DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) DNA Samples: Guidelines for Proposals To Use Samples and Cost Schedule

AGENCY: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services.

ACTION: Notice.

Authority: Sections 301, 306 and 308 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 241, 2421 and 242m).

SUMMARY: The National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) is a program of periodic surveys conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Examination surveys conducted since 1960 by NCHS have provided national estimates of the health and nutritional status of the U.S. civilian non-institutionalized population. To add to the extensive amount of information collected for the purpose of describing the health of the population, DNA specimens were collected during three NHANES surveys. DNA is available in the form of crude lysates of cell lines derived from approximately 7,157 participants enrolled in Phase II of NHANES III (1991–1994). In addition, DNA purified from whole blood is also available from approximately 7,900 participants enrolled in the NHANES 1999–2002 and 4,621 participants enrolled in NHANES 2007–2008. All specimens (NHANES III, NHANES 1999–2002 and NHANES 2007–2008) were sent to the Division of Laboratory Sciences (DLS) at the National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) for processing. DNA samples from these specimens are being made available to the research community for genetic analyses.

No funding is provided as part of this solicitation. NCHS will review proposals twice a year beginning in January and July of each year. Proposals will be reviewed by a technical panel and by an internal Secondary Review Committee of senior CDC scientists. The Secondary Review Committee will perform a programmatic review based on the results of the technical review panel and consider the scientific and technical results from the first level of review, important programmatic considerations such as program priorities, program relevance, and other criteria germane to this announcement and to CDC. Projects approved by both reviews will be submitted to the NCHS Ethics Review Board for final approval.

Approved projects that do not obtain funding on their own will be canceled. A more complete description of this program follows.

DATES:

- *Submission of Proposals:* On January 1 and July 1 of each year;
- *Scientific Review:* 30 days after proposal submission date;
- *Secondary Review:* Approximately 30 days after Scientific review is complete;
- *Ethics Review Board:* Approximately 30 days after secondary review is complete;
- *Notification of approval:* Approximately 30 days after ERB approval;
- *Anticipated distribution of samples:* Approximately 60 days after all approvals are obtained.

Note: Timeframe may vary depending on the nature of the proposal and the results of each level of review. Unforeseen circumstances could result in a change to this schedule.

ADDRESSES: To send comments and for information, contact: Geraldine McQuillan, PhD, Division of Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys, National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 3311 Toledo Road, Room 4204, Hyattsville, MD 20782, Phone: 301–458–4371, Fax: 301–458–4028, E–Mail: *NHANESgenetics@cdc.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The goals of NHANES are (1) to estimate the number and percentage of people in the U.S. population and designated subgroups with selected diseases and risk factors for those diseases; (2) to monitor trends in the prevalence, awareness, treatment and control of selected diseases; (3) to monitor trends in risk behaviors and environmental exposures; (4) to analyze risk factors for selected diseases; (5) to study the relation among diet, nutrition and health; (6) to explore emerging public health issues and new technologies; (7) to establish and maintain a national probability sample of baseline information on health and nutritional status.

The availability of the NHANES III DNA samples has been previously announced (Thursday, August 8, 2002 [67 FR 51585], Friday, January 13, 2006 [71 FR 22248]) and Thursday, October 18, 2007 [72 FR59094]. NHANES III DNA samples are in the form of crude cell lysates available from the cell lines derived from samples obtained from Phase II (1991–1994) participants. DNA concentrations are unknown and vary between samples (see NHANES III DNA Samples section for a description).

Beginning in 1999, NHANES became a continuous, annual survey rather than a periodic survey. For a variety of reasons, including disclosure and reliability issues, the survey data are released on public use data files every two years. In addition to the analysis of data from any two year cycle, it is possible to combine two cycles to increase sample size and analytic options. Blood samples for DNA purification were collected from participants age 20 or more years in survey years 1999–2002 and 2007–2008. Purified DNA samples are available from these survey years in a single set. DNA samples can be obtained and analyzed with survey data from the NHANES 1999–2000 or 2001–2002 or all four years combined (NHANES 1999–2002) and NHANES 2007–2008. The data release cycle for the NHANES during the period in which DNA specimens were collected is described as NHANES 1999–2000, NHANES 2001–2002 and NHANES 2007–2008. See: *http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhanes/nhanes99_00.htm, http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhanes/nhanes01–02.htm or http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhanes/nhanes2007–2008/nhanes07_08.htm* for additional details.

