U.S. Department of Homeland Security

United States Coast Guard

Commandant
United States Coast Guard

2100 Second Street, S.W. Stop 7126
Washington, DC 20593-7126
Staff Symbol: CG-5222
Phone: (202) 372-1439
Fax: (202) 372-1926

16783

MAY 19 2010

Honorable Jim McDermott
House of Representatives
1212 Tower Building
1809 Seventh Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

Dear Representative McDermott:

This is in response to your letter to Ms. Chani Wiggins, Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, U.S. Department of Homeland Security dated May 4, 2010, in which you forwarded the request of Mr. Peter J. Pilkington that a public meeting be held prior to finalizing rules for commercial diving.

As the office of the Federal government responsible for developing the commercial diving regulations, your letter was forwarded to me for action. The Federal Register notice we released on January 6, 2009 was an advanced notice of proposed rulemaking whereby we announced our intention to amend the regulations for commercial diving operations and requested public comment to assist us in developing the amended rules. Although the public comment for that notice has closed, additional opportunities for public comment will be made available prior to finalizing the amended rules.

We are currently developing the amended rules based on comments we received and will open a public comment period for additional input once the notice of proposed rulemaking is published in the Federal Register. Additionally, we plan to hold at least one public hearing prior to finalizing the rule.

Considering Mr. Pilkington's personal interest and concern in this rulemaking we sincerely wish for his participation. Please contact Mr. Patrick Mannion, of my staff at the number listed above, if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

R. C. PROCTOR
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard
Chief, Operating and Environmental Standards
By direction