



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
PHIL BRYANT
GOVERNOR
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
TRUDY D. FISHER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

November 26, 2013

Ms. Cynthia K. Dohner
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1875 Century Boulevard
Atlanta, Georgia 30345

Dear Ms. Dohner:

Thank you for inviting the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality ("MDEQ") to serve as a cooperating agency in the development of the Draft Programmatic and Phase III Early Restoration Plan and Draft Early Restoration Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement ("Draft Phase III ERP/PEIS") related to the *Deepwater Horizon* (DWH) oil spill.

MDEQ accepts this invitation. We also confirm that our role and assistance in this regard began when the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) initiated the effort to develop the Draft Phase III ERP/PEIS on behalf of the *Deepwater Horizon* Trustee Council based on DOI's verbal invitation at that time. As both a Trustee Council member, party to the "Framework for Early Restoration Addressing Injuries Resulting from the *Deepwater Horizon* Oil Spill," and National Environmental Policy Act cooperating agency (40 CFR 1501.6), MDEQ will continue to participate in the development of the Draft Phase III ERP/PEIS, provide information and prepare analyses per its special expertise and jurisdictional responsibilities, make staff available to support interdisciplinary capability and participate in public review processes.

In my role as MDEQ's principal member serving the Trustee Council Executive Committee, please consider me the primary point of contact. I can be reached at (601) 961-5001 and by email at trudy_fisher@deq.state.ms.us.

We look forward to continuing work with the Department of the Interior on this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Trudy D. Fisher".

Trudy D. Fisher

cc: Amy Whitten
Teri Wyly



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