

environmental concerns in the operation of terminal facilities and crude-oil tankers. Subsection 5002(o) permits an alternative voluntary advisory group to represent the communities and interests in the vicinity of the terminal facilities in Prince William Sound (PWS), in lieu of a council of the type specified in subsection 5002(d), if certain conditions are met.

The Act requires that the group enter into a contract to ensure annual funding, and that it receive annual certification by the President to the effect that it fosters the general goals and purposes of the Act, and is broadly representative of the communities and interests in the vicinity of the terminal facilities and Prince William Sound. Accordingly, in 1991, the President granted certification to the Prince William Sound Regional Citizen's Advisory Council (PWS RCAC). The authority to certify alternative advisory groups was subsequently delegated to the Commandant of the Coast Guard and redelegated to the Commander, Seventeenth Coast Guard District.

On June 26, 2001, the Coast Guard announced in the **Federal Register** the availability of the application for recertification that it received from the PWS RCAC and requested comments (66 FR 33989). Twenty comments were received.

Discussion of Comments

In conducting the review in the recertification process, all comments were considered. Of the comments received, 19 were supportive of recertification and noted the positive efforts, good communication, and broad representation of PWS communities as PWS RCAC carries out its responsibilities as intended by the Act. One commenter recommended the Coast Guard not certify the PWS RCAC because it is not broadly representative of all interests and communities in the area. The following summarizes the Coast Guard's analysis of the issues raised during the review process.

One commenter, representing a native village within Prince William Sound stated that because the village was not represented on the PWS RCAC Board of Directors, the PWS RCAC did not meet the requirements of being broadly representative of the interests and communities in the area. OPA 90 does not require that the PWS RCAC Board of Directors have a formal representative from each tribal village in order to be broadly representative of the PWS community. Upon investigation, it was noted that many members of the village live in a community that is represented

on the PWS RCAC Board of Directors and many are members of a Native Corporation that is represented on the board. The PWS RCAC Board of Directors advertises its meetings, moves the meetings to locations throughout PWS, and publicizes the work they perform through the press and a web site in their efforts to ensure all communities throughout PWS are familiar with and have an opportunity to comment on their activities. The Coast Guard does not agree that lack of specific, formal representation of this village on the PWS RCAC Board of Directors indicates that the PWS RCAC is not broadly representative of the communities and interests in the area. However, while there may be areas of commonality between a native village and the larger community and Native Corporations they belong to, the specific concerns of a native village are not always shared by these other entities. The Coast Guard recommends that PWS RCAC contact this village to learn their specific concerns about how the oil terminal and tanker operations affect their village. The Coast Guard also recommends that the village seek membership on the PWS RCAC Board of Directors, consistent with section 2732(d)(A)(2)(iii) of the Act.

Upon review of the information submitted by PWS RCAC as part of the certification package, it was noted that in a routine annual audit of the PWS RCAC's financial statements, the auditor performing the audit made several recommendations for improving the financial management of the organization. In particular, the auditor noted that allowing members to use RCAC funds to cover travel costs when combining official travel and personal travel and then repay the RCAC after the fact for the personal expenditures necessitates increased oversight to ensure RCAC is repaid and additional accounting is properly managed. The auditor recommended against continuing this practice. The Coast Guard agrees and recommends that this change be made prior to the next certification cycle.

During the review period, the Coast Guard was made aware of concerns from within the RCAC of whether PWS RCAC policies for travel and recordkeeping were consistent with best business practices. A review of travel policies identified some areas that could be improved to ensure that the PWS RCAC's administrative costs remain consistent with the goals of OPA 90. Based on this finding and the general concerns raised, the Coast Guard initiated an audit with the full cooperation of PWS RCAC to evaluate

PWS RCAC's policies and practices against commonly accepted principles of similarly situated organizations. This audit is currently ongoing. Based on the results, the Coast Guard may have recommendations for PWS RCAC that will need to be implemented before the next annual certification.

Notwithstanding the issues described above, the PWS RCAC continues to make great progress on projects that promise to significantly improve oil terminal and tanker operations in PWS, such as the ice radar project, the Valdez Marine Terminal's fire prevention and response system, and work on Geographic Response Strategies.

Upon review of the comments received regarding the PWS RCAC's performance during the past year and the information provided by the RCAC in their annual report and recertification package the Coast Guard finds the PWS RCAC meets the criteria established under the Oil Pollution Act, and that recertification in accordance with the Act is appropriate.

Recertification: By letter dated September 7, 2001, the Commander, Seventeenth Coast Guard District, certified that the PWSRCAC qualifies as an alternative voluntary advisory group under 33 U.S.C. 2732(o). This recertification terminates on January 31, 2002.

Dated: September 7, 2001.

T. J. Barrett,

Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard, Commander, Seventeenth Coast Guard District.

[FR Doc. 01-23343 Filed 9-18-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-15-U

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Coast Guard

[USCG-2001-10615]

National Offshore Safety Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of meetings.

SUMMARY: The National Offshore Safety Advisory Committee (NOSAC) and its Subcommittees will meet to discuss various issues relating to offshore safety. All meetings will be open to the public.

