



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

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OFFICE OF
ENFORCEMENT AND
COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE

Mr. Bauke Houtman
Head, Integrative Programs Section
Division of Ocean Sciences
National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 725
Arlington, VA 22230

Dear Mr. Houtman:

In accordance with National Environmental Policy Act and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the National Science Foundation's draft programmatic environmental impact statement (EIS) for Marine Seismic Research Funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) or Conducted by the US Geological Survey (USGS).

The Proposed Action is for academic and US government scientists in the US, and possible international collaborators, to conduct marine seismic research from research vessels operated by US academic institutions and government agencies. The draft prommatic EIS examines the potential impacts that may result from geophysical exploration and scientific research using seismic surveys that are funded by NSF or conducted by USGS. Based on our review of the draft programmatic EIS, we have no objections to the proposed action.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this draft programmatic EIS. The staff contact for this review is Aimee Hessert (202-564-0993).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan E. Bromm".

Susan E. Bromm
Director
Office of Federal Activities