

## **13.08.01 – Reading File**

**March 2005**

# Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

441 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 500 • Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2340 • 907/278-8012 • fax 907/276-7178



March 9, 2005

Ms. Stacy Studebaker  
P.O. Box 970  
Kodiak, Alaska 99615

Dear Stacy:

Thank you for your e-mail inquiry of March 1, 2005 in which you asked a series of questions related to the Council's investigation of lingering oil. While I do not have first hand knowledge of all the information you seek, I have made some inquiries and provided answers to the best of my knowledge.

You first asked why the Trustee Council chose Integral Consulting and whether any other companies were considered to do the work. Integral is currently doing two projects for the Trustee Council, one relating to the impact of lingering oil on soil sediments and a second consisting of a review and synthesis of lingering oil and the recovery status of certain species. With respect to the first project, a number of individuals submitted proposed projects to investigate the effect of lingering oil, Integral's among them. The sediment project was peer reviewed and determined to be important and one that needed to begin very quickly. The Council concurred in this evaluation, and therefore approved it. The second project proposal by Integral was also peer reviewed and recommended to the Council. In addition, the Council was informed that Integral was already under contract to the state for a separately funded but similar project. The state believed that approving Integral to do this project would promote efficiency and increase the timeliness and quality of the results. There were no competing project proposals before the Council on any of the projects approved, including those by Integral. I am informed that the state considered several proposals before making its original decision to hire Integral.

Second, you inquired about Ernesta Ballard's connection to Integral. I have no personal knowledge, but am aware of the following connections. A number of years ago, while in the private sector, Ernesta Ballard was on a committee that reviewed a proposal for a company involved in an environmental case unrelated to the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill. That proposal was presented by a consulting company that included a person who is now a principal at Integral. (Integral did not exist at that time.) While Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation, Ms. Ballard also participated in the review of a presentation by Integral to the State of Alaska with respect to a similar matter.

You also asked whether a government contract, such as that awarded to Integral, is required to be subject to the competitive bid process. The contract was awarded by the

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state. Under state law, a competitive bid process is not required where the Trustee Council names a specific recipient.

Finally, you asked why the Public Advisory Committee was not consulted about these projects. These decisions were made during public meetings with the Public Advisory Committee and the public present. Since these projects were added on late in the year based on newly acquired information, there was a need for expediency and the Council chose to proceed in this manner rather than starting over with an entire new invitation process. This is not unusual. In several instances the Council has acknowledged the need for additional studies in a certain area but, lacking the necessary information at the time, simply put a placeholder in and filled in the projects later.

Hopefully, my answers address your concerns. If you wish to review the transcripts of the meetings where the lingering oil projects were discussed, let me know and we will send you a copy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gail", written in dark ink.

Gail Phillips  
Executive Director

Cc: Trustee Council  
John Gerster, Co-Chair PAC  
Public Advisory Committee  
Craig Tillery, Department of Law  
Gina Belt, Department of Justice

# Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

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March 17, 2005

Charles Latour  
Assistant Director  
Macumba International  
3862, Avenue Parc Lafontaine  
Montreal, (Quebec)  
Canada  
H2L 3M6

Dear Mr. Latour:

I have enclosed four tapes for your use in the public television documentary, *Extremis III*.

Three tapes are source reels filmed in 1998 and 1999 for use in the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council sponsored 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary video, *Legacy of an Oil Spill, Ten Years After*. The fourth, smaller tape is the master of that video. I have also enclosed an index for the three source reels. I don't have one for the Legacy video.

For your further information I have enclosed a copy of the annual report for 1999, the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary brochure, and our most recent 2004 annual report.

If you have any more questions or need to keep the tapes longer than originally anticipated please contact me at 907.278.8012 or by email at [cherri\\_womac@evostc.state.ak.us](mailto:cherri_womac@evostc.state.ak.us).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cherri Womac". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Cherri Womac  
Administrative Officer

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March 17, 2005

Mr. Todd J. Logan  
Regional Chief, NWRS – Alaska  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
1011 E. Tudor Road  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Dear Mr. Logan:

*Todd*

Some time ago you sent me a list of small parcel action items that the Fish and Wildlife Service would like the Trustee Council to consider for purchasing. At that time, we informed you that the Council had directed the Small Parcels Working Group to come up with a new set of policies and procedures for handling the acquisition of small parcels and that we would not be taking any action on your request until the Trustees had a new policy put into place.

The Small Parcels Working Group met several times to formulate a new policy for the Council and presented the Draft proposal to the Council at its February meeting. The Council decided they wanted additional information regarding past purchases before approving the new draft policy. At this time, we plan to present the proposal again to the Trustees during their August meeting, complete with the information they requested.

