



Arctic and Western Alaska Area Committee Geographic Response Strategy Subcommittee



Administrative Process for Proposed GRS Updates

May 2022

1. Any interested party (hereafter, the “Advocate”) may propose updates or changes to any existing Geographic Response Strategy (GRS) in Alaska. The GRS update process described in this document applies only to GRSs in the Arctic and Western Alaska (AWA) Area; proposed updates to GRSs in Southeast Alaska should be directed to the Southeast Alaska GRS Subcommittee, and GRSs in the Prince William Sound area should be directed to the Prince William Sound Area Committee. To facilitate the GRS process for AWA, a User Guide and Update Proposal Form will be posted to the AWA Area Committee webpage on the ADEC website, which will provide detailed information about evaluation planning, fieldwork considerations, and documentation requirements. Proposal submissions will be accepted via a GIS-based mobile application and via email to dec.spar.grs@alaska.gov and smb-sectoranchorage-grs@uscg.mil.
2. GRS Subcommittee Chairs will forward proposed updates to GRS Subcommittee members and Area Committee Chairs, then add the proposal review to the next subcommittee meeting agenda that the Advocate is available to attend (if desired). Proposals should be submitted at least four weeks ahead of the subcommittee meeting to allow time for processing.
3. At the scheduled GRS Subcommittee Meeting, the Advocate will be invited to present their proposed changes to the subcommittee. GRS Subcommittee Chairs will facilitate a discussion regarding the proposal, seek input from subcommittee members, address questions, and determine the potential need for further information (e.g., tier II/III validation). If the Advocate is unable to attend the meeting, the GRS Subcommittee Chairs will coordinate with the Advocate after the meeting to resolve any questions or concerns that arose, if necessary.
4. GRS Subcommittee Chairs will document highlights from the subcommittee discussion and form a recommendation.
5. At the following Steering Committee Meeting, GRS Subcommittee Chairs will present recommendations for proposed GRS Updates. Area Committee Chairs will have final approval authority on proposed GRS Updates.
6. If Area Committee Chairs approve proposed GRS Updates, GRS Subcommittee Chairs will inform the Advocate and within 14 days, the proposed updates will be finalized in the GIS database, then the GIS updates will be published on ADEC’s public GRS webmap and shared with the Arctic ERMA web team. The GRS PDFs will be updated and posted to ADEC’s GRS website within 60 days.



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7. If Area Committee Chairs do not approve proposed GRS Updates, GRS Subcommittee Chairs will inform the Advocate of the decision.
8. Final decisions on updates to GRS will be reviewed at the following GRS Subcommittee meeting.