Identifiable health information collected in the NHANES is kept in strictest confidence. During the informed consent process, survey participants are assured that data collected will be used only for stated purposes and will not be disclosed or released to others without the consent of the individual in accordance with section 308(d) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 242m). In NHANES 1999–2002 and 2007–2008, a separate consent form was signed by eligible participants who agreed to the storing of specimens for future genetic research. Only participants that consented specifically to future genetic research in 1999–2002 and 2007–2008 will be available for analyses. Genetic variation results will be linked to the requested information from the NHANES public use data file by the Division of Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys (DHANES) staff. All analyses must be done through an NCHS Research Data Center (RDC) approved mechanism to assure confidentiality.

Research Proposals Categories: Note that the following proposal categories differ from those used in previous announcements for use of NHANES III DNA samples (Thursday, August 8,

2002 [67 FR 51585] and, Friday January 13, 2006 [71 FR 22248].

Category (A): Studies involving the typing of the complete set of NHANES DNA samples (NHANES III, 7,157 samples; NHANES 1999–2002, approximately 7,900 samples; NHANES 2007–2008 4,621 samples) for proposals that investigate specific research hypotheses that relate tests of selected genes and demographic or demographic and phenotypic data available from NHANES. This category is open for proposals for use of NHANES III, NHANES 1999–2002 and NHANES 2007–2008 samples. A total of ten full sets of samples for each survey will be available for any review cycle. The investigator will specify which DNA bank, NHANES III, NHANES 1999–2002 or 2007–2008, they are requesting as well as the genetic analyses to be conducted on the samples. The investigator will also include in the research protocol an analytic plan that includes a list of NHANES demographic and clinical variables that would be used for the data analyses. The researcher will conduct the genetic analyses of the approved variations on the samples that are labeled with a unique identification number that is not directly linkable to the public use file and therefore, anonymous to the researcher. To analyze these data with the NHANES public use data, the researcher will provide the genetic variation results with the identification numbers to the Division of Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys. The identification numbers will be matched to the requested variables from public use files data by DHANES staff for analyses that must be conducted through the NCHS RDC or its equivalent.

Proposals are limited to the testing of 1,000 genetic variations or less. NCHS cannot guarantee the publication of frequencies for all genetic variations due to confidentiality concerns.

After the NCHS has completed the initial quality control assessment, researchers will be given up to six months to conduct a more comprehensive quality assurance review. The timeframe allowed for this review will depend on the number and characteristics of the genetic tests submitted. At the completion of this review, an announcement will be made to the public announcing the availability of the genetic variation results and the opportunity to link these results to other NHANES data for secondary data analysis. The list of currently available SNPs is available at: *http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhanes/nh3data_genetic.htm#Available_Genetic_Data_Sets.*

All samples will be distributed in complete sets of samples of 96 well plates. NHANES III DNA is in the form of crude cell lysates. There will be a total of 7,157 NHANES III samples distributed in a total of 75 plates with an additional five plates of quality control samples. There are approximately 7,900 NHANES 1999–2002 purified DNA samples. These will be distributed into 83 plates with approximately five plates of quality control samples. There are 4,421 purified DNA samples available from NHANES 2007–2008. These will be distributed into 51 plates with approximately three plates of quality control samples.

Note: If the investigator would like to propose a subsample of the full set, please contact the Program to discuss feasibility.

Category (B): Additional research using samples already obtained from previous solicitations: Researchers that have obtained NHANES DNA samples from previous solicitations and have sufficient DNA left may request to do additional tests on the remaining DNA. Proposals under this Category must be submitted and approved before the DNA samples were scheduled to be destroyed or returned. The investigator will specify the genetic analyses to be conducted on the samples. The investigator will also include in the research protocol an analytic plan that includes a list of demographic and clinical variables that would be used for the data analyses.

Category (C): Proposals involving whole-genome genotyping of DNA samples: All proposals for whole-genome genotyping of more than 1,000 genetic variations must provide funding for the testing to the NHANES program so that the testing can be done under an NHANES contract. If funding is available, CDC intends to provide whole genome-genotyping data from NHANES III and NHANES 1999–2002 samples. These data will be available for secondary data analysis.

NHANES III DNA Samples

The laboratory will distribute aliquots of crude cell lysates. DNA concentrations vary and are estimated to range from 7.5–65 ng/μL with an average of approximately four micrograms in 100 μL. Each 96 well plate will be bar-coded and labeled with a readable identifier. Quality control samples (approximately 480 samples) will be sent at no charge, either inserted with the NHANES samples or in separate plates, as blind replicates and/or blanks. Description of these samples and cost has been previously published, see: (Friday, January 13, 2006 [71 FR 22248]).

NHANES 1999–2002 and 2007–2008 DNA Samples

The laboratory will distribute aliquots of purified DNA of normalized concentrations of 50 ng/μL whenever possible. Some samples may fall below this threshold. Forty microliters of each specimen will be supplied. The amount of DNA in each aliquot may vary but will be on average approximately two micrograms. Each 96 well plate will be bar-coded and labeled with a readable identifier. Quality control samples (NHANES 1999–2002, approximately 480 samples; NHANES 2007–2008, approximately 288 samples) will be sent at no charge, either inserted with the NHANES samples or in separate plates, as blind replicates and/or blanks.

Proposed Cost Schedule for Providing NHANES DNA Samples

Costs are determined both for NCEH and NCHS and include the physical materials needed to process the samples at the NCEH laboratory, as well as the materials to process the requests for samples at NCHS. These costs include salaries of the staff needed to conduct these activities at each Center. The fee is estimated to cover the costs of processing, handling, and preparing the samples. Technical panel travel and expenses are based on the panel meeting twice a year. The space estimate is based on acquiring storage and sample aliquoting space in the laboratory. The cost per samples for NHANES III samples is the same as published in 2006 (Friday, January 13, 2006 [71 FR 22248]) and the cost for NHANES 1999–2002 and NHANES 2007–2008 are the same as published in 2007 (Thursday, October 18, 2007 [72 FR 5904]).

Total costs	Cost per sample, full set, 99–02 & 07–08	Cost per sample, partial set, 99–02 & 07–08 (special request)	Cost per sample, full set, NHANES III	Cost per sample, partial set, NHANES III (special request)
Materials	$0.89	$2.19	$0.85	$1.90
Labor	4.60	25.30	3.30	22.00
Application review and other administrative expenses	0.54	3.09	0.35	2.69
Space	0.17	1.12	0.13	0.97
Subtotal	6.20	31.70	4.63	27.56
NCHS overhead (18 percent)	1.12	5.71	0.83	4.97
Subtotal	7.32	37.41	5.46	32.52
CDC/FMO overhead (0.9 percent)	0.66	3.37	0.49	2.93
Total Sample Cost per Sample	7.98	40.78	5.95	35.45
Total Cost per Proposal	63,024	NA	42,596.36	NA
Total Cost per Category B Proposal: for Data handling	6,302	[1]	4,260	[1]

[1] 10 percent of original cost of samples.

Procedures for Proposals: The investigator should follow these instructions for preparation of proposals. Both proposal categories need a full research proposal for review. The cover page of the research proposal should contain the title of the research project, the name, address phone number and e-mail address of the lead investigator along with the name of the institution where the DNA analysis will be done, and the category of proposal (A, B or C) submitted. Office of Human Research Protections assurance numbers for the institutions engaged in the research project should be included. CDC investigators need to include their Scientific Ethics Verification Number. E-mail submission of the proposal is encouraged.

The proposals should be a maximum of 20 single-spaced typed pages, excluding figures and tables, using ten cpi type density. Please use appendices sparingly. If a proposal is approved, the title, specific aims, name, and phone number of the author will be maintained by NCHS and released if requested by the public. Unapproved proposals will be returned to the investigator and will not be maintained by NCHS.

Since the number of sets of DNA is limited, proposals will be reviewed by the technical panel and then will be reviewed by a secondary review panel composed of CDC officials. The technical panel will determine if the proposal is technically sound and if so, the technical panel will rank the proposal on a scale of 0–100. Proposals that are rejected will not be scored. The technical panel will evaluate the whole proposal but will focus on proposal elements 1, 3, and 4.

