



NEWS RELEASE

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Cook Inlet Maritime Transportation Risk Assessment Underway; Seeking Applicants for Advisory Panel Positions

The Cook Inlet Risk Assessment (CIRA) Management Team has begun a federally mandated risk assessment of the Cook Inlet in Alaska. The CIRA Management Team consists of the US Coast Guard (USCG), Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), and the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council (Cook Inlet RCAC). Initial funding is coming from ADEC through the Kenai Peninsula Borough.

The CIRA Management Team is creating an Advisory Panel of individuals to assist in identifying hazards, offer local knowledge to characterize the risks, assist in establishing tolerance parameters for risks, and perform an initial prioritization of risk reduction measures. Panel members will come from various maritime disciplines and interests, including local mariners, fishermen, Alaska Native tribes, resource managers, marine pilots, and more. One member and one alternate from each of 12 categories will be selected. The Advisory Panel Solicitation is attached.

It is expected the Advisory Panel would meet six times over the next three years. This is not a paid position, but per diem for travel and expenses is provided. Individuals interested in applying for a seat on the Advisory Panel should submit a completed application form and letter of interest via email or fax no later than August 26, 2011. The application form and more information can be found on the CIRA Project website: (<http://www.cookinletriskassessment.com>). Completed forms can be emailed to: CIRAapplicants@nukaresearch.com, or faxed to: (240) 368-7467.

Candidates would be notified by September 1, and the first Advisory Panel meeting is scheduled for September 12 in Anchorage. Nuka Research & Planning will facilitate the Advisory Panel's work.

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