



ALASKA DEPT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION



USCG
MARINE SAFETY OFFICE JUNEAU



USEPA (REGION X)
ALASKA OPERATIONS OFFICE

August 22, 2005

Dear Tribal Leader:

For your information, The Southeast Subarea Contingency Plan (SCP) was first published in 1997. The plan will be undergoing an active review process this summer and fall to include a review of geographic response strategies, and additional updates to the plan. The Southeast SCP supplements the Alaska Federal/State Preparedness Plan for Response to Oil and Hazardous Substance Discharges/Releases (the Unified Plan). The Alaska Regional Response Team and the State Emergency Response Commission approved a joint federal/state planning initiative in 1992, which led to the publication of the Unified Plan and the requirement for ten subarea contingency plans. The Southeast SCP, in conjunction with the Unified Plan, describes the strategy for a coordinated federal, tribal, state, local, and industry response to a discharge or substantial threat of discharge of oil or a release of a hazardous substance within the boundaries of the Southeast subarea. A map outlining the subarea is attached.

The United States government recognizes its unique legal relationship with Tribal governments as set forth in the United States Constitution, treaties, statutes, executive orders, and court decisions. In 1994, the President of the United States issued a presidential memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies reaffirming the government-to-government relationships with Native American Tribal Governments. On May 14, 1998, the President issued Executive Order 13084, "Consultation and Coordination With Tribal Governments." The Executive Order addresses regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration with Indian Tribal governments in developing regulatory policies on federal matters affecting their communities. A new Executive Order signed on November 6, 2000 reaffirms the commitment to tribal sovereignty, self-determination, and self-government. Similarly, the Governor of the State of Alaska issued Administrative Order 186 that makes clear for all state and federal agencies, the courts, the tribes, and the public that the State recognizes and respects the governmental status of the federal recognized tribes within Alaska.

We (United States Coast Guard, United States Environmental Protection Agency, and Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation) view participation by the tribal governments as a critical step in the success of the overall spill response planning process. Electronic files of the Unified Plan and the current version of the Southeast SCP are available for review on the Alaska Regional Response Team's website at:

<http://www.akrrt.org/plans.html>

For information on upcoming activities of the Southeast SCP, please contact LT Rob Nakama, USCG Marine Safety Office Juneau (463-2466), Mary Goolie, EPA, Alaska Operations Office (271-3414) or Dale Gardner, ADEC Anchorage (269-7682).

JOHN SIFLING

Commander, USCG
Federal On-Scene Coordinator
Captain of the Port, Juneau

MATT CARR

Federal On-Scene Coordinator, USEPA
Region 10 (Alaska Operations Office)

BOB MATTSON

State On-Scene Coordinator
Southeast Area Response Team
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

Encl: Map of the Southeast Subarea
cc: Tribal Government Environmental Staff