Shepherdson, Melanie

From: Bromley, Eugene
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 9:30 AM
To: Seeley, Kenneth;James Salmons
Cc: Smith, DavidW;VonVacano, Marcela;Sablad, Elizabeth
Subject: RE: CBD press release

Thanks,

Eugene Bromley
NPDES Permits Office (WTR-5)
EPA Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
bromley.eugene@epa.gov
(415) 972-3510
(415) 947-3549 (fax)

From: Seeley, Kenneth [mailto:kenneth.seeley@bsee.gov]
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 9:02 AM
To: Bromley, Eugene; James Salmons
Subject: Fwd: CBD press release

FYI

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Jaron Ming** <jaron.ming@bsee.gov>
Date: Fri, Nov 15, 2013 at 5:59 AM
Subject: Fwd: CBD press release
To: Drew Mayerson <Drew.Mayerson@bsee.gov>, Nabil Masri <Nabil.Masri@bsee.gov>, Kenneth Seeley <kenneth.seeley@bsee.gov>, Silvia Riechel <silvia.riechel@sol.doi.gov>, Christy M Lan <Christy.Lan@bsee.gov>

FYI

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** "Hagan, Julia" <julia.hagan@bsee.gov>
> **Date:** November 15, 2013, 7:26:04 AM CST
> **To:** Jaron Ming <jaron.ming@bsee.gov>, David Smith <david.smith@bsee.gov>, Nicholas Pardi <nicholas.pardi@bsee.gov>
> **Subject: CBD press release**
>
> For Immediate Release, November 14, 2013
>
> Contact: Patrick Sullivan, (415) 632-5316, psullivan@biologicaldiversity.org

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California Coastal Commission Has Authority to Halt Offshore Fracking, End Ocean Wastewater Discharge

New Analysis Finds Oil Companies Using Ecologically Hazardous Chemicals, Pumping Wastewater Into Coastal Waters

NEWPORT BEACH, *Calif.*— Citing the use of hazardous hydraulic fracturing chemicals and the release of oil industry wastewater off California's coast, the Center for Biological Diversity today called on the Coastal Commission to halt fracking for oil and gas in state waters and press for tighter regulation of fracking in federal waters.

In a letter delivered as commissioners meet this week in Newport Beach, the Center says hundreds of recently revealed frack jobs in state waters violate the Coastal Act. Some oil platforms are discharging wastewater directly into the Santa Barbara Channel, according to a government document.

"The Coastal Commission has the right and the responsibility to step in when oil companies use dangerous chemicals to frack California's ocean waters," said Emily Jeffers, a Center attorney. "Our beaches, our wildlife and our entire coastal ecosystem are at risk until the state reins in this dangerous practice."

After noting seven risky chemicals used by oil companies fracking in California waters, the letter describes the duties of the Coastal Commission to protect wildlife, marine fisheries, and the environment. "Because the risk of many of the harms from fracking cannot be eliminated, a complete prohibition on fracking is the best way to protect human health and the environment," the letter says.

At minimum, the Coastal Commission must take action under the Coastal Act to regulate the practice, including requiring oil and gas operators fracking in state waters to obtain a coastal development permit.

The letter also contains the Center's analysis of chemicals used in 12 recent frack jobs in state waters near Long Beach. Drawing on data disclosed by oil companies, the Center found that at least one-third of chemicals used in these fracking operations are suspected ecological hazards. More than a third of these chemicals are suspected of affecting the human developmental and nervous systems.

The chemical X-Cide, used in all 12 offshore frack jobs examined by the Center, is classified as a hazardous substance by the federal agency that manages cleanup at Superfund sites. X-Cide is also listed as hazardous to fish and wildlife.

Oil companies have used fracking at least 200 times in waters off Long Beach, Seal Beach and Huntington Beach, as well as in federal waters in the Santa Barbara Channel. Fracking involves blasting massive amounts of water and industrial chemicals into the earth at pressures high enough to crack geologic formations and release oil and gas.

Approximately half the oil platforms in federal waters in the Santa Barbara Channel discharge all or a portion of their wastewater directly to the ocean, according to a Coastal Commission document. This produced wastewater contains all of the chemicals injected originally into the fracked wells, with the addition of toxins gathered from the subsurface environment.

The Center's letter says that water pollution from fracking and oil operations in California's waters poses risks to a wide range of threatened and endangered species, including Blue whales, sea otters, and Leatherback turtles.

A copy of the letter is available here.

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Kenneth R. Seeley, Ph.D.
Regional Environmental Officer, Pacific OCS Region

Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement
770 Paseo Camarillo
Camarillo, CA 93010
(P): 805-389-7799
(F): 805-389-7592
(C): 805-377-8618
Kenneth.Seeley@BSEE.gov

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