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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

August 6, 2004

Commander Mark A. Prescott
Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Coast Guard, Commandant (G-MSO-5)
Vessels and Facilities Operating Standards Division
2100 Second Street, SW
Washington, DC 20593-0001

USCG-2004-16860-50

Docket No: USCG-204-16860

Dear Commander Prescott:

In accordance with our responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (CEQ) for Implementing NEPA, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 office in Dallas, Texas, has completed its review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Gulf Landing LLC, Deepwater Port License Application. The deepwater port would consist of a terminal and five take-away pipelines that would distribute natural gas to existing pipeline in the Gulf of Mexico. The preferred location for the proposed Port is in West Cameron Block C-213, which is approximately 38 miles south of Cameron, Louisiana, in water depth of approximately 55 feet and adjacent to an existing shipping fairway servicing the Calcasieu River and area ports. The facility would vaporize and distribute up to 1.2 billion cubic feet per day.

The DEIS evaluates and identifies the potential environmental impacts associated with the Proposed Action and Alternatives, including the No-Action Alternative. With prescribed mitigation, the DEIS demonstrates the proposed action would have no significant adverse impact on the human environment and would have negligible impacts in all other areas. EPA's participation as a cooperating agency provided our agency the coordination opportunities and capacity to comment early in the developmental stages of the DEIS and thus contributed to the development of an environmentally acceptable preferred alternative and a full disclosure EIS.

EPA rates the DEIS as "EC-2," i.e., EPA has **"Environmental Concerns and Requests Additional Information in the Final EIS (FEIS)."** EPA has identified environmental impacts that should be avoided to protect the environment. These concerns may require changes to the preferred alternative or application of mitigation measures that can reduce environmental impact. EPA has identified the need for additional information to be included in the FEIS to complement and to more fully insure compliance with the requirements of NEPA and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations. Areas requiring additional information or clarification include: air quality

impact, alternative analysis, permitting, mitigation, cumulative impact, and matrix analysis comparing the environmental impacts onshore versus offshore facilities, service areas, and delivery volumes. A detailed comments response matrix is enclosed with this letter, which more clearly identify our concerns and the informational needs requested for incorporation into the FEIS.

Our classification will be published in the Federal Register according to our responsibility under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act to inform the public of our views on proposed Federal actions. If you have any questions, please contact Mike Jansky of my staff at (214) 665-7451 for assistance.

EPA appreciates the opportunity to review the DEIS. Please send our office five copies of the FEIS when it is sent to the Office of Federal Activities, EPA (Mail Code 2252A), Ariel Rios Federal Building, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20004.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rhonda M. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "R".

Rhonda M. Smith, Acting Chief
Office of Planning and
Coordination (6EN-XP)

Enclosure