DATES: NOSAC will meet on Thursday, November 8, 2001, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Subcommittee on Deepwater Activities will meet on Wednesday, November 7, 2001, from 8 am to 10 am, and the Subcommittee on Prevention Through People will meet on Wednesday, November 7, 2001 from 10 am to 12 midday. These meetings may

close early if all business is finished. Written material and requests to make oral presentations should reach the Coast Guard on or before October 24, 2001. Requests to have a copy of your material distributed to each member of the committee should reach the Coast Guard on or before October 24, 2001.

ADDRESSES: NOSAC will meet in room 737 (Hearing Room) of the Coast Guard Marine Safety Office, 1615 Poydras Street, New Orleans, LA. The Subcommittee on Deepwater Activities and the Subcommittee on Prevention Through People will also meet in room 737 of the Coast Guard Marine Safety Office, 1615 Poydras Street, New Orleans, LA. Send written material and requests to make oral presentations to Captain M. W. Brown, Commandant (G-MSO), U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, 2100 Second Street SW, Washington, DC 20593-0001. This notice is available on the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Captain M. W. Brown, Executive Director of NOSAC, or Mr. Jim Magill, Assistant to the Executive Director, telephone 202-267-0214, fax 202-267-4570.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice of these meetings is given under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2.

Agenda of Meetings

National Offshore Safety Advisory Committee. The agenda includes the following:

- (1) Report on issues concerning the International Maritime Organization and the International Organization of Standardization.
- (2) Progress report from the Prevention Through People Subcommittee on "Crew Alertness in the Offshore Industry."
- (3) Progress report from Subcommittee on Deepwater Activities.
- (4) Report from Task Force on development and implementation of STCW Convention for OSVs.
- (5) Progress report from the Subcommittee on Pipeline-Free Anchorages.
- (6) Status reports on revision of 33 CFR Subchapter N.
- (7) Status report on USCG/MMS rulemaking on Inspection of Fixed Facilities.
- (8) Presentation on Coast Guard Deepwater Project.
- (9) Discussion on IMO in-service testing of lifeboats.

Subcommittee on Deepwater Activities. The agenda includes the following:

- (1) Review and discuss previous Subcommittee work.
- (2) Outline Draft report.

Subcommittee on Prevention Through People. The agenda includes the following:

- (1) Subcommittee members provide Chairman with comments from their review of material sent out to them.
- (2) Work on outline of Draft report.

Procedural

All meetings are open to the public. Please note that the meetings may close early if all business is finished. At the Chair's discretion, members of the public may make oral presentations during the meetings. If you would like to make an oral presentation at a meeting, please notify the Executive Director no later than October 24, 2001. Written material for distribution at a meeting should reach the Coast Guard no later than October 24, 2001. If you would like a copy of your material distributed to each member of the committee or subcommittee in advance of the meeting, please submit 25 copies to the Executive Director no later than October 24, 2001.

Information on Services for Individuals With Disabilities

For information on facilities or services for individuals with disabilities or to request special assistance at the meetings, contact the Executive Director as soon as possible.

Dated: September 11, 2001.

Howard L. Hime,

Acting Director of Standards, Marine Safety and Environmental Protection.

[FR Doc. 01-23278 Filed 9-18-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-15-U

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

[Docket No. FAA-2001-9119]

Extension of Public Meeting; Commercial Launch Industry

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of Public Meeting.

SUMMARY: The FAA is extending through September 28, 2001, 4:30 p.m. EST an on-line public forum on the Internet seeking comments and information from the public regarding the government's role in supporting the U.S. commercial launch industry. In particular, the FAA is asking whether and why the government should continue to share the risk of liability for

commercial launches in the unlikely event of an accident, or consider changes to existing laws. Public views obtained from the on-line forum will be included in a report to Congress on the appropriateness and need to continue current risk-sharing arrangements or modify laws governing liability risk-sharing for commercial launches and reentries beyond December 31, 2004.

DATES: The on-line public forum that began on September 4, 2001, at 9 a.m. EST is extended through September 28, 2001, at 4:30 p.m. EST. Written comments may also be submitted to the docket through September 28, 2001. Comments submitted to the docket after September 28th will be considered and included in the report to the extent practicable; however, the FAA encourages timely submission of comments to facilitate preparation of the report.

ADDRESSES: The on-line public forum can be reached by clicking the "On-Line Public Forum" hyperlink on the Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation's (AST) Internet home page, <http://ast.faa.gov>. Persons unable to participate in the on-line public forum may mail or deliver views to the U.S. Department of Transportation Dockets, Docket No. FAA-2001-9119, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC, 20590. The FAA requests two copies of any written comments. Comments may also be submitted to the docket electronically by sending them to the Documents Management Systems (DMS) at the following Internet address: <http://dms.dot.gov/>. Comments to the docket should be submitted by September 28, 2001. Comments submitted to the docket may be examined in Room PL 401 at the U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC, 20590, between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays except Federal holidays, and may be viewed by accessing the DMS using the Internet cite noted above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Esta M. Rosenberg, Senior Attorney-Advisory, Regulations Division, Office of the Chief Counsel, Federal Aviation Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation (202) 366-9320, or Mr. Ronald K. Gress, Manager, Licensing and Safety Division, Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation (202) 385-4700.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: