



Arctic and Western Alaska Area Committee: Regulatory Coordination and Advisory Subcommittee

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The purpose of establishing subcommittees is to enable the Arctic and Western Alaska (AWA) Area Committee (AC) to undertake a more diverse and significant set of work tasks than would otherwise be possible. Subcommittees, therefore, are tasked with taking on specific work on behalf of the Area Committee and reports directly to the AWA AC Steering Committee via the Area Committee Secretary or his/her designee. As such, subcommittees:

- Represent the entire AWA AC in the conduct of their work; and
- Are responsible to the Steering Committee in terms of defining the work to be conducted, informing the Area Secretary regarding progress and unanticipated challenges, and reporting back subcommittee findings in a helpful and timely fashion.

In addition to accomplishing the tasks defined for each subcommittee, subcommittee work will have the broader goal of enhancing the knowledge base of team members around the critical issue areas on which they are working.

A. Subcommittee Objectives

Primary Objective:

Establish and maintain regulatory consistency across National Response System agencies. Serve as primary entry point for high priority, complex regulatory issues that must be addressed by Federal and State On-Scene Coordinators.

Sub-Objectives:

- Maintain awareness and, if necessary, create workgroups to examine and make recommendations for new regulatory issues that require consistency among National Response System regulators.
- Review public, agency, stakeholder and industry concerns regarding response capabilities.
- Coordinate and communicate planning among inter-agency partners with regards to unannounced government-initiated exercises.
- Ensure consistency with existing federal and state statutes and regulations, working within existing regulatory schemes to address new, complex, and/or high-profile National Response System issues.
- Coordinate with other subcommittees, as required.

B. Subcommittee Membership

Area Committee: All participants in the Area Committee serve in an advisory role to the OSCs as representatives of their organizations. USCG policy differentiates between different levels of Area Committee participation.

- **Members:** Members must come from federal, state, local, tribal or territorial government agencies. The AWA AC Steering Committee shall appoint members, in writing, to serve on the Area Committee for their COTP Zone.
- **Members at large:** Private sector and Non-governmental Organization (NGO) representatives cannot be members of the committee, but rather serve as members at large. The Federal Advisory Committee Act prohibits industry representatives from holding Area Committee membership; however, industry participation in Area Committee meetings is invaluable.



Subcommittee: The Regulatory Coordination and Advisory Subcommittee Chair and Vice Chair shall be appointed in writing by the AWA AC Steering Committee. The Regulatory Coordination and Advisory Subcommittee Chair and Vice Chair must be a member of the Arctic and Western Alaska Area Committee. This is a members-only committee, although members-at-large may be consulted for input. Members should expect to serve for two years in their position in the subcommittee. Membership will be reviewed and validated annually by the AWA Steering Committee.

C. Subcommittee Meetings

Meeting Schedule and Process

The subcommittee will meet at a minimum quarterly to accomplish established objectives within timelines set by AWA AC steering committee. Subcommittee meetings do not require a quorum. The Chair and Vice-Chair shall maintain awareness of the subcommittee's progress and any issues regarding project advancement. Subcommittees should attempt to reach consensus on subcommittee activities. If consensus cannot be reached, the subcommittee chair will forward the issue with a recommendation, along with the other options for resolution of the issue, to the AWA AC Steering Committee via the Area Committee Secretary for final decision. The subcommittee chair shall brief progress towards assigned tasking at any scheduled AWA steering committee meeting.

Meeting Agenda

Subcommittees establish their own agenda or follow the agenda outlined below:

- A. Introductory items such as objectives review
- B. Review project(s) status timeline update
- C. Conduct/initiate subcommittee activities
- D. Review progress and summarize new actions following current subcommittee meeting
- E. Plans, date and location for next meeting

D. Current Subcommittee Tasking and Deadlines

In addition to fulfilling the overall Subcommittee Objectives listed above, the Steering Committee directs the following:

1. Hold subcommittee meetings to identify and prioritize regulatory or interagency issues to address. Recommend the creation of needed workgroups to support the OSCs and ACP to the AWA steering committee for approval. **Deadline: March 2022.**
2. Provide scope and timeline to produce guidance for OSCs regarding Alternative Planning Criteria, deviation requests, and program management. **Deadline: November 2022.**
3. Finalize guidance created by the Intentional Wellhead Ignition Workgroup that provides context to, and a process for, the decision to authorize IWI to support the OSCs. **Deadline: November 2022.**