

October 10, 2023

Jolie Harrison, Chief Permits and Conservation Division Office of Protected Resources National Marine Fisheries <u>ITP.Tucker@noaa.gov</u>

Comments submitted via e-mail

RE: Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to Columbia East Lateral XPRESS Project, Agency/Docket No. RTID 0648-XD182

Dear Ms. Harrison:

Sierra Club opposes the proposed authorization to take marine mammals incidental to the East Lateral Xpress Project in Barataria Bay, Louisiana. Furthermore, Sierra Club urges NMFS to further consider impacts from the East Lateral Xpress project and the potential for take under Level A harm, in addition to the proposed Level B harassment.

The pile driving activities for the East Lateral Xpress project will take place in portions of Barataria Bay, in an area where NMFS researchers sighted multiple bottlenose dolphins during a population survey conducted in spring of 2019.¹ Columbia Gulf proposes pile driving to construct a new Point of Delivery Meter Station on an existing platform and a new Tie-in Facility at the terminus a new 30-inch lateral pipeline. Project activities include installation, by impact hammer, of 20 18-inch concrete piles and 104 36-inch spun cast piles.

NMFS asserts that noise from pile-driving is the only activity expected to result in level B harassment of bottlenose dolphins, and that, "[b]ased on the nature of the activity and the anticipated effectiveness of the mitigation measures including the utilization of Protected Species Observers to monitor for marine mammals and implementation of pre-clearance and soft start

¹ Garrison, L.P, Litz, J. and Sinclair, C. 2020. Predicting the effects of low salinity associated with the MBSD project on resident common bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) in Barataria Bay, LA. NOAA Technical Memorandum NOAA NMFS-SEFSC-748: 97 p. https://doi.org/10.25923/53z9-nn54, (hereafter "Garrison et al. (2020)"), at iii, 46 (describing population estimate based on 2019 capture-mark-recapture survey), 57.

protocols discussed in detail below in the Proposed Mitigation section, Level A harassment is neither anticipated nor proposed to be authorized."²

While mitigation measures may avoid some forms of more severe take, there is no indication that these measures would preclude more Level B harassment than NMFS proposes, or render it unlikely. NMFS' conclusion that no Level A take will occur is arbitrary and capricious because the agency failed to consider the impacts in light of the poor health of many members of the stock population. Due to the lasting impacts of the catastrophic Deepwater Horizon oil spill on the health of Barataria Bay dolphins, NMFS must consider (1) whether impacts to lung capacity and buoyancy, discussed below, may limit or slow the ability of Barataria Bay dolphins to flee from disturbance, resulting in prolonged harassment and (2) whether the impact of being forced to flee from noise is more severe due to the already compromised health of the dolphins, and therefore could cause not only further Level B harassment, but Level A harassment.

As stated in a recent study by Schwacke et al.:

The 2010 Deepwater Horizon (DWH) oil spill exposed common bottlenose dolphins (Tursiops truncatus) in Barataria Bay, Louisiana to heavy oiling that caused increased mortality and chronic disease and impaired reproduction in surviving dolphins. We conducted photographic surveys and veterinary assessments in the decade following the spill. We assigned a prognostic score (good, fair, guarded, poor, or grave) for each dolphin to provide a single integrated indicator of overall health, and we examined temporal trends in prognostic scores. ... Disease conditions persisted and have recently worsened in dolphins that were presumably exposed to DWH oil: 78% of those assessed in 2018 had a guarded, poor, or grave prognosis.³

Based on health assessments of Barataria Bay dolphins, Smith et al. (2020) found that the prevalence and severity of moderate to severe lung disease in survivors of the spill worsened over time:

In 2013 and 2014, moderate to severe lung disease persisted among BB [Barataria Bay] dolphins, and remained elevated relative to the prevalence at the SB [Sarasota Bay, Florida] comparison site [a comparison site with no Deepwater Horizon oil contamination]. More recent live animal health assessments (2016-2018) showed long-term persistence and potential worsening of moderate to

² 88 Fed. Reg. 61,530 (Sep. 9, 2023).

³ Schwacke, L.H., Marques, T.A., Thomas, L., Booth, C., Balmer, B.C., Barratclough, A., Colegrove, K., De Guise, S., Garrison, L.P., Gomez, F.M., Morey, J.S., Mullin, K.D., Quigley, B.M., Rosel, P., Rowles, T.K., Takeshita, R., Townsend, F.I., Speakman, T.R., Wells, R.S., Zolman, E.S. and Smith, C.R. (2022), Modeling population effects of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill on a long-lived species. Conservation Biology, e13878, (hereafter, "Schwacke et al. (2022)"), at 1 of 13, available at https://doi.org/10.1111/cobi.13878 (emphasis added).

severe lung disease in BB dolphins, specifically in animals alive during the oil spill (prevalence of 0.20, 0.35, and 0.55 in 2016, 2017, and 2018, respectively).⁴

As described in Smith et al. (2020), bottlenose dolphins suffering from lung disease would be expected to have impaired respiration, an impaired ability to regulate against decompression sickness, impaired buoyancy, and increased energetic demands:

In bottlenose dolphins and other cetaceans (porpoises, dolphins, and whales), the lungs serve a dual purpose of both respiration and buoyancy control (Ridgway et al. 1969). Investigations of dolphin pulmonary anatomy have shown that terminal airways are reinforced with cartilage, and myoelastic sphincters are found surrounding terminal bronchioles and alveolar entrances (Simpson & Gardner 1972). The alveoli can completely collapse at depth, forcing air into the reinforced air spaces, presumably for prevention of decompression sickness (Ridgway et al. 1969). The presence of moderate to severe pulmonary disease would be expected to impair these physiologic mechanisms, negatively impact buoyancy, and increase energetic demands. This is supported by the authors' (CRS, FMG, FIT) personal observations of managed dolphins diagnosed with moderate to severe pulmonary disease that have altered swim and dive patterns, likely due to a decrease in functional lung capacity and concomitant impaired buoyancy.⁵

Consequently, in assessing whether harassment will occur, and whether that harassment is Level A or Level B, for Barataria Bay dolphins, NMFS must take into account their compromised ability to move away from sources of disturbance, and the increased impacts of the energetic cost of attempting to flee, among other factors.

As scientists estimate that the population of the Barataria Bay stock has declined by 45% due to the Deepwater Horizon spill, and will take 35 years to recover to 95% of the baseline population,⁶ the impacts of human activities that could risk additional population losses or injury should be evaluated carefully by NMFS and avoided unless the substantive and procedural requirements of the MMPA have been satisfied.

Furthermore, please find attached, as Exhibit A, a letter from the Sierra Club submitted in March 2022, expressing concern regarding the potential for Level B harassment of bottlenose dolphins of the Barataria Bay Estuarine System stock associated with the construction of Venture Global's

⁴ Cynthia R. Smith, Teresa K. Rowles, Forrest M. Gomez, Kathleen M. Colegrove, Ryan Takeshita, Eric S. Zolman, Brian C. Balmer, Randall S. Wells, Forrest I. Townsend, Lori H. Schwacke, Marine Mammals and Respiration: Evidence of Poor Pulmonary Health in Bottlenose Dolphins Following the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, 2020 International Oil Spill Conference, Abstract # 688234 (hereafter, "Smith et al. (2020)"), at page 2. Included in Exhibit A, as Attachment 4.

⁵ Exhibit A, Attachment 4 – Smith et al. (2020), at page 11.

⁶ See Schwacke et al. (2022), at 1 of 13 ("We estimated that the population has declined by 45% (95% confidence interval (CI) 14–74%) relative to baseline and will take 35 years (95% CI 18–67) to recover back to 95% of baseline numbers.")

Plaquemines LNG and Gator Express Pipeline Project in Louisiana. Sierra Club reiterates these same concerns for the East Lateral Xpress project, and incorporates those comments herein. NMFS should further consider the impact from this project in connection with impacts to the species from the numerous additional oil and gas infrastructure projects proposed in this area, and assess whether these projects will contribute to further impacts to this dolphin population.

If you have any questions regarding the matters raised in the attached letter, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

<u>/s/ Rebecca McCreary</u> Rebecca McCreary Sierra Club 1650 38th St., Suite 102W Boulder, CO 80303 (303) 449-5595 (tel) rebecca.mccreary@sierraclub.org Attorney for Sierra Club

Exhibit A

Sierra Club et al. Letter re: Potential Marine Mammal Protection Act Level B harassment of Barataria Bay Estuarine System (BBES) stock of common bottlenose dolphins (Tursiops truncatus) associated with pile driving for the Plaquemines LNG and Gator Express Pipeline Project



March 18, 2022

David Bernhart Assistant Regional Administrator Protected Resources Division david.bernhart@noaa.gov

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Stacey Horstman Bottlenose Dolphin Conservation Coordinator Protected Resources Division stacey.horstman@noaa.gov

United States Department of Commerce National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service Southeast Regional Office 263 13th Avenue South St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505

Transmitted via e-mail

RE: Potential Marine Mammal Protection Act Level B harassment of Barataria Bay Estuarine System (BBES) stock of common bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) associated with pile driving for the Plaquemines LNG and Gator Express Pipeline Project

Dear Assistant Regional Administrator Bernhart, Branch Chief Engelby, and Conservation Coordinator Horstman,

On behalf of the Sierra Club, the Center for Biological Diversity, and Healthy Gulf, I am writing to express concern regarding the potential for Level B harassment of bottlenose dolphins of the Barataria Bay Estuarine System stock associated with the construction of Venture Global's Plaquemines LNG and Gator Express Pipeline Project in Louisiana¹ and request that the National Marine Fisheries Service ("NMFS") take appropriate action. Sierra Club, the nation's oldest grassroots organization, is a not-for-profit corporation with approximately 796,000

¹ See Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Docket Nos. CP17-66-000 and CP17-67-000.

members nationwide and is dedicated to the protection and preservation of the environment. The Center for Biological Diversity is a non-profit, public interest environmental organization with more than 1.7 million members and supporters. The Center is dedicated to the protection of species and their habitats through science, policy, and environmental law. With thousands of members across the Gulf Coast, Healthy Gulf's purpose is to collaborate with and serve communities who love the Gulf of Mexico by providing the research, communications, and coalition-building tools needed to reverse the long pattern of over exploitation of the Gulf's natural resources. The Plaquemines LNG project, which is underway,² includes pile driving activities in Barataria Bay, which is habitat for an estimated population of 2,071 bottlenose dolphins.³ Site preparation and other activities, including pile driving on the Mississippi River side of the project, have already begun. The Barataria Bay pile driving, which is part of Phase I of the construction plan, could commence at any time.⁴

Sierra Club is concerned that the mitigation measures for the pile driving activities are not sufficient to preclude harassment of bottlenose dolphins, and that violations of the Marine Mammal Protection Act's prohibitions may soon occur if the pile driving activities in Barataria Bay commence in the absence of an Incidental Harassment Authorization ("IHA"), or other authorization, from NMFS. The MMPA prohibits the take of marine mammals, including take by Level B harassment, absent authorization from the Service.⁵ Sierra Club asks that NMFS act

https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/filelist?accession number=20220308-5046&optimized=false.

³ Garrison, L.P, Litz, J. and Sinclair, C. 2020. Predicting the effects of low salinity associated with the MBSD project on resident common bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) in Barataria Bay, LA. NOAA Technical Memorandum NOAA NMFS-SEFSC-748: 97 p. https://doi.org/10.25923/53z9-nn54, (hereafter "Garrison et al. (2020)"), at iii, 46 (describing population estimate based on 2019 capture-mark-recapture survey).

⁴ Additionally, on February 23, 2022 Texas Eastern Transmission, LP applied for a Coastal Use Permit from the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources for the TETCO pipeline that would connect to the project at or near the Plaquemines LNG Barataria Bay meter stations. <u>https://sonlite.dnr.state.la.us/sundown/cart_prod/cart_crm_application?pcup_num=P20220033& pline_id=2&pshow_appl_email=Y</u>

⁵ 16 U.S.C. § 1371(a) (prohibition on take); 16 U.S.C. § 1362(13) (defining take to mean "to harass, hunt, capture, or kill, or attempt to harass, hunt, capture, or kill any marine mammal."); *Id.* § 1362(18)(A) (defining "harassment" to mean "any act of pursuit, torment, or annoyance which—(i) has the potential to injure a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild; or (ii) has the potential to disturb a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild by causing disruption of behavioral patterns, including, but not limited to, migration, breathing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering."); *Id.* § 1362(18)(D) (defining "Level B" harassment as an act that "has the potential to disturb a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild by causing disruption of behavioral patterns, including, but not limited to, migration, breathing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering."); *Id.* § 1362(18)(D) (defining "Level B" harassment as an act that "has the potential to disturb a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild by causing disruption of behavioral patterns, including, but not limited to, migration, breathing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering"). The MMPA enables NMFS to authorize

² Venture Global Plaquemines LNG and Gator Express Pipeline Monthly Construction Status Report No. 029 (Mar. 8, 2022), Docket Nos. CP17-66-000, CP17-67-000, Accession Number 20220308-5046,

promptly to evaluate and investigate this matter to ensure that no unauthorized harassment occurs, and that any harassment that cannot be avoided entirely is minimized to have the least adverse impact practicable by mitigation requirements imposed in an IHA issued prior to the commencement of pile driving.⁶

The pile driving activities for Plaquemines LNG and Gator Express Pipeline Project will take place in the northern portion of the central section of Barataria Bay, in an area where NMFS researchers sighted multiple bottlenose dolphins during a population survey conducted in spring of 2019.⁷ The pile driving activities will be taking place for the construction of two meter station platforms, one just southwest of Wilkinson Bayou, the other just south of Bay Jimmy and Bay Batiste.⁸ The figure below, reproduced from Garrison et al. (2020),⁹ shows the dolphin sightings during the 2019 survey, with a red star added to indicate the approximate location of the pile driving activities:

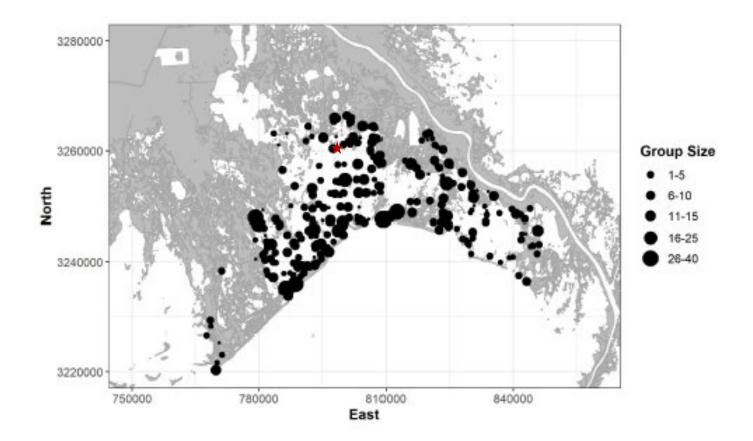
incidental harassment caused by such activities pursuant to the provisions at sections 101(a)(5)(A) and (D) of the MMPA, and subject to the stringent requirements of those provisions. 16 U.S.C. § 1371(a)(5)(A) and (D).

