

U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security

United States  
Coast Guard



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10500  
October 15, 2003

Mr. John Devens  
Executive Director  
Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council  
P.O. Box 3089, Valdez, AK  
99686

Dear Mr. Devens:

The Coast Guard, with ConocoPhillips/Polar Tankers, Inc. as our industry partner, will conduct a National Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (NPREP) Government-Led Area exercise for Prince William Sound in 2004. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the planning process for this drill and to ask for your organization's participation in its development.

Coast Guard Headquarters coordinates the scheduling for NPREP Area Exercises on a triennial basis, and that schedule is posted in the Federal Register. On 29 September, an initial Steering Committee composed of representatives from my office, the Coast Guard 17<sup>th</sup> District, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), ConocoPhillips/Polar Tankers and SERVS met for a "PWS NPREP 2004" kick-off planning meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to set the drill dates and to discuss possible broad drill objectives. The results of the meeting, which include a schedule for future meetings and a listing of potential drill objectives are posted for public review at <http://www.akrrt.org/PWSAreaEx04>. The draft drill objectives were selected from the 15 response plan core components listed in the August 2002 National PREP Guidelines. These can be found at <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/nsfweb/nsfcc/prep/index.html>;

The next PWS NPREP 2004 planning meeting is scheduled for the first week of December 2003. At this meeting, the initial Steering Committee will finalize the overall drill objectives and the key exercise components in sufficient detail to establish the overall scope of the drill.

As a stakeholder of the PWS Subarea Contingency Plan, the Steering Committee would like to incorporate your input in the drill planning process. To that end, I ask that you review the draft drill objectives and the exercise components and provide suggestions you would see as "most beneficial" to incorporate. Please provide your comments in writing no later than 28 November, to allow their full consideration at the Steering Committee's December meeting.

The NPREP guidelines provide that the National Strike Force Coordination Center (NSFCC) facilitate government led area exercises. To accomplish this, a series of three multi-day drill design meetings will be held monthly commencing in May 2004. The Joint Design Team, encompassing NPREP expertise from the NSFCC, will focus on designing the drill scenario details needed to exercise and evaluate the stated drill objectives. Your organization may wish to be involved in the drill-planning process by providing a representative to the team.

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I look forward to your organization's input to the PWS NPREP 2004 drill objectives and participation in the design of the drill.

Sincerely,

M. A. SWANSON  
Commander, U.S. Coast Guard  
Commanding Officer, CG MSO Valdez  
Federal On Scene Coordinator, Prince William Sound

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CG NSFCC  
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