

555 Cordova Street  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
PHONE: (907) 269-3094  
FAX: (907) 269-7687  
<http://www.state.ak.us/dec>

**DIVISION OF SPILL PREVENTION AND RESPONSE  
INDUSTRY PREPAREDNESS AND PIPELINE PROGRAM**

March 4, 2002

To: All Industry Preparedness and Pipeline Program (IPPP) Staff

Elsa, Bonnie, Craig, Becky, Betty, Bob, Robert, John, Kim, Marty, Shirley, Bob, Dan, Trent, Dave, Eric, Linda, Holly, Chris, Elaine, Robert, Diane, Ted, Kirsten, Lydia, Bill, Steve, Larry, Ken, and Sig,

It has been my honor and pleasure to lead such a dedicated group of environmental professionals over the past two years. It is through your diligent efforts that significant improvements in oil spill prevention and response have been realized for Alaska. As a reminder of all that you accomplished, the IPPP Management Team has prepared the attached summary of our last two years achievements.

Your commitment to scientific principals and sound engineering solutions has been commendable. You have gone the extra mile to ensure that the oil discharge prevention and contingency plans were realistic, safe, technically valid, and in conformance with State Law. Through public comment periods, plan holder meetings, stakeholder workshops, and public meetings you actively engaged all stakeholders. You have exhibited high moral and ethical standards, which are essential to assure the trust, respect, and confidence of the people of this state and to maintain high standards of public service.

You have efficiently processed complex technical issues and permits, while dramatically increasing IPPP's field presence through compliance inspections, audits, and unannounced oil spill drills. You took immediate action to eliminate imminent and potential threats to the environment posed by non-compliant facilities and vessels. You carried out enforcement actions on complex, serious environmental issues that had, in many cases, existed for years. Enforcement was not always popular with industry – but was a necessary requirement as responsible stewards of Alaska's natural resources and environment. You diligently conducted the public's business in a manner that preserved the integrity of the governmental process and avoided conflicts of interest even in light of intense stakeholder pressure.

Industry Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Planning is a vitally important public service for the State of Alaska. As Governor Knowles said in his remarks at the ten year anniversary of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill: "As we assess the damage suffered and lessons learned a decade later, one truth rises above all others: We are committed to paying the price of vigilance, because the price of complacency is too high."

Today, I am resigning from my position as IPPP Manager. I plan to focus my professional career on technical work, where sound scientific analysis and engineering principals are honored as the main determinants for real, measurable environmental improvements, rather than political solutions. I also plan to spend more time with my family, in the beautiful Alaskan outdoors.

It has been my privilege to lead the IPPP team over the past two years. I'm proud of the work we accomplished together. I wish each and every one of you, and your families, the absolute best for the future.

Sincerely,

Susan L. Harvey  
Program Manager