⁶ Notably, with regard to two other recent LNG projects constructed in the habitat of dolphin stocks, NMFS recently issued Incidental Harassment Authorizations for Level B harassment associated with pile driving activities. *See* 85 Fed. Reg. 40,250 (July 6, 2020) (final findings for Rio Grande LNG and Annova LNG IHAs); *see also* 85 Fed. Reg. 27,365 (May 8, 2020) (proposed findings and IHAs for Rio Grande LNG and Annova LNG).

⁷ See Garrison et al. (2020) at 57.

⁸ See Attachment 1 - "Figure 1 Project Changes – Overview Map."

⁹ Garrison, et al. (2020) at 57 ("Figure I.5. Dolphin group sizes during the spring 2019 CMR survey.").



On April 1, 2021, Venture Global submitted updated specifications for the pile driving activities to the National Marine Fisheries Service, as well as an updated analysis of the underwater noise impacts of those activities on wildlife, including cetaceans.¹⁰ NMFS apparently reviewed this information for the purposes of evaluating compliance with the Endangered Species Act, but there is no indication in the available records that NMFS evaluated whether the activities would comply with the Marine Mammal Protection Act with regard to bottlenose dolphins.¹¹ The analysis of underwater noise impacts that Venture Global submitted to NMFS contains information indicating that Level B harassment of bottlenose dolphins is not precluded by the proposed mitigation measures. Specifically, the analysis apparently submitted to NMFS by Venture Global shows that the threshold for Level B harassment due to the vibratory driving of steel H-type piles¹² will extend to a distance of 70 meters (~230 feet):

¹⁰ See Attachment 2. Sierra Club obtained these documents a recent Freedom of Information Act request to NMFS filed in February 2022. See FOIA Request No. DOC-NOAA-2022-000725. ¹¹ See Attachment 3.

¹² NMFS considers 120 dB rms to be the threshold for Level B harassment from a continuous noise source like vibratory pile driving. *See, e.g.,* 85 Fed. Reg. at 27380 ("Based on what the available science indicates and the practical need to use a threshold based on a factor that is both predictable and measurable for most activities, NMFS uses a generalized acoustic threshold based on received level to estimate the onset of behavioral harassment. NMFS predicts that

Type Pile	Hammer Type	Distance (m) to 160 dBRMS (behavior for impulsive noise)	Distance (m) to 120 dBRMS (behavior for non- pulse noise)
36" Concrete - Hollow	Impact	42.0	NA
18" Concrete - Square	Impact	NA	NA
12" Steel H-Type	Vibratory	NA	70.0

Estimated Distances to Cetacean Behavioral Thresholds¹³

The mitigation measures proposed by Venture Global include maintaining a 150-foot buffer around pile driving locations from any observed marine mammals.¹⁴ Since the area ensonified to the Level B harassment threshold of 120 dB rms around a pile driving location for the steel H-type piles extends to approximately 230 feet, this 150-foot buffer plainly is not adequate to ensure that no Level B harassment of bottlenose dolphins will occur. Given a radius of 230 feet from the pile driving source for noise at 120 dB rms, a circular area of approximately 165,614 square feet would be ensonified to the threshold for Level B harassment.¹⁵ A buffer with a radius of 150 feet from the source would encompass a circular area of only 70,650 square feet,¹⁶ leaving an area of 94,964 square feet¹⁷ (approximately 2.2 acres) around each individual pile driving point where Level B harassment could still occur despite the buffer.

The other relevant mitigation measure proposed by Venture Global is the use of "soft starts" for the pile driving, which it describes as "gradually increasing the intensity of pile driving to allow free-swimming aquatic life to leave the area."¹⁸ But the "soft start" approach seemingly does not

 16 3.14 x (150 ft)² = 70,650 ft²

marine mammals are likely to be behaviorally harassed in a manner we consider Level B harassment when exposed to underwater anthropogenic noise above received levels of 120 dB re 1 μ Pa (rms) for continuous (e.g., vibratory pile-driving, drilling) and above 160 dB re 1 μ Pa (rms) for intermittent (e.g., impact pile driving) sources...Both Rio Grande and Annova's activities include the use of continuous (vibratory pile driving and removal) and intermittent (impact pile driving) sources; therefore, the 120 and 160 dB re: 1 μ Pa (rms) are applicable.").

¹³ See Attachment 2-C at page 15 of 64 in FOIA response record "FR0000199-FAL.pdf"; see also id. at page 28 of 64.

¹⁴ See Attachment 2-B at page 5 of 6 in FOIA response record "FR0000263-FAL.pdf".

¹⁵ Area = πr^2 = 3.14 x (229.659 ft)² = 165,614 ft²

¹⁷ 165,614 ft² - 70,650 ft² = 94,964 ft²

¹⁸ See Attachment 2-B at page 5 of 6.

eliminate Level B harassment. Ostensibly, increasing the noise level until the marine animals are so disturbed by the noise that they interrupt their normal behavior to flee the area *is* Level B harassment.¹⁹ While this measure might avoid more severe forms of take, such as Level A harassment or injury, there is no indication that it would preclude Level B harassment, or render it unlikely. Furthermore, due to the lasting impacts of the catastrophic Deepwater Horizon oil spill on the health of Barataria Bay dolphins, NMFS must consider (1) whether impacts to lung capacity and buoyancy, discussed below, may limit or slow the ability of Barataria Bay dolphins to flee from disturbance, resulting in prolonged harassment and (2) whether the impact of being forced to flee from noise is more severe due to the already compromised health of the dolphins, and therefore could cause not only Level B harassment, but Level A harassment.