Applications will also be reviewed by an internal Secondary Review Committee which will perform a programmatic review based on the results of the peer review for technical merit. The Secondary Review Committee considers the scientific and technical merit results from the first level of review, important programmatic considerations such as program priorities, program relevance, and other criteria germane to this announcement and to CDC. The Secondary Review Panel will be comprised of senior CDC scientists.

Proposals should include the following information:

(1) *Specific Aims:* List the broad objectives; describe concisely and realistically what the research is intended to accomplish, and state the specific hypotheses to be tested.

(2) *Background and Public Health Significance:* Describe the public health significance, scientific merit, and practical utility of the proposed research. Scientific merit will be judged on the basis of the scientific, technical, or medical significance of the research; the appropriateness and adequacy of the experimental approach; and the methodology proposed to reach the research goals. Convey how the results will be used and the relationship of the results to the data already collected in NHANES 1999–2002. Analyses should be consistent with the NHANES mission to assess the health of the nation. Because NHANES is a complex, multistage probability sample of the national population, the appropriateness of using the NHANES sample to address the goals of the proposal will be an important aspect of determining scientific merit. The Panel will ensure that the proposed project does not go beyond either the general purpose for collecting the samples in the survey, i.e., to determine allele frequencies in subgroups of the population, or, the specific stated goals of the proposal.

(3) *Research Design and Methods:* Include power calculations and a list of variables requested. For all proposal categories, include a detailed description of the laboratory methods. The characteristics of the laboratory assay, such as reliability, validity, should be included with appropriate references. The potential difficulties and limitations of the proposed procedures should also be discussed. Category A proposals will be provided with approximately 480 quality control samples at no additional cost. Approved projects must run these quality control samples and submit the results from the NHANES DNA samples. Category B proposals will be required to use residual quality control samples. The proposal should contain a discussion of additional quality control procedures the laboratory will use to assure the validity of the test results. Address adequate methods planned for handling and storage of samples.

(4) *Discussion Regarding the Race/Ethnicity Variables:* If the research is limited to specific race or ethnic groups (only applicable for a subsample request) or if information about the race or ethnicity of the subjects is requested, indicate the reason for analyzing race/ethnicity and how the results will be interpreted. Discuss the potential for group harm.

(5) *Clinical Relevance of Research Findings:* The samples for research based on specific hypothesis are available for genetic research, not genetic testing. Therefore, it is the intent of the program to approve only those proposals that would yield meaningful research, but not clinically relevant information for the participants. Researchers should justify that the test

results should not be reported to the subjects.

(6) *Qualifications:* Provide a brief description of the requestor's expertise in the proposed area, including publications in this area within the last three years.

(7) *Period of Performance:* Specify the project period. The period may be up to three years. At the end of the project period, any unused samples must be returned to the NHANES DNA Specimen Bank in accordance with instructions from the Division of Environmental Laboratory Science. Extensions to the period of performance may be requested.

(8) *Funding:* Include the source and status of the funding to perform the requested laboratory analysis. Investigators will be responsible for the cost of processing and shipping the samples. Currently the cost per DNA specimen is $7.98 for NHANES 1999–2002 and 2007–2008 proposals that use the full set of samples. Costs for partial sets are $40.78 per specimen. Reimbursement for the samples will be collected before the samples are released. NHANES III samples which are DNA crude lysates, not purified DNA, are $5.95 per sample for the 7,157 total set of samples. If a subsample of NHANES III is requested and approved the cost schedule published in (Friday, January 13, 2006 [71 FR 22248]) will be utilized ($35.45 per sample).

Public Availability of Data

Genetic test results from all studies using NHANES DNA samples will be made available to the public for secondary data analyses. After the NCHS quality control review is completed, researchers will be given up to six months to conduct a more comprehensive quality assurance review. The final quality control review timeframe will be negotiated between the researcher and the NCHS Project Officer and will depend on the number and characteristics of the genetic tests submitted. This time for final review is provided before the announcement is made to the public that the test results are available for submission of proposals for secondary data analyses. The list of currently available genotypes will be outlined on: *http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhanes/nh3data_genetic.htm#Available_Genetic_Data_Sets*.

Proposals for secondary data analyses linking NHANES public use data with genetic variation data are accepted in May and October of each year.

