

BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPDATE

CIRCAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS APRIL ANNUAL AND BOARD MEETING

Kenai Mayor Pat Porter gave the CIRCAC Board of Directors a warm welcome at its April 15th Board and Annual Meeting in Kenai, after which the Council quickly got down to business. In addition to reports from the Executive Director and staff, the agenda included an update from BlueCrest Energy on its Cosmopolitan operations and the opportunity for the Board to question the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) and Harvest Alaska, LLC, about a minor amendment and February 17th unannounced drill at the Drift River Oil Terminal.

BlueCrest Energy Cosmopolitan Site Update:

- This site first produced oil on March 31. Oil is being trucked to Tesoro's refinery in Nikiski and plans are to continue using trucks as the primary mode of transport.
- BlueCrest activated CISPRI to respond to a three-barrel spill, which occurred during start-up of the new facility. The cause of the spill is under investigation, but there are no reports of environmental damage.
- BlueCrest's onshore rig should be ready by the end of this month or the first of June and will initiate drilling the first well by July 1. Once assembled, it will be the largest in Alaska.
- CIRCAC Directors requested a site visit once the rig is ready.

In February, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation conducted an unannounced drill with Harvest Alaska at the Drift River Oil Terminal

By way of background information, CIRCAC learned that the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation had approved a minor amendment to the Harvest Alaska Drift River Oil Terminal Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plan that resulted in a staff reduction at the terminal which is operated by Harvest Alaska LLC, a wholly owned affiliate of Hilcorp Alaska, LLC. CIRCAC disagreed with this action and brought our concerns to the Department. In response, ADEC conducted an unannounced drill at the Drift River Oil Terminal on February 17, to test the amended plan's adequacy. A Harvest Alaska representative explained Harvest Alaska's role and rationale for eliminating two Drift River Oil Terminal control room operators and relocating monitoring responsibilities to personnel at the Kenai Gas Field operations.

As a result of the drill report's findings, ADEC:

- Concluded that the reduction in personnel affected the facility's response capabilities.
- There should be a minimum of at least four personnel at the facility at all times.
- Is requiring Harvest Alaska to amend their C-plan to clarify discrepancies detailed in the drill report.



Graham Wood, ADEC Program Manager, briefs the Council

- Directed Harvest/Hilcorp to conduct a tactical walkthrough of the Response Planning Standard (RPS) scenario with ADEC and CIRCAC representatives in attendance.

Going forward—The Council concurred with recommendations from the Prevention, Response, Operations and Safety committee that:

- ADEC verify there is adequate staffing at all Hilcorp Facilities.
- ADEC consult CIRCAC to ensure that we have been provided with the amendment information during any C-plan amendments submitted by Cook Inlet Operators.
- ADEC conduct more unannounced drills, increase inspections and full review of the Drift River Oil Terminal C-plan.

CIRCAC is also asking Hilcorp to conduct an internal review to verify adequate staffing at all Hilcorp facilities and strongly encouraged them to be more transparent on C-plan related issues.

Program updates

CIRCAC's Environmental Monitoring Program is conducting ShoreZone imaging and mapping field surveys for the next couple of months including imaging surveys of the Barren Islands and a portion of the Alaska Peninsula, both of which are downstream of oil industry operations in Cook Inlet. The fieldwork will complete the gaps in ShoreZone surveys in our areas of concern. ShoreZone data are an invaluable tool for oil spill response, community planning, protecting cultural sites, permit review, habitat conservation and invasive species monitoring. The team intends to also conduct opportunistic ground truth surveys of Geographic Response Strategies in the study area.

The Prevention, Response, Operations and Safety (PROPS)d Committee reported that the Alaska Regional Response Team signed the Dispersant Use Guidelines outlining the process for pre-authorization and associated areas of avoidance. And, we are moving ahead with the Geo-Spatial Resource Information Database (GRID) Project which will make community data and resources information more readily available to oil spill responders.

One of our most important responsibilities is representing citizens in reviewing and commenting on oil discharge prevention and contingency plans. The Protocol Control Committee's most recent reviews include:

- Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plans for Furie Operating Alaska, LLC's exploration plan for Cook Inlet, and Hilcorp Alaska, LLC's exploration plan, revision 5 amendment.
- Unified Plan, Annex B, Process for Community Outreach
- Joint comments in collaboration with the PWSRCAC regarding the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation's proposal for Response Exercise Improvements.

*All comments are posted online at www.circac.org.

Since the April board meeting, CIRCAC awarded two Memorial Scholarships in the amount of \$2500 each to Cook Inlet students who are pursuing education in the fields of environmental sciences and maritime studies. This year's awards went to Hunter Tillion of Homer and Kayla Haeg of Soldotna.

Each year, CIRCAC must earn U.S. Coast Guard recertification to continue our work. This year's recertification application is currently under way. Recertification affirms that we are adhering to and fulfilling our mandates as Congress intended under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990.

Seating of Members of the Board of Directors included: Molly McCammon to represent the Municipality of Anchorage; Robert Peterkin, II, to represent the State Chamber of Commerce; Walt Sonen, representing the City of Seldovia, Bob Flint, to represent Recreational Interests with Martin Miegs as his Alternate.

Environmental Monitoring Committee retained Ted Rockwell, and welcomed two new members, Maria Offer and Richard Frederic; the **Prevention, Response, Operations and Safety (PROPS)** retained Scott Hamann, Ted Moore and Robert Reges, and welcomed new member Captain Bob Pawlowski.



2016 Volunteer of the Year, Jan Hansen (left) with CIRCAC's Director of Operations Steve "Vinnie" Catalano

Finally, our Volunteer of the Year 2016 is Jan Hansen, a valuable member of our PROPS Committee.

Volunteers Jim Hornaday, Matt Carr, Jim Hornaday, Gary Fandrei, Deric Marcorelle, Dan Urban and Robert Peterkin, II were honored for devoting 10, 15 or 20 years of service as members of the Board or Committees.

CIRCAC's next meeting will be September 9, 2016, in Seldovia. For more information on all of our work, including our most recent Annual and 25th Anniversary Reports, please visit www.circac.org