Citizens promoting environmentally safe operation of the Oil Industry in the North Aleutian Basin

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Who we are…

PWSRCAC is comprised of 18 member organizations representing communities and interest groups from the EVOS region.
What we do

• Monitor, review & comment on oil spill response plans.
• Monitor, review & comment on response capabilities & industry impacts.
• Review & make recommendations on government policies, permits and regulations.
• Strive to ensure that existing rules are not diminished over time & try to improve laws & regulations where necessary.
19 member Board of Directors with 35-40 technical committee members. All work hard with no compensation.
Are we an environmental group?

Our goal is to protect the environment in all its dimensions - natural, social and economic - because they all suffer when oil is spilled.
Our independence...

- The contract with Alyeska was written to stay in force as long as oil flows through the pipeline.
- We get most of our operating budget from Alyeska but also from other sources.
- Funding from Alyeska cannot be changed unless by mutual consent of both parties.
- Our independence is guaranteed in our contract.
Shetland’s Sullom Voe Association

Created in 1975 as an agreement between Shetland’s local government or Council and 30+ oil companies, with BP as the operating company.

1) Establish non-profit corporation the Sullom Voe Association (SVA) to supervise the construction and operation of the Sullom Voe Terminal. All decisions are by consensus. Industry pays all costs.

2) SVA appoints expert advisory groups including local special interest groups such as fishermen
SVA, continued...

3) Council used eminent domain to acquire land which was leased back to industry - disagreement over rent lasted 15 years.

4) Council built and owned four tanker loading jetties to be paid for by industry - repayments were the other major financial dispute.

5) Council holds 51% share in tug company which had exclusive rights until 2000.

6) Council took share in a joint venture to run one of the construction companies.
7) In addition to property tax, industry paid millions in “disturbance money” for the additional cost of providing infrastructure for industry during construction boom.

8) Industry paid between 1.6 and 3.2 cents US on every metric tonne of oil shipped.

9) Council established the Harbor Reserve Fund worth around US $128M and the Shetland Island Council Charitable Trust worth around US $350M. They use oil money “for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Shetland Islands”, including projects in social welfare, leisure, recreation, environmental education and economic development.
Vigipol
formally the Syndicate Mixte

• Created following the Amaco Cadiz spill in 1980

• Board is made up of elected officials from the area affected by the Amoco Cadiz spill.

• Funding comes from part of the oil spill settlement.

• Vigipol has done a very good job of preventing complacency.

• In 1989 they sent a delegation to Alaska to provide assistance and advice.
Cook Inlet RCAC

• Created by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA 90)

• Similar to PWSRCAC but lacks secure funding their sister organization enjoys.

• Funding comes through negotiations with the oil industry and some funding from local municipalities.
Prince William Sound RCAC

- Created in 1990 and Mandated by OPA 90 and our contract with Alyeska.
- 19 Board members broadly representative of municipalities, fishing, tourism, native groups, and environmental groups in the 1989 oiled region. No employees of industry on the board.
- 4 standing committees and 19 staff members.
- Funded by a contract with Alyeska with additional funds coming from grants and contracts. 2009 budget at about $3,800,000.
Pipeline Safety Trust

• Created in October 2003. 10 board members and 3 staff.
• Independent of Government and industry
• Funded by earnings from a $4,000,000 criminal fine resulting from the June 10, 1999 Bellingham pipeline tragedy.
• Mission Statement: The PST promotes fuel transportation safety through education and advocacy, by increasing access to information, and by building partnerships with residents, safety advocates, government and industry, that result in safer communities and a healthier environment.
Washington Oil Spill Advisory Council

- Created in August, 2005, by action of state legislature.
- Reports to the Governor.
- 13 Board members, mixture of industry, government, fisheries & environmental representation.
- 1 staff member at this time.
- Funding comes from state legislature appropriation.
Conclusion...

We believe that every situation (and grouping of stakeholders) is unique. So, too, are environmental problems. However, if science and common sense can be brought to bear, for example through a process such as the Sullom Voe Association, Vigipol, Cook Inlet RCAC, Prince William Sound RCAC, the Pipeline Safety Trust and the Washington Oil Spill Advisory Council, then appropriate decisions can be made with the approval and support of all stakeholders.

And progress can be made.