UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

March 21, 2016

Mr. Gary D. Goeke
Chief, Environmental Assessment Section
Leasing and Environment (MS 5410)
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
New Orleans, LA 70133-2394

Subject: **Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Gulf of Mexico Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Western Planning Area Lease Sale 248.**

Dear Mr. Goeke:

In accordance with Section 309 of the Clean Air Act (CAA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 office in Dallas, Texas, has completed its review of the February 2016 Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement prepared by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

EPA had previously provided detailed comments on the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement in December (DEIS) of 2013 and rated it "EC-2", indicating that EPA had environmental concerns and requests additional information. In April 2015 EPA provided additional comments on the Second DEIS, and in October 2015 EPA shared the additional analysis which addressed our concerns in the Third DEIS. We have no further comments on the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this FSEIS and are available to discuss our comments. If you have any questions, please contact Magda Dallemagne of my staff at (214) 665-7396 or by e-mail at dallemagne.magdeleine@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Gabriel Gruta, Acting Chief
Office of Planning and Coordination