
From: Frigg Jørgensen [frigg@aeco.no]
Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2014 5:56 AM
To: Joelle Tessler
Cc: Helen Shaw; Ilja Leo Lang
Subject: SV: Notice of Inquiry: Telecommunications Assessment of the Arctic Region

Dear Ms. Tessler

Reference is made to your inquiry of Oct 3 regarding telecommunication infrastructure in Arctic Regions.

AECO – the Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators is an international organization for expedition cruise operators in the Arctic. We have 45 members, 25 which operates approximately 30 small/medium sized cruise vessel in Arctic regions. The objectives of AECO includes ensuring environmentally-friendly, safe and considerate operations in the Arctic.

The majority of our members operates in other parts of the Arctic, than Alaska, but a few cruise the northern coast of Alaska as part of a northwest passage. Issues related to telecommunication are, however, relatively independent of which part of the Arctic the operations finds place. Challenges are more or less the same and can be summarized as follows:

Limitation on telephone communication and internet bandwidth involves that communications to and from vessels operating in High Arctic Areas may be limited. With improved telecommunication in the Arctic, e.g. HEO Satellites, polar orbits or land-based receivers, the Arctic shipping and cruise industry could get easier access to safety relevant information such as weather forecasts, ice information, - images and – predictions, and more. This, of course, if access is possible without too high costs. Increased telecommunication capacity will also add to the possibility of extended contact between a vessel and search and rescue capacities in the event of an emergency.

There is a general need for improved telecommunication infrastructure in the High Arctic and AECO would welcome any initiatives, also a potential initiative from the US Government, in this regard.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We stand at disposal if we can be of help with further information.

Med vennlig hilsen/Kind regards,

Frigg Jørgensen
Executive director

AECO
P.O. Box 103
N-9171 Longyearbyen
Pho + 47 79 02 63 50
Cell pho: +47 913 90 554
Skype: frigg.jorgensen
Twitter: @Friggj

www.aeco.no
frigg@aeco.no <<mailto:frigg@aeco.no>>

New Animated Guidelines for Visitors to the Arctic

Visitors to the Arctic can now educate themselves about safe, environmentally friendly and considerate behavior in the Arctic through a new entertaining animation. See: <https://vimeo.com/97093751> and read more on: <http://wp.me/p4e3v7-uj>

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