UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southeast Regional Office
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St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505
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Mr. William Honker, Director
Water Division
US Environmental Protection Agency Region 6
1445 Ross Ave, Suite 1200
Dallas, Texas 75202

JUN 29 2017

RE: Endangered Species Act Section 7 Consultation with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement for Gulf of Mexico Oil and Gas Activities [PCTS# SER-2013-10557]

Dear Mr. Honker:

This letter is to notify you of our understanding of your involvement in the ongoing formal consultation pursuant to section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. §1531 et seq.) with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), and the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) for oil and gas activities in the Gulf of Mexico. For this ESA section 7 consultation, BOEM is the lead action agency and USEPA and BSEE are co-federal action agencies.

The USEPA is charged under the Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act to permit the water and air discharges that are associated with oil and gas activities in the Gulf of Mexico, with the exception of air quality for areas west of 87.5° W longitude being screened under BOEM jurisdiction. The issuance of these permits is included as a subset of the Federal actions that make up the Proposed Action under the subject ESA section 7 consultation.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the ESA section 7 consulting biologist, Allison Hernandez at (301) 427-8413 or Allison.Hernandez@noaa.gov, or Michael Tucker at michael.tucker@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

for David Bernhart
Assistant Regional Administrator
for Protected Resources

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