UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

October 29, 2001

Roland J. Guidry
Coordinator
Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office
Office of the Governor
Room 800
625 N. 4th Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

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Dear Roland,

As you are aware, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has determined that a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) is the appropriate National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis document for establishing the Louisiana Regional Restoration Planning Program (RRP Program). Our determination is based on the fact that significant impacts may result from implementation of this program.

The Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA emphasize agency cooperation early in the NEPA process. 40 C.F.R. § 1501.5(b) also states: "Federal, State, or local agencies, including at least one Federal agency, may act as joint lead agencies to prepare an environmental impact statement."

Because the Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office in the Office of the Governor is a natural resource trustee and is coordinating the effort to establish the RRP Program at the state level, I invite your agency to be a joint lead agency with NOAA in the development of the PEIS.

Feel free to contact me on this matter at (301) 713-3038 x192.

Sincerely,

Ann H. Berger
Damage Assessment and Restoration
Program Coordinator

Enclosure

cc: Jason Forman, NOAA/GCNR
Brian Julius, NOAA/DAC
John Kern, NOAA/DAC
Tom Moore, NOAA/RC
Karolien Debusschere, LOSCO

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