Proposals to obtain DNA for testing will be reviewed first by a Genetics Technical Panel and then by a Secondary Review Panel. Approved proposal will then be reviewed by the CDC/NCHS Ethics Review Board (ERB) to ensure appropriate human subjects protections are provided, in compliance with 45 CFR part 46. The ERB review will be conducted, even though investigators' proposals may have received review by their home institution. The Director of NCHS will verify that projects have received appropriate reviews.

Requirements for the Inclusion of Women and Racial and Ethnic Minorities in Research: In NHANES III and NHANES 1999–2002, race/ethnicity was derived by combining responses to questions on race and Hispanic origin. These categories are defined as non-Hispanic white, non-Hispanic black, or Mexican American. Individuals who did not self-select into these categories were classified as ''other''. If proposal requests a subsample and excludes one or more race/ethnic groups or a gender, this exclusion must be justified.

CDC is also sensitive to the stigmatization of racial/ethnic specific populations through inappropriate reporting and interpretation of findings. For all proposals that request information on race/ethnicity for the samples selected, the investigator should discuss the reason for analyzing race/ethnicity, how the results will be interpreted, and the potential for group harm.

Submission of Proposals: Proposals can be submitted immediately. The review process will begin approximately 60 days from the publication of the notice and will include all proposals submitted as of that date, Electronic submission of proposals is encouraged. Please submit proposals to: Geraldine McQuillan, PhD, Division of Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys, National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 3311 Toledo Road, Room 4204, Hyattsville, MD 20782, Phone: 301–458–4840, Fax: 301–458–4028, E–mail: *NHANESgenetics@cdc.gov*.

Approved Proposals: The genetic results will be sent back to NCHS so they can be linked to the requested NHANES III, NHANES 1999–2002 or NHANES 2007–2008 public use data. Analysis will be done in the Research Data Center.

Agency Agreement: A formal signed agreement in the form of a Materials Transfer Agreement (MTA) with individuals who have projects approved will be completed before the release of the samples. This agreement will contain the conditions for use of the DNA as stated in this document and as agreed upon by the investigators and CDC. A key component of this agreement is that no attempt will be made to link the results of the proposed research to any other data, including, but not limited to, the NHANES public use data sets outside the Research Data Center. Also, the investigator agrees that the samples cannot be used for commercial purposes. A list of genes generated from the testing of the NHANES samples will be made available to the public for potential solicitation of proposals for secondary data analysis after the quality control process has been completed (approximately six months after NCHS receives the genetic variation results). These secondary data analysis proposals must also be reviewed by the ERB.

Progress Reports: A progress report will be submitted annually. CDC/NCHS/ERB continuation reports are also required annually if testing is not completed within a year. An ERB continuation form will be sent to the researcher each year for project update.

Termination of ERB Protocol: At the end of laboratory testing the Ethics Review Board Protocol will be closed. All data analysis will be conducted through the NCHS Research Data Center (RDC). An analytic plan must be submitted to the RDC to set up the analytic data set. See: *http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/r&d/rdc.htm* for guidelines.

Disposition of Results and Samples: No DNA samples provided can be used for any purpose other than those specifically requested in the proposal and approved by the Genetics Technical Panel, the Secondary Review Committee and the NHANES ERB. No sample can be shared with others, including other investigators, unless specified in the proposal and so approved. Any unused samples must be returned upon completion of the approved project. These results once returned to NCHS and quality controlled, will be part of the public domain. Genetic test results from all studies using NHANES DNA samples will be made available to the public for secondary data analyses. After the NCHS quality control review is completed, researchers will be given up to six months to conduct a more comprehensive quality assurance review. The final quality control review timeframe will be negotiated between the researcher and the NCHS Project Officer and will depend on the number and characteristics of the genetic tests submitted. Data analyses will be conducted at the NCHS' Research Data Center or similar environment provided by NCHS. Proposals for secondary data analyses are accepted in May and October of each year (*http://*

www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhanes/nh3data_genetic.htm).

Send Requests for Information: Geraldine McQuillan, PhD, Division of Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys, National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 3311 Toledo Road, Room 4204, Hyattsville, MD 20782, Phone: 301–458–4371, Fax: 301–458–4028, E–mail: *NHANESgenetics@cdc.gov*.

Dated: August 27, 2009.

Tanja Popovic,

Chief Science Officer, Centers for Disease Contro and Prevention.