As stated in a recent study by Schwacke et al.:

The 2010 Deepwater Horizon (DWH) oil spill exposed common bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) in Barataria Bay, Louisiana to heavy oiling that caused increased mortality and chronic disease and impaired reproduction in surviving dolphins. We conducted photographic surveys and veterinary assessments in the decade following the spill. We assigned a prognostic score (good, fair, guarded, poor, or grave) for each dolphin to provide a single integrated indicator of overall health, and we examined temporal trends in prognostic scores. ... *Disease conditions persisted and have recently worsened* in dolphins that were presumably exposed to DWH oil: 78% of those assessed in 2018 had a guarded, poor, or grave prognosis.²⁰

Based on health assessments of Barataria Bay dolphins, Smith et al. (2020) found that the prevalence and severity of moderate to severe lung disease in survivors of the spill *worsened* over time:

In 2013 and 2014, moderate to severe lung disease persisted among BB [Bataria Bay] dolphins, and remained elevated relative to the prevalence at the SB [Sarasota Bay, Florida] comparison site [a comparison site with no Deepwater Horizon oil contamination]. More recent live animal health assessments (2016-2018) showed long-term persistence and potential worsening of moderate to severe lung disease in BB dolphins, specifically in animals alive during the oil

¹⁹ An act that "has the potential to disturb a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild by causing disruption of behavioral patterns, including, but not limited to, migration, breathing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering" but which does not have the potential to injure a marine mammal is "Level B harassment." 16 U.S.C. § 1362(18)(D); 50 C.F.R. § 216.3.

²⁰ Schwacke, L.H., Marques, T.A., Thomas, L., Booth, C., Balmer, B.C., Barratclough, A., Colegrove, K., De Guise, S., Garrison, L.P., Gomez, F.M., Morey, J.S., Mullin, K.D., Quigley, B.M., Rosel, P., Rowles, T.K., Takeshita, R., Townsend, F.I., Speakman, T.R., Wells, R.S., Zolman, E.S. and Smith, C.R. (2022), Modeling population effects of the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill on a long-lived species. *Conservation Biology*, e13878, (hereafter, "Schwacke et al. (2022)"), at 1 of 13, *available at*, <u>https://doi.org/10.1111/cobi.13878</u> (emphasis added).

spill (prevalence of 0.20, 0.35, and 0.55 in 2016, 2017, and 2018, respectively).²¹

As described in Smith et al. (2020), bottlenose dolphins suffering from lung disease would be expected to have impaired respiration, an impaired ability to regulate against decompression sickness, impaired buoyancy, and increased energetic demands:

In bottlenose dolphins and other cetaceans (porpoises, dolphins, and whales), the lungs serve a dual purpose of both respiration and buoyancy control (Ridgway et al. 1969). Investigations of dolphin pulmonary anatomy have shown that terminal airways are reinforced with cartilage, and myoelastic sphincters are found surrounding terminal bronchioles and alveolar entrances (Simpson & Gardner 1972). The alveoli can completely collapse at depth, forcing air into the reinforced air spaces, presumably for prevention of decompression sickness (Ridgway et al. 1969). The presence of moderate to severe pulmonary disease would be expected to impair these physiologic mechanisms, negatively impact buoyancy, and increase energetic demands. This is supported by the authors' (CRS, FMG, FIT) personal observations of managed dolphins diagnosed with moderate to severe pulmonary disease that have altered swim and dive patterns, likely due to a decrease in functional lung capacity and concomitant impaired buoyancy.²²

Consequently, in assessing whether harassment will occur, and whether that harassment is Level A or Level B, for Barataria Bay dolphins, NMFS must take into account their compromised ability to move away from sources of disturbance, and the increased impacts of the energetic cost of attempting to flee, among other factors.

As scientists estimate that the population of the Barataria Bay stock has declined by 45% due to the Deepwater Horizon spill, and will take 35 years to recover to 95% of the baseline population,²³ the impacts of human activities that could risk additional population losses or injury should be evaluated carefully by NMFS and avoided unless the substantive and procedural requirements of the MMPA have been satisfied.

Based on the documents provided to Sierra Club by NMFS in response to its February 2022 FOIA request seeking records related to NMFS's review of the impacts of the Plaquemines LNG and Gator Express Pipeline Project with regard to MMPA requirements,²⁴ and on the publicly

²¹ Cynthia R. Smith, Teresa K. Rowles, Forrest M. Gomez, Kathleen M. Colegrove, Ryan Takeshita, Eric S. Zolman, Brian C. Balmer, Randall S. Wells, Forrest I. Townsend, Lori H. Schwacke, Marine Mammals and Respiration: Evidence of Poor Pulmonary Health in Bottlenose Dolphins Following the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, 2020 International Oil Spill Conference, Abstract # 688234 (hereafter, "Smith et al. (2020)"), at page 2. Included as Attachment 4.
²² Attachment 4 – Smith et al. (2020), at page 11.

²³ See Schwacke et al. (2022), at 1 of 13 ("We estimated that the population has declined by 45% (95% confidence interval (CI) 14–74%) relative to baseline and will take 35 years (95% CI 18–67) to recover back to 95% of baseline numbers.")

²⁴ FOIA Request No. DOC-NOAA-2022-000725.

available documents on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's dockets for the project,²⁵ there appears to be no indication that Venture Global has sought an Incidental Harassment Authorization for the pile driving activities in Barataria Bay associated with the two meter stations for this project. Nor does there appear to be any documentation showing that NMFS has already determined that harassment of bottlenose dolphins is unlikely to occur.

Given the recent surveys documenting the presence of Barataria Bay bottlenose dolphins in the vicinity of the locations where the pile driving for the two meter stations will occur, and information indicating that Level B harassment of bottlenose dolphins due to the steel H-pile driving is not precluded by the mitigation measures described by Venture Global's documents, Sierra Club asks that NMFS evaluate whether harassment in violation of the MMPA is likely to occur from the pile driving, and that NMFS accordingly takes appropriate action to prevent any harassment of bottlenose dolphins from occurring prior to the issuance of an Incidental Harassment Authorization from NMFS, such as notifying the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission of the need to halt pile driving activities in Barataria Bay absent NMFS authorization for such harassment.

If you have any questions about this request, please contact me at 202-548-4584 or karimah.schoenhut@sierraclub.org. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Karimah Schoenhut Staff Attorney Sierra Club Environmental Law Program 50 F. St. NW, 8th Floor Washington, DC 20001 (202) 548-4584 karimah.schoenhut@sierraclub.org

Scott Eustis Community Science Director Healthy Gulf 935 Gravier St, Suite 700 New Orleans, LA, 70112 504 484 9599 scotteustis@healthygulf.org Kristen Monsell Oceans Legal Director & Senior Attorney Center *for* Biological Diversity 1212 Broadway, Ste. 800 Oakland, CA 94612 (510) 844-7137 kmonsell@biologicaldiversity.org

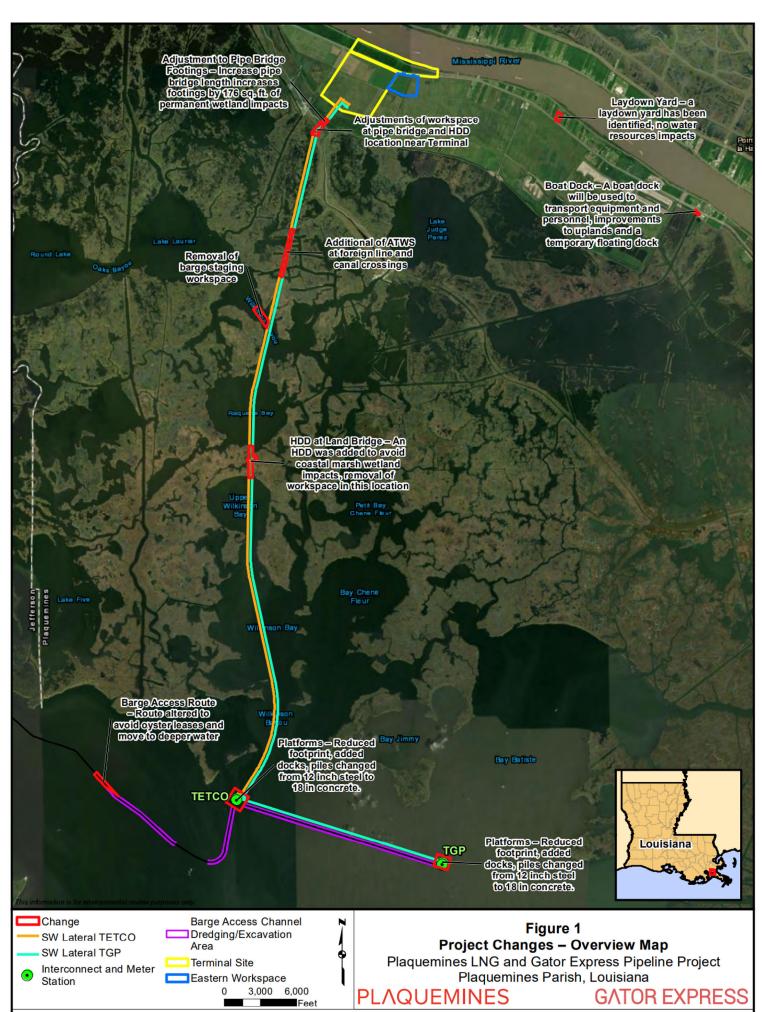
²⁵ See FERC Docket Nos. CP17-66-000 and CP17-67-000.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1

Venture Global Figure Showing Location of Meter Stations¹

¹ Obtained via public FERC docket.



M:\Clients\V-X\VGL\Plaquemines_ArcGIS_2020\07\Gator_Express_Updates_Gator_Express_Changes_Overview.mxd | REVISED: 07/23/2020 | SCALE: 1:100,000

DRAWN BY: SDB

Attachment 2

Documents Submitted to NMFS April 1, 2021²

² Obtained via FOIA request to NMFS

Attachment 2-A:

Record "FR0000195-FAL.pdf"

Produced by NMFS in Response to FOIA DOC-NOAA-2022-000725

From:Ross HargroveSubject:RE: SERO-2018-00280 - Venture Global Plaquemines LNG and Gator Express ProjectTo:Michael Tucker - NOAA FederalCc:Elizabeth Dolezal; Julia JoySent:April 1, 2021 11:22 AM (UTC-04:00)Attached:Gator Express_Underwater Noise memo_040121.pdf, Gator Express_Sea_Turtle_Calcs_040121.xlsx

Mike,

Hope you are doing well. As you are aware, Venture Global Plaquemines LNG, LLC (Plaquemines LNG) is developing a liquefied natural gas terminal (Terminal) and Venture Global Gator Express, LLC (Gator Express) is developing an associated feed gas pipeline and appurtenant aboveground facilities (Pipeline System). Both companies are wholly owned subsidiaries of Venture Global LNG, Inc. (Venture Global).

In August 2020, Gator Express consulted with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) (SERO-2018-00280 following the modification of Project workspaces and meter station platforms, at which time the NMFS concurred that the modifications would not result in any new or increased impacts to Endangered Species Act-listed species, when compared to those analyzed in the September 2019 consultation. The 2019 consultation concluded that the Project is not likely to adversely affect the green sea turtle (both North and South Atlantic distinct population segments [DPS]); Kemp's ridley sea turtle; leatherback sea turtle; loggerhead sea turtle (Northwest Atlantic DPS); hawksbill sea turtle; giant manta ray; oceanic whitetip shark; Bryde's whale' blue whale; fin whale; sei whale; and, sperm whale.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) approved the Project on September 30, 2019. Since the previous consultation, the Project has proceeded with final design and preparing for construction. Modifications to the Project since the August 2020 consultation included modifications to the pile sizes associated with the meter station platforms to be installed within Barataria Bay.

As a result of recent geotechnical investigations at the meter station sites, Gator Express has chosen to use 36-inchdiameter hollow concrete piles to support the meter stations rather than the 18-inch-square piles previously proposed. Please recall that underwater noise was a concern regarding installation of the meter station platforms within Barataria Bay. To assess the potential for underwater noise associated with the modified piles for the meter stations, Gator Express used the noise spreadsheets developed by the NMFS and concluded that the noise generated by the 36-inchdiameter hollow concrete piles will be similar to that of the previously proposed 18-inch-square concrete piles. The attached memo presents a range in the total number of piles to be installed. Gator Express is in the process of conducting a wave study to determine the final number of piles required for each platform. Regardless of the final quantity of piles, the noise calculations (see attached) will not change since pile installation assumptions (e.g., strikes per pile, piles per day) will remain unchanged.

Venture Global believes the changes described above will not change the previous affect determinations for the species identified above. Venture Global believes that the consultation does not need to be reinitiated because the activities are similar to those previously considered and no take has occurred. Please review and confirm that the consultation will not need to be reinitiated. Your response will be provided to FERC to facilitate their review of these modifications to the Project. We appreciate your continued review and assistance.

Regards, Ross

Ross Hargrove Director Consultant **M** +1 612 805-8244

From: Michael Tucker - NOAA Federal <michael.tucker@noaa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2020 8:26 AM
To: Ross Hargrove <Ross.Hargrove@erm.com>
Cc: Elizabeth Dolezal <edolezal@venturegloballng.com>; Julia Joy <Julia.Joy@erm.com>; Kelly Shotts - NOAA Federal <kelly.shotts@noaa.gov>
Subject: Re: SERO-2018-00280 - Venture Global Plaquemines LNG and Gator Express Project

Hi Ross,

Thank you for the update. We agree that the proposed changes to the project plans described herein will not result in any new or increased impacts to ESA-listed species under NMFS' jurisdiction. It is more likely that these proposed changes will reduce any potential effects of the project on ESA-listed species, compared to those analyzed in our September 2019 consultation. Because the proposed project modifications will not cause an effect to ESA-listed species or critical habitat in a manner or to an extent not previously considered, there is no need to reinitiate consultation on this project.

Let me know if you have any questions. Thanks again,

Mike

On Fri, Jul 31, 2020 at 4:55 PM Ross Hargrove <<u>Ross.Hargrove@erm.com</u>> wrote:

Mike,

Per our conversation, I have attached the maps that depict the footprint changes associated with the Venture Global Plaquemines LNG and Gator Express Pipeline Project (collectively Venture Global or the Project) that have been incorporated into the Project since the Section 7 Endangered Species Act consultation (SERO-2018-00280) was concluded in September 2019. The consultation concluded that the project is not likely to adversely affect the green sea turtle (both North and South Atlantic distinct population segments [DPS]); Kemp's ridley sea turtle; leatherback sea turtle; loggerhead sea turtle (Northwest Atlantic DPS); hawksbill sea turtle; giant manta ray; oceanic whitetip shark; Bryde's whale' blue whale; fin whale; sei whale; and, sperm whale.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) approved the Project on September 30, 2019. Since that time Venture Global has proceeded with final design and preparing for construction. Construction of the Terminal is expected to begin in September 2020 and construction of the pipeline system is expected to begin in January 2021. As part of the final design, Venture Global has made the following changes to the Pipeline System as summarized below.

