Claudia
Paulette

11/20

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southeast Regional Office
9721 Executive Center Drive North
St. Petersburg, Florida 33702

November 13, 2002 F/SER44/RH:jk
225/389-0508

Mr. Jack V. Ferguson, Chief
Permits Branch
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) has received your letter dated October 11, 2002, regarding the re-issuance of a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for LOOP, LLC. The permit presently authorizes discharges from a deepwater port, pipelines, and storage facilities for the transportation of crude oil between Federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico and Louisiana. In your letter, you indicated that the Environmental Protection Agency had determined that re-issuance of this permit is not likely to adversely effect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) and you requested our concurrence with this determination.

NOAA Fisheries has reviewed the information transmitted with your letter and agrees that re-issuance of this NPDES permit is not likely to result in adverse effects to EFH. As such, we have no EFH Conservation Recommendations to provide and do not object to re-issuance of this NPDES permit.

Sincerely,

Richard Hartman

for Andreas Mager, Jr.
Assistant Regional Administrator
Habitat Conservation Division

c:
NOD, Regulatory
FWS, Lafayette
LA DNR - Consistency
F/SER4
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