out the Aleutians and north to the Beaufort Sea and the Canadian border). The inland zone is subdivided into two sectors: 1) the North Slope oil production area and the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) and 2) all other areas inland from the coastal zones.

Alaska statute divides the state into ten regions for oil and hazardous substance spill planning and preparedness. The USCG and the USEPA joined with the ADEC to use these ten regions for area planning instead of the Federal planning divisions since this would facilitate unified planning for the State of Alaska and prove more practical as well (for example, the huge COTP Western Alaska planning area is replaced by seven more manageable divisions). Because the State of Alaska is called a planning “region” under Federal planning guidelines and to avoid confusion with the other Federal term, “area contingency plans,” these ten subordinate planning regions of the State are called “subareas” in the context of the Unified Plan.

The Unified Plan contains information applicable to pollution response within the entire State of Alaska and meets the pollution response contingency planning requirements applicable to the Federal and State governments. The plan provides broad policy guidance and describes the strategy for a coordinated Federal, State and local response to a discharge, or substantial threat of discharge, of oil and/or a release of a hazardous substance within the boundaries of Alaska and its surrounding waters.

Under both Federal and State law, the responsible party for an oil or hazardous substance incident is required to report the incident and mount a response effort to contain and cleanup the release. The Federal and State governments mandate response plans for oil tank vessels and facilities that have stringent spill response requirements. If the responsible party fails to respond adequately or if no responsible party can be identified, then the Federal and State governments will rely on the Unified Plan and the appropriate Subarea Contingency Plan for response protocols and guidance.

Whereas the Unified Plan contains general information for response efforts taking place anywhere in the State of Alaska, the Subarea Contingency Plan (SCP) concentrates on issues and provisions specific to its particular subarea. The Cook Inlet SCP focuses on the Cook Inlet region of the State including inland territories. The boundaries of this subarea are described in the Background Section of this plan. The Cook Inlet SCP provides information specific to the area, including emergency response phone numbers,

available response equipment and other resources, specific response guidelines, and information on hazardous substance presence and sensitive areas protection.

Alaska State statute mandates a public review of all new plans, an annual departmental review of these plans, and another public review whenever the plans are significantly revised. The ADEC offers a public review of these plans for a period of 30 to 60 days during which verbal and written comments are accepted.

During this comment period, several public meetings are held at locations appropriate for the plan being reviewed. The Federal government does not require public review for any of its plans, though the USCG and the USEPA, as part of the Alaska unified planning process, do cooperate with the State of Alaska and participate in the public review process.

Neither the Federal nor the State government maintains a formal approval process for these plans. The Unified Plan and the SCPs are presented to the Alaska State Emergency Response Commission and the Alaska Regional Response Team for review and comment. Acceptance of the plan by the three plan holders - the USCG, the USEPA and the State of Alaska - constitutes approval of the plan.

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