• The addition of a horizontal directional drill (HDD) installation to minimize coastal marsh impacts;

- Reduction of meter station platform footprints;
- Revision to the barge access route to further minimize impacts on oyster resources and move the route to deeper water;
- Addition of 12 additional temporary workspaces to facilitate pipeline construction across foreign lines and canals;
- Removal of additional temporary workspaces no longer needed and minor adjustments of

construction workspaces;

- Modified pipe bridge over the levee resulting in a longer span and increased size of footings;
- Addition of a 6-acre laydown yard; and,
- Use of an existing boat dock, requiring installation of a temporary floating dock to enable transfer of equipment and personnel to the Project site.

Overall the workspace modifications associated with the Pipeline System will reduce impacts on wetlands and waterbodies by approximately 40 acres. Please recall that underwater noise was a concern regarding installation of the meter station platforms within Barataria Bay. The updated meter station platforms will be smaller, however, rather than using 12-inch-diameter steel piles the platforms will be supported by 18-inch-square concrete piles. An updated noise analysis is attached which demonstrates that use of the concrete piles will reduce potential impacts on aquatic life in comparison to the steel piles previously analyzed.

Venture Global believes the changes described above and depicted on the attached maps will not change the previous affect determinations for the species identified above. Venture Global believes that the consultation does not need to be reinitiated because the activities are similar to those previously considered and no take has occurred. Please review and confirm that the consultation will not need to be reinitiated. Your response will be provided to FERC to facilitate their review of these modifications to the Project. We appreciate your continued review and assistance.

Regards, Ross Ross Hargrove Director Consultant

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Please note our new address as of June 19, 2020.



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Michael Tucker

Endangered Species Biologist

NOAA Fisheries Southeast Region U.S. Department of Commerce 727-209-5981 https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/region/southeast

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Attachment 2-B:

Record "FR0000263-FAL.pdf"

Produced by NMFS in Response to FOIA DOC-NOAA-2022-000725



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Memorandum

То	Mike Tucker
From	Troy Enright
Date	April 1, 2021
Subject	Venture Global Plaquemines LNG and Gator Express Pipeline – Addendum to Underwater Noise Mitigation Plan

INTRODUCTION

Venture Global Plaquemines LNG, LLC (Plaquemines LNG) is proposing to construct and operate a liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal (Terminal) on the Mississippi River in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana. The Terminal will consist of natural gas liquefaction, storage, and export facilities. Venture Global Gator Express, LLC (Gator Express Pipeline) proposes to construct and operate a lateral pipeline and appurtenant aboveground facilities (Pipeline System) to supply feed gas to the Terminal. The Terminal facilities and Pipeline System are collectively referred to as the Plaquemines LNG and Gator Express Pipeline Project (Project).

Environmental Resources Management, in support of the regulatory consultation process for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), developed an underwater noise analysis, which was submitted to FERC on February 28, 2017.

An Underwater Noise Mitigation Plan was prepared in response to FERC staff recommendations outlined in the November 2018 Draft EIS and discussions with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The Underwater Noise Mitigation Plan was submitted to FERC and NMFS Southeast Regional Office (SERO) for review on January 4, 2019. FERC staff noted in the Final EIS that the mitigation meausres outlined in the Underwater Noise Mitigation Plan will substantially reduce underwater sound levels generated by pile driving activities, and that the underwater noise impacts will be reduced to acceptable levels.

Based on further consultation with NMFS, nylon cushioning caps were added to the mitigation measures to be used during installation of the 12-inch-diameter steel piles in Barataria Bay. The estimates for underwater noise for pile driving activities in Barataria Bay were updated by NMFS SERO in their September 17, 2019, concurrence response letter to FERC and included the nylon cushioning caps.

On July 31, 2020, Gator Express Pipeline proposed modifications to the pile types to be used to construct the two meter station platforms in Barataria Bay. Gator Express Pipeline requested to modify the originally proposed 12-inch-diameter steel piles to construct two meter station platforms in Barataria Bay to larger square concrete piles with sizes up to 18-inch-square. Additionally, temporary steel H-type piles were proposed to provide support during the construction process. On August 13, 2020, NMFS concurred that the proposed modification to 18-inch-square concrete piles and temporary steel H-type pile would not result in any new or increased impacts to ESA-listed species under NMFS' jurisdiction.

ERM

Ар	ril 1, 2021
Pa	ge 2 of 4

Due to refinement of the design of the meter stations associated with the Pipeline System, Venture Global is proposing additional modifications to the piles to be use to construct the meter station platforms. This memorandum presents the effects of these proposed changes with respect to the previously established underwater noise levels. ERM has also updated the sea turtle impact estimates based on the revised behavioral and physiological (injury) thresholds for sea turtles available through the NMFS (Greater Atlantic Regional Field Office [GARFO]) acoustics tool for ESA-listed species dated September 2020.

As shown below, the proposed modifications to the pile types, when assessed using the updated behavioral and injury thresholds, will result in no injury radius for impacts to sea turtles associated with pile driving activities, and a distance to behavioral injury thresholds for sea turtles that is within the construction workspace in Barataria Bay thus resulting in less physical injury and behavioral disturbance than the previous approved estimates.

PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS

Gator Express Pipeline originally proposed to construct two meter station platforms in Barataria Bay using 12-inch-diameter steel piles, which were later modified to 18-inch-square concrete piles. Gator Express Pipeline now intends to construct the two meter station platforms using larger 36-inch-diameter hollow concrete piles. Temporary steel H-type piles will also be used to provide support during the construction process.

Table 1 summarizes the piles types, installation method, and type of water for the previously approved 18-inch-square concrete piles and for the proposed revised piles. Table 2 summarizes the estimated sound levels associated with the in-water pile driving activities, including the underwater sound levels associated with the 18-inch-square-concrete piles, the 36-inch-diamater hollow concrete piles, and the steel H-type piles.

TABLE 1 Plaquemines LNG and Gator Express Pipeline Project					
	Pile Typ	es in Barataria Bay			
Pile types	Number of Piles	Installation Method	Confined Space or Open Water		
Previously Proposed Piles	Previously Proposed Piles in Barataria Bay				
18-inch-square concrete piles	750	Impact	Open Water		
Steel H-type piles	64	Vibratory	Open Water		
Updated Piles in Barataria Bay					
36-inch-diameter hollow concrete piles	250 - 300	Impact	Open Water		
Steel H-type piles	40 - 65	Vibratory	Open Water		

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TABLE 2 Plaquemines LNG and Gator Express Pipeline Project Summary of Near-Source (32.8 feet/10 Meters) Sound Levels for In-Water Pile Driving			
Type of Pile Average Sound Level Measured in dB re: 1 µPa			re: 1 µPa
	Peak	RMS	SEL
Previously Approved Piles in Barataria Bay			
18-inch-square concrete pile – impact-driven ^{a, b}	185	155	166
Steel H-type pile – vibratory-driven ^a	165	150	150
Updated Proposed Piles in Barataria Bay			
36-inch diameter hollow concrete pile – impact driven $^{\rm c}$	200	176	166
Steel H-type pile – vibratory-driven ^a	165	150	150
Notes: dB = decibel; Peak = peak sound level; RMS = root-mean-square sound level; SEL= sound exposure level a Data obtained from "Technical Guidance for Assessment and Mitigation of the Hydroacoustic Effects of Pile Driving on Fish" (Caltrans, 2015) for a 18-inch-square concrete pile. b Noise levels prior to mitigation. c Data obtained from "Technical Guidance for Assessment and Mitigation of the Hydroacoustic Effects of Pile Driving on Fish" (Caltrans, 2020) for a 30-inch-diameter hollow concrete pile.			

NOISE MODELING RESULTS

To estimate the underwater sound levels associated with the 36-inch-diameter hollow concrete piles and temporary steel H-type piles, an underwater noise analysis was completed using the *GARFO Acoustics Tool*, updated September 14, 2020, which includes updated injury and disturbance thresholds for sea turtles. The NMFS SERO consultation response letter focused the underwater noise analysis for pile driving activities in Barataria Bay on sea turtles; therefore, the injury and disturbance thresholds for sea turtles are presented. For comparison purposes, the noise modeling results for the previously approved 18-inch-square steel piles and temporary steel H-type piles are also included.

As previously noted, the injury and disturbance thresholds for both the 18-inch-square concrete piles and the 36-inch-diameter hollow concrete piles were calculated using the updated sea turtle injury and disturbance thresholds provided in Table 3. The results of the underwater noise analysis are included in Table 4, and calculation details are included in Attachment 1.

April 1, 2021

Page 4 of 4

		TABLE 3	
	Plaquemine	es LNG and Gator Express Pipeli	ne Project
Un	derwater Noise Thresh	olds for Sea Turtles during Mari	ne Construction Activity
		Underwater Noise T	hresholds
Species	Behavioral Disturbance Threshold	Temporary Threshold Shift (Injury)	Permanent Threshold Shift (Injury)
Sea Turtle ª	175 dB RMS	189 dB SEL _{cum} 226 dB Peak	204 dB SEL _{cum} 232 dB Peak
1 μPa), ur hearing gr	weighted; SEL _{cum} = cum oup.		S = root-mean-square sound pressure (r µPa ² s), weighted according to functiona

	TABLE	4		
Plaquemines LNG and Gator Express Pipeline Project				
Threshold Distance for Injury and Disturbance to Sea Turtles for Different Pile Types				
Threshold Distance (feet / meters) ^a				
	Phys	ical Injury	Behavioral Disturbance	
Type of Pile	Peak	Cumulative SEL	Sea Turtle	
	Sea Turtles	Sea Turtles	RMS	
Previously Approved Piles in Barataria	Вау			
18-inch-square concrete pile –	0/0	0/0	0 / 0	
impact-driven ^b	070	070	070	
Steel H-type pile – vibratory-driven	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	
Updated Proposed Piles in Barataria Bay				
36-inch-diameter hollow concrete pile – impact-driven ^b	0 / 0	0 / 0	39 / 12	
Steel H-type pile – vibratory-driven	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	
Notes: dB = decibel; SEL = sound expose	ure level; RMS = root-m	ean-square sound pressure		
^a Distances calculated using the NMFS Acoustic Tool for GARFO (Updated September 2020)				
^b No underwater noise reduction was assumed.				

CONCLUSIONS

As presented in Table 4, the underwater noise associated with the 36-inch-diameter hollow concrete piles will result in no peak or physical injury noise levels for sea turtles. The distance to behavioral disturbance thresholds will be approximately 39 feet, which would be within the construction workspace for the installation of the meter stations in Barataria Bay; therefore, due to other physical barriers restricting access to the construction workspace (i.e., underwater spoil piles), no sea turtles are anticipated to be located within the threshold distance to behavioral disturbance associated with pile driving activities. Therefore, ERM believes the proposed modifications will not change the NMFS SERO conclusions regarding potential effects to ESA-listed species provided in their September 17, 2019, letter. ERM recommends that Gator Express Pipeline implement the mitigation measures already agreed to for installation of the piles, which are summarized below.

April	1, 20	21
Page	5 of	4

- Noise-dampening nylon cushioning will be used during impact pile driving of the 36-inchdiamater hollow concrete piles.
- Vibratory pile driving will be used when installing the temporary steel H-type piles.
- Use of "soft starts" (gradually increasing the intensity of pile driving to allow free-swimming aquatic life to leave the area) at the beginning of each pile installation or when a 15-minute or more delay in pile driving has occurred.
- Adoption of a 150-ft buffer around all pile driving locations, where dedicated observers will
 maintain watch for sea turtles and other protected species. If a sea turtle or other protected
 species is spotted within the buffer zone, all in-water pile driving work will be halted until the
 animal moves outside of the buffer zone or has not been observed in the area for 30
 minutes.

ERM requests concurrence with these conclusions and recommendation from NMFS SERO.

Attachment 1: Underwater Noise Calculation Details

Attachment 2-C:

Record "FR0000199-FAL.pdf"

Produced by NMFS in Response to FOIA DOC-NOAA-2022-000725

GARFO Acoustics Tool: Analyzing the effects of pile driving in rive

Last Updated 09/14/2020

Check often for updated versions of this tool at:

https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/ne

INTRODUCTION (read everything below before using tool):

threshold shift (TTS) limits for listed cetaceans. NOAA Fisheries assumes no responsibility for interpretation and application of the results of these models by non-NOAA Fisheries users, as conditions at each project site may vary. your project, or: nmfs.gar.esa.section7@noaa.gov

Behavioral and Physiological (Injury) Thresholds for ESA-Listed Species in NMFS' Greater Atlantic Region

Species	Thresholds	Units
Sturgeon/Salmon Behavioral	150	dB re 1 µPA RMS
Sturgeon/Salmon Physiological	206	dB re 1 µPA Peak
Sturgeon/Salmon Physiological (>2g)	187	dB re 1 µPa ² s cSEL
Sturgeon/Salmon Physiological (<2g)	183	dB re 1 µPa ² s cSEL
Sea Turtle Behavioral	175	dB re 1 µPA RMS
Sea Turtle Temporary Threshold Shift (TTS, SEL weighted)	189	dB re 1 µPa ² s SEL
Sea Turtle Temporary Threshold Shift (TTS, Peak SPL)	226	dB re 1 µPA Peak
Sea Turtle Permanent Threshold Shift (PTS, SEL weighted)	204	dB re 1 µPa ² s SEL
Sea Turtle Permanent Threshold Shift (PTS, Peak SPL)	232	dB re 1 µPA Peak
Cetacean Behavioral (impulsive)*	160	dB re 1 µPA RMS
Cetacean Behavioral (non-pulse)*	120	dB re 1 µPA RMS
Cetacean Physiological**	See Below	See Below

*Use the impulsive threshold for impact pile driving; use the non-pulse threshold for vibratory pile driving **Please refer to NOAA's 2018 Marine Mammal Acoustic Technical Guidance document and user spreadshee a project creates underwater noise that exceeds the permanent threshold shift (PTS) or temporary threshold s https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-mammal-protection/marine-mammal-acoustic-technical-gu ***See full Reference list at the bottom of this sheet.

