



"Citizens promoting environmentally safe operation of the Alyeska terminal and associated tankers."

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National panel on invasive species to meet in Anchorage

Alaskans will get a chance to voice their concerns to the federal Invasive Species Advisory Committee when it meets in Anchorage Monday, May 12 through Wednesday, May 14.

The committee is meeting in Alaska for the first time. Alaskans are welcome to sit in on a variety of presentations and meetings, and to participate in a public comment period.

The meeting will take place in the National Park Service office, 240 W. 5th Ave., Room 114, in downtown Anchorage. Many organizations, including the Alaska Association of Conservation Districts, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and the United States Department of Agriculture will be making presentations. A variety of other organizations will have constituents in attendance.

The sessions will run from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day with open public comment periods at the end of the day on Monday and Tuesday. No pre-registration is required to comment. A final agenda will be available upon request from Kelsey Brantley, the committee's coordinator, at Kelsey_Brantley@ios.doi.gov as the event draws closer.

Members of the Invasive Species Advisory Committee represent a variety of stakeholder groups from across the country. They advise the National Invasive Species Council, established in 1999 by President Clinton. The council is responsible for drafting regulations to prevent the spread of invasive species nationwide.

The Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council is an independent non-profit organization whose mission is to promote environmentally safe operation of Alyeska Pipeline's Valdez Marine Terminal, associated oil tankers, and contracted escort tugs. The council monitors Alyeska's Valdez terminal and tanker operations, conducts independent research, and advises industry and government on ways to prevent oil spills and respond effectively if spills do occur.

The oil trade in Alaska exposes the state's waters not only to crude oil spills, but also to non-native organisms. These are called invasive species and hold the potential for serious damage to habitats into which they're introduced. Often times the invasive species will eradicate local species by consuming their food supplies. Many potential invaders of Alaska waters are transported from other ports by oil tankers. The citizens' council has been working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife on this issue since 1997. The results of that work can be found on the council web site at www.pwsrcac.org/projects/NIS/index.html.

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