Once the new policy is adopted, the procedures for submitting parcels will be different, so the package of items you sent me will have to be resubmitted. I can either send these items back to you or we can keep them here for reference, whichever you prefer.

Hopefully, we will have a new policy in place soon and can then proceed with our small parcels acquisition program.

Sincerely,

*Gail*

Gail Phillips  
Executive Director

Cc: Drue Pearce, Trustee Council  
Cam Toohey, DOI

# Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

441 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 500 • Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2340 • 907/278-8012 • fax 907/276-7178



March 8, 2005

Dr. Brenda Konar  
University of Alaska Fairbanks  
School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences  
P.O. Box 757220  
Fairbanks, AK 99775-7220

Dr. Katrin Iken  
University of Alaska Fairbanks  
School of Fisheries and Ocean Science  
P.O. Box 757220  
Fairbanks, AK 99775-7220

RE: 040666/Alaska Natural Geography in Shore Areas: Year 2 of a Census of Marine Life Initial Field Project

Dear Brenda and Katrin:

*Brenda and Katrin -*

The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council acted on your budget amendment request at its February 4, 2005 Trustee Council meeting. I am pleased to inform you that the Council approved additional funding in the amount of \$17,713 for project 040666/Alaska Natural Geography in Shore Areas: Year 2 of a Census of Marine Life Initial Field Project for a total of \$17,713 for Fiscal Year 2005. This includes \$16,250 in project funds and \$1,463 in ADF&G agency administrative costs.

Should you have questions or concerns regarding your project please contact your lead agency, Brett Huber/ADF&G Project Manager and he will be happy to assist you.

Once again, thank you for your participation in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research and Monitoring (GEM) program. We appreciate your continued interest, and look forward to working with you this coming year.

Sincerely,

Gail Phillips  
Executive Director

cc: Brett Huber/ADF&G Project Manager

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March 8, 2005

Dr. Brenda Ballachey  
US Geological Survey  
1011 E. Tudor Road  
Anchorage, AK 99503

Mr. James Bodkin  
US Geological Survey  
1011 E. Tudor Road  
Anchorage, AK 99503

RE: 040775/Lingering Oil and Sea Otters: Critical Needs

Dear Brenda and James:

*Brenda and James -*

The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council acted on your budget amendment request at its February 4, 2005 Trustee Council meeting. I am pleased to inform you that the Council approved additional funding in the amount of \$114,700 (divided as follows: \$79,800 in Fiscal Year 2005 and \$34,900 in Fiscal Year 2006) for project 040775/Lingering Oil and Sea Otters: Critical Needs for a total of \$206,700 for Fiscal Year 2005 and \$34,900 for Fiscal Year 2006. This includes \$105,200 in project funds and \$9,500 in USGS agency administrative costs.

Should you have questions or concerns regarding your project please contact your lead agency, Dede Bohn/USGS Project Manager and he will be happy to assist you.

Once again, thank you for your participation in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research and Monitoring (GEM) program. We appreciate your continued interest, and look forward to working with you this coming year.

Sincerely,

*Gail*

Gail Phillips  
Executive Director

cc: Dede Bohn/USGS Project Manager

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March 8, 2005

Dr. Dan Esler  
Simon Fraser University  
Centre for Wildlife Ecology  
5421 Robertson Road  
Delta, BC V4K 3N2  
Canada

RE: 050777/Quantifying Temporal Variation in Harlequin Duck Exposure to Exxon Valdez Oil.

Dear Dan:

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted on your project proposal at its meeting on February 4, 2005. I am pleased to inform you that the Council approved funding in the amount of \$39,000 for 050777/Quantifying Temporal Variation in Harlequin Duck Exposure to Exxon Valdez Oil. This includes \$35,800 in project funds and \$3,200 in agency administrative costs.

Before a project may begin, the lead agency for the project must provide documentation to the Executive Director showing that the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) have been met. We hope that for most projects this will be completed within the next couple weeks. For more information, please contact the project manager for your lead agency.

We also need from you a copy of your resume and a FGDC metadata record describing the basic characteristics of your study. You can download an application called Metalite from <http://edcnts11.cr.usgs.gov/metalite/> which will assist you in creating the metadata record. You will be required to fill in a series of fields and then will need to export the record into a .sgml file and send us a copy. If you have problems in generating this file please contact Rob Bochenek, our Data Systems Manager, at [rob\\_bochenek@evostc.state.ak.us](mailto:rob_bochenek@evostc.state.ak.us). You can also send him the copy of the .sgml metadata file.

Thank you for your participation in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research and Monitoring (GEM) program. We appreciate your continued interest, and look forward to working with you this coming year.

Sincerely,

Gail Phillips  
Executive Director

cc: Dede Bohn/USGS Project Manager