



THE COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20593-0001

MAR 5 2013

Dear Commissioner Ulmer:

I am pleased to welcome the United States Arctic Research Commission as the newest member of the Interagency Coordinating Committee on Oil Pollution Research.

The passage of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 was a major step forward in our nation's efforts to prevent and mitigate the effects of oil spills. Title VII of the Act established the Interagency Committee to "coordinate a comprehensive program of oil pollution research, technology development, and demonstration among the federal agencies, in cooperation and coordination with industry, universities, research institutions, state governments, and other nations, as appropriate . . ." Chaired by the United States Coast Guard, the federal membership of the Interagency Committee is broad-based and can be augmented through authorities delegated from the President, through the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, and to my office as Commandant of the United States Coast Guard.

As you are aware, the General Counsels for both of our organizations jointly concluded that the United States Arctic Research Commission is eligible for membership. The Interagency Committee voted to recommend adding your organization to the membership on November 26, 2012. I have no doubt that the United States Arctic Research Commission will provide trusted counsel within the Interagency Committee as it continues to address long-standing and emerging pollution issues, especially since oil spill prevention, preparedness and response has become a critical issue for the Arctic region.

Again, congratulations and welcome to the Interagency Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. J. Papp, Jr.", is written over a circular stamp or seal.

R. J. PAPP, JR.
Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard

Commissioner Fran Ulmer
Chair, United States Arctic Research Commission
4350 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 510
Arlington, Virginia 22203