Sound Measurement Terminology

Measurements of Pressure

<u>Peak sound pressure level</u>: the largest absolute value of the instantaneous sound pressure expressed in decibels refere <u>Root Mean Square (RMS)</u>: the square root of the average squared pressures over the duration of a pulse; most pile-d with most of the energy contained in the first 30 to 50 msec (Illingworth and Rodkin, Inc. 2001, 2009). Therefore, R of the operations, and represent the effective pressure and the intensity (in dB re: 1 µPa) produced by a sound source

Measurements of Energy

<u>Sound exposure level (SEL)</u>: the integral of the squared sound pressure over the duration of the pulse (e.g., a full pile acoustic pressure in the signal and is thus an indication of the total acoustic energy received by an organism from a p <u>Single Strike SEL (sSEL)</u>: the amount of energy in one strike of a pile.

<u>Cumulative SEL (cSEL)</u>: the energy accumulated over multiple strikes or continuous vibration over a period of time level, but is a measure of the accumulated energy over a period of time to which an animal is exposed.

Simplified Attenuation Formula (SAF) - use for all projects in rivers and nearshore waters

GARFO developed the Simplified Attenuation Formula (SAF) in order to estimate the ensonification area of pile dri It was our conclusion that Practical Spreading Loss Model (PSLM) overestimated the ensonification area of pile driv PSLM also requires an estimate of the number of strikes needed to install a pile (or the number of seconds with a vib always available. SAF assumes a constant sound attenuation rate (depending on the type of pile). Attenuation rates w Assessment and Mitigation of the Hydroacoustic Effects of Pile Driving on Fish," prepared for Caltrans in 2009 (and In this spreadsheet, we refer to this document as **Caltrans (2009; 2012; 2015**). You can download it here: If Caltrans did not include a clear attenuation estimate, GARFO uses 5dB/10m, which we believe to be a conservativ as well as greater rate at which sound waves attenuate as they get further from the source and cover a wider area (5d

,

Caltrans).

EXAMPLE (for sturgeon):

 \mathbf{C} = distance (m) from pile where sound measurement was taken

 \mathbf{T} = underwater noise attenuation rate (dB/10m)

RMS(**A**) = RMS (dB) estimated at C m from pile

 $\mathbf{RMS}(\mathbf{B}) = \mathbf{RMS} (\mathbf{dB})$ behavioral threshold for sturgeon (150 dB RMS)

SEL(A) = SEL (dB) estimated at C m from pile

SEL(B) = SEL (dB) injury threshold for sturgeon (150 sSEL)*

* NOTE: When it is not possible to accurately calculate the distance to the 187 dB cSEL re: 1µPa2•s isopleth, we ca When the received SEL from an individual pile strike is below a certain level, then the accumulated energy from multiple strikes would not contribute to injury, regardless of how many pile strikes occur. This SEL is referred to as "effective quiet", and is assumed, for the purposes of this spreadsheet, to be 150 dB re 1µPa sSEL. Effective quiet establishes a limit on the maximum distance from the pile where injury to fishes is expected – the distance at which the single-strike SEL attenuates to 150 dB. Beyond this distance, no physical injury is expected, regardless of the number of pile strikes. However, the severity of the injury can increase within this zone as the number of strikes increases

Simplified Attenuation Formula:

Distance (m) to Sturgeon Behavioral Threshold = C+((RMS(A)-RMS(B))/T)*10)Distance (m) to Sturgeon Injury Threshold = C+((SEL(A)-SEL(B))/T)*10)

Practical Spreading Loss Model (PSLM) - only use for OPEN-OCEAN projects (for nearshore docks/piers, st In addition to SAF, this spreadsheet incorporates PSLM for projects occuring in deeper, open waters. The equations f the assumptions below, were adapted from NMFS Pile Driving Calculations tool created by NMFS West Coast Regi https://www.wsdot.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2017/12/12/ENV-FW-BA-NMFSpileDrivCalcs.xls See Also:

https://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/publications/protected_species/marine_mammals/killer_whales/

Assumptions

1) Estimates of underwater sound are based on measured levels from similar size and type of pile. Please refer to Caltrans' compendium (Caltrans 2009; 2012; 2015).

2) Fish are assumed to remain stationary and the single strike SEL does not vary in magnitude between strikes. Cumulative SEL = single-strike SEL + $10*\log(\# \text{ strikes})$.

3) Currently there are no data to support a tissue recovery allowance between pile strikes. Therefore, all strikes in any given day are counted, regardless of time between strikes. However, generally the accumulated SEL can be reset to zero overnight (or after a 12 hour period), especially in a river or tidally-influenced waterway when the fish should be moving.

4) Effective Quiet. When the received SEL from an individual pile strike is below a certain level, then the accumulated energy from multiple strikes would not contribute to injury, regardless of how many pile strikes occur. This SEL is referred to as "effective quiet", and is assumed, for the purposes of this spreadsheet, to be 150 dB re 1µPa sSEL. Effective quiet establishes a limit on the maximum distance from the pile where injury to fishes is expected – the distance at which the single-strike SEL attenuates to 150 dB. Beyond this distance, no physical injury is expected, regardless of the number of pile strikes. However, the severity of the injury can increase within this zone as the number of strikes increases.

5) Practical Spreading Loss model: $(TL = 15*log(R_{1/R0)})$

References

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Cambridge, MA for USODOI, MMS, Alaska OCS Region, Anchorage, AK.

McCauley, R. D., J. Fewtrell, A. J. Duncan, C. Jenner, M. N. Jenner, J. D. Penrose, R. I. T. Prince, A. Adhitya, J. Mu Mueller-Blenkle, C., P.K. McGregor, A.B. Gill, M.H. Andersson, J. Metcalfe, V. Bendall, P. Sigray, D.T. Wood, an National Research Council. 2005. Marine Mammal Populations and Ocean Noise: Determining When Noise Causes Purser J, Radford AN. 2011. Acoustic Noise Induces Attention Shifts and Reduces Foraging Performance in Three-S Richardson et al. 1995. Marine mammals and noise. San Diego: Academic Press

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U.S. Navy. 2017. Criteria and Thresholds for U.S. Navy Acoustic and Explosive Effects Analysis (Phase III). Techn Wysocki, L.E., J.W. Davidson, III, M.E. Smith, A.S. Frankel, W.T. Ellison, P.M. Mazik, A.N. Popper, and J. Bebak

rine/inshore waters on ESA-listed species in the Greater Atlantic **R**

w-england-mid-atlantic/consultations/section-7-consultation-technical-guidance-greater-atlantic

eveloped this spreadsheet as an in-house tool for assessing the potential effects to ESA-listed fish and sea turtles exposed to elevents (coastal areas, bays, and rivers). For cetacean physiological (injury) effects, please refer to NOAA Fisheries' 2018 Marine ter or not a project creates underwater noise that exceeds the permanent threshold shift (PTS) or temporary threshold shift (TTS d application of the results of these models by non-NOAA Fisheries users, as conditions at each project site may vary.

Reference***

Andersson et al. 2007; Mueller-Blenke et al. 2010; Purser and Radford 2011; Wysocki et al. 2007 FHWG 2008; Stadler and Woodbury 2009 FHWG 2008; Stadler and Woodbury 2009 McCauley et al. 2000; Navy 2017 Navy 2017 Navy