



DEC 19 2011

Dear Reviewer:

In accordance with provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), we enclose for your review the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) *Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Effects of Oil and Gas Activities in the Arctic*.

This DEIS is prepared pursuant to NEPA to assess the environmental impacts associated with NOAA proceeding with the issuance of Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) incidental take authorizations for the take of marine mammals incidental to conducting oil and gas exploration activities in the U.S. Arctic Ocean. The intended effect of carrying out the proposed action is to ensure compliance with Section 101(a)(5) of the MMPA.

Additional copies of the DEIS may be obtained by contacting the responsible official at the address shown below or by accessing the project website at:
<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/eis/arctic.htm>.

Written comments on the DEIS should be directed via mail, fax, or electronic mail to the responsible official identified below by Monday, February 13, 2012.

Responsible Official:

James H. Lecky
Director
Office of Protected Resources
National Marine Fisheries Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
1315 East West Highway, Room 13704
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Sincerely,



Patricia A. Montanio
NOAA NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure

