

State of Alaska  
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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Alaska Attorney General Emphasizes Importance of Compliance with  
Alaska's Oil Spill Prevention Law in Light of Investigation of  
Greenpeace Vessel**

(Juneau) – An investigation into whether a Greenpeace vessel failed to comply with Alaska's oil spill prevention laws prompted Attorney General Gregg Renkes to remind all similarly situated ship owners and operators that compliance is not a mere legal technicality and violators of the compliance statutes could be subject to criminal penalties and civil fines.

On July 14<sup>th</sup> the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) served notice on the Greenpeace vessel M/Y Arctic Sunrise that it had not filed an oil spill response contingency plan or proof of financial responsibility. Under Alaska law, "nontank" vessels over 400 gross tons must file applications for an oil spill response plan and for a certificate of financial responsibility before entering Alaska waters.

In an article published in the July 15<sup>th</sup> issue of the Ketchikan Daily News, the captain of the Arctic Sunrise, Arne Sorenson, was quoted as saying, "We simply overlooked something and we'll comply with it."

"Alaska has adopted some of the most stringent oil spill prevention laws on the books," said Attorney General Gregg Renkes. "Ship owners and operators subject to the oil spill prevention laws must be prepared to show that they have a plan in place in the event of a spill and the financial means to pay for the costs of clean up. I would expect an environmental advocacy group such as Greenpeace to lead by example in ensuring that all vessels comply with these important requirements. I hope that Greenpeace will cooperate in attempts to find out what went wrong and why."

The ADEC is continuing its investigation into this matter and will forward its results to the Department of Law to determine the appropriate course of action.

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