



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

JUL 3 2012

OFFICE OF
ENFORCEMENT AND
COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Atlantic
Attn Code EV22 (AFTT EIS Project Managers)
6506 Hampton Blvd
Norfolk, VA 23508-1278

Dear Sir/Madam:

In accordance with our responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the U.S. Navy's draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (OEIS) on the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Study Area (CEQ No. 20120142). The EIS/OEIS will also serve as the National Marine Fisheries Service's NEPA documentation for the rule-making process under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) to issue any incidental take authorizations because of the potential effects of the Navy's training and testing activities on species protected by Federal law.

The AFTT Study Area is made up of sea and air space along the eastern coast of the United States and the Gulf of Mexico. In the EIS/OEIS, the Navy identified its current, emerging, and future training and testing activities in the AFTT Study Area associated with the issuance of MMPA authorizations. The Navy's preferred alternative includes its current and historic levels of activity, plus the expansion of the Study Area, as well as adjustments to locations and increases to tempo of training and testing activities, including the addition of platforms and systems, as described in Section 2.8 of the EIS/OEIS.

EPA believes that the draft EIS/OEIS provides an adequate discussion of the potential environmental impacts and we have not identified any potential environmental impacts requiring substantive changes. EPA has rated the draft EIS as LO – "Lack of Objections." A summary of EPA's rating is enclosed.

We appreciate the opportunity to review the draft EIS. The staff contact for the review is Candi Schaedle and she can be reached at (202) 564-6121.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan E Bromm".

Susan E. Bromm
Director
Office of Federal Activities

Enclosure