



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 10

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OFFICE OF
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW
AND ASSESSMENT

August 10, 2016

Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Northwest
Attn: Mrs. Amy Burt-GOA EIS Project Manager
1101 Tautog Circle, Suite 203
Silverdale, Washington 98315-1101

Dear Ms. Burt:

Thank you for opportunity to review the Department of the Navy Gulf of Alaska Navy Training Activities Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement, Gulf of Alaska, Alaska (EPA Project #08-028-DOD). We have reviewed the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS in accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

In our October 24, 2014 comment letter on the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS, we stated that the environmental concerns identified in the original Draft EIS/OEIS remain but with additional acoustic information, we believe the document to be adequate with regard to the disclosure requirements under NEPA.

Based on our review of the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS, we continue to have some concerns regarding the potential impacts to marine mammals and water quality. We do, however, recognize the extensive mitigation employed by the Navy to decontaminate and retrieve debris, as well as the identified timing restrictions to minimize harm to marine mammals in the project area. We appreciate the extensive record of communication included in the document between both the Navy and the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the Navy and the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service regarding impacts to protected species.

We also recognize the reauthorization of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act General Permit for the Sinking Exercise (SINKEX) Program, as identified in the January 24, 2013 letter from Benita Best-Wong with the EPA Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds. This authorization specifically states that the "activity authorized under the Permit for the SINKEX program conducted by Navy does not pose an unreasonable risk to human health or the environment" and that "additional clarification of the Permit's requirements will ensure the continued protection of human health and the environment, while also providing greater transparency regarding SINKEX vessel preparation and Navy's subsequent verification and reporting". We believe that the clarified requirements will help stakeholders to better understand SINKEX restrictions and protections under the MPRSA General Permit.

Again, we appreciate the opportunity to review and provide comments on this Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at 206-553-1601, or contact Jennifer Curtis of my staff at (907) 271-6324, or by email at curtis.jennifer@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christine B. Littleton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'C'.

Christine B. Littleton, Manager
Office of Environmental Review and Assessment