



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SEATTLE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 3755
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98124-3755

DEC 9 2011

Regulatory Branch

David S. Dolling, Ph.D.
Dean, School of Engineering & Applied Sciences
George Washington University
725 23rd Street Northwest, Suite 106
Washington, DC 20052

Reference: NWS-1992-00435
BP Environmental Impact Statement


Dear Dean Dolling:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District (Corps) is responsible for preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act as part of its review of a Department of the Army permit previously issued to BP West Coast Products, LLC (BP) for adding another wing to its marine terminal at the Cherry Point Refinery. To help assess the incremental environmental impacts of operating an additional wing at the BP Cherry Point Marine Terminal, George Washington University (GW) was separately contracted by BP to provide a vessel traffic risk analysis report. This analysis assesses the risk of accident and oil outflow for vessels transporting crude oil to the BP Cherry Point Marine Terminal and vessels transporting refined petroleum product from the terminal. This report was to be incorporated into the EIS. Consequently, the report "Assessment of Oil Spill Risk Due to Potential Vessel Traffic at Cherry Point, Washington" Vessel Traffic Risk Analysis (VTRA) dated August 31, 2008, was prepared by a team composed of faculty members from GW, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and Virginia Commonwealth University (VTRA Team).

Although the VTRA was submitted in August 2008, the Corps has requested that additional analyses be prepared by the VTRA Team to support completion of the Draft EIS. At this time, the preparation of the Draft EIS is still in progress. Any release of the VTRA and the conclusions of its authors contained therein prior to the issuance of the Draft EIS for public review and comment does not indicate in any way that the Corps has completed its findings concerning the potential environmental effects of BP operating two wings at the Cherry Point Marine Terminal. However, at GW's request, the Corps has no objection to GW posting the VTRA dated August 31, 2008, on the GW web site provided this letter accompanies the posting of the VTRA.

If you have any questions regarding the August 2008 VTRA, please contact the VTRA Team. If you have questions regarding the BP Cherry Point Marine Terminal EIS, please contact Ms. Olivia Romano, Project Manager, Regulatory Branch, at (206) 764-6960 or olivia.h.romano@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce A. Estok". The signature is stylized with large, sweeping loops and a horizontal line across the middle.

Bruce A. Estok
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer