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Date: 03/29/2012 02:54 PM
Subject: Re: FW: U.S. Department of the Interior dispersant preauthorization

Pamela,
Thank you for your letter today regarding re-instatement of pre-authorization in PWS and CI.

***** Important message to All RRT members and FOSCs:**

On December 8, 2011, I issued a memo to clarify EPA's understanding of the status of Pre-authorization in Alaska, pursuant to the DOI letter of 2008, which withdrew DOI approval of the Pre-authorization Plan in Annex F, and effectively dissolved dispersant pre-authorization in Alaska.

Regarding the DOI letter issued today, it is EPA's understanding that in accordance with Subpart J of the National Contingency Plan, Pre-authorization in PWS and CI, has been re-instated, as defined in the DOI letter. FOSCs should read the DOI letter carefully and seek clarification from DOI for any aspects of the letter or the conditions of Pre-authorization that aren't clear.

The EPA and USCG Co-Chairs of the Alaska RRT have asked the Science and Technology committee to prioritize the 2012 revision of the Alaska Oil Dispersant Guidelines, to reflect the lessons learned from recent spill applications and to incorporate the latest in dispersant research and technology. The STC will meet again on April 25th to move this task forward. By the end of 2012 we hope to have a revised Dispersant Pre-authorization Plan that further enhances clarity, consistency with Subpart J of the NCP, and ensures that dispersants continue to be a viable tool in the FOSC tool box, for Alaska.

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