UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE
DALLAS, TEXAS 75202-2733

WQ-P Reading File

APR 24 2008

CERTIFIED MAIL: RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED (7004 1160 0003 0352 2042)

Mr. Miles Groom
Assistant Regional Administrator
for Habitat Conservation
National Marine Fisheries Service
Southeast Regional Office
263 13th Avenue South
Saint Petersburg, Florida 33701

Dear Mr. Groom:

Region 6 of the Environmental Protection Agency is proposing to jointly re-issue the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)/Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (LPDES) permit for LOOP LLC (LA0049492/AI4634). The permit presently authorizes discharges from a deepwater port, pipelines and storage facilities for the transportation of crude oil to Federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico seaward of the outer boundary of the territorial seas of Louisiana. The proposed re-issuance of the permit will not authorize any new discharges.

EPA also has determined that the re-issuance of this permit is not likely to adversely effect Essential Fish Habitat established under the 1996 amendments to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Management and Conservation Act. The proposed permit language and fact sheet are enclosed for your review. Please notify us within 30 days whether or not you concur with our conclusion that the discharges authorized by this proposed permit are not likely to adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat within the geographic scope of this permit.

Thank you for the assistance and cooperation in this matter. If you should have any questions concerning this proposed permit action please contact Maria Okpala at (214) 665-3152.

Sincerely yours,

Claudia V. Hosch
Chief
Permits & TMDL Branch

Enclosures
cc:

Sonja Loyd (LDEQ Permits Division)
Scott Guilliams (LDEQ Permits Division)