[FR Doc. E9–21287 Filed 9–2–09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4163–18–P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Agency Information Collection Activities: Form N–400, Revision of an Existing Information Collection; Comment Request

ACTION: 60-Day Notice of Information Collection Under Review; Form N–400, Application for Naturalization; OMB Control No. 1615–0052.

The Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has submitted the following information collection request for review and clearance in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. The information collection is published to obtain comments from the public and affected agencies. Comments are encouraged and will be accepted for sixty days until November 2, 2009.

Written comments and/or suggestions regarding the item(s) contained in this notice, especially regarding the estimated public burden and associated response time, should be directed to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), USCIS, Chief, Regulatory Products Division, Clearance Officer, 111 Massachusetts Avenue, Suite 3008, Washington, DC 20529–2210. Comments may also be submitted to DHS via facsimile to 202–272–8352 or via e-mail at *rfs.regs@dhs.gov*. When submitting comments by e-mail, please make sure to add OMB Control No. 1615–0052 in the subject box.

Written comments and suggestions from the public and affected agencies concerning the collection of information should address one or more of the following four points:

(1) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(2) Evaluate the accuracy of the agencies estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Overview of This Information Collection

(1) Type of Information Collection: Revision of an existing information collection.

(2) Title of the Form/Collection: Application for Naturalization.

(3) Agency form number, if any, and the applicable component of the Department of Homeland Security sponsoring the collection: Form N–400; U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

(4) Affected public who will be asked or required to respond, as well as a brief abstract: Primary: Individuals or households. USCIS uses the information on this form to determine an applicant's eligibility for naturalization.

(5) An estimate of the total number of respondents and the amount of time estimated for an average respondent to respond: 700,000 responses at 6 hours and 8 minutes (6.13 hours) per response.

(6) An estimate of the total public burden (in hours) associated with the collection: 4,291,000 annual burden hours.

If you need a copy of the information collection instrument, please visit: *http://www.regulations.gov/search/Regs/home.html#home*.

We may also be contacted at: USCIS, Regulatory Products Division, 111 Massachusetts Avenue, NW., Suite 3008, Washington, DC 20529–2210, telephone number 202–272–8377.

Dated: August 27, 2009.

Stephen Tarragon,

Deputy Chief, Regulatory Products Division, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security.

[FR Doc. E9–21260 Filed 9–2–09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 9111–97–P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

United States Coast Guard

[Docket No. USCG–2009–0761]

Cook Inlet Regional Citizen's Advisory Committee; Charter Renewal

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Notice of Recertification.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard has recertified the Cook Inlet Regional Citizen's Advisory Council for the period covering September 1, 2009, through August 31, 2010. Under the Oil Terminal and Oil Tanker Environmental Oversight Act of 1990, the Coast Guard may certify on an annual basis an alternative voluntary advisory group in lieu of a regional citizens' advisory council for Cook Inlet, Alaska. This advisory group monitors the activities of terminal facilities and crude oil tankers under the Cook Inlet Program established by the statute.

DATES: The Cook Inlet Regional Citizen's Advisory Council is certified through August 31, 2010.

ADDRESSES: You may request a copy of the recertification letter by writing to Commander, Seventeenth Coast Guard District (dpi), P.O. Box 25517, Juneau, AK 99802–5517; or by calling 907–463–2821.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lieutenant-Commander Ken Phillips, Seventeenth Coast Guard District (dpi), telephone 907–463–2821.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background and Purpose

On September 1, 2008, the Coast Guard recertified the Cook Inlet Regional Citizen's Advisory Council through August 31, 2009 (73 FR 57127). Under the Oil Terminal and Oil Tanker Environmental Oversight Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2732), the Coast Guard may certify, on an annual basis, an alternative voluntary advisory group in lieu of a regional citizens' advisory council for Cook Inlet, Alaska. This advisory group monitors the activities of terminal facilities and crude oil tankers under the Cook Inlet Program established by Congress, 33 U.S.C. 2732 (b).

On September 16, 2002, the Coast Guard published a notice of policy on revised recertification procedures for alternative voluntary advisory groups in lieu of councils at Cook Inlet, Alaska (67 FR 58440). This revised policy indicated that Cook Inlet Regional Citizen's Advisory Council recertification in 2009 need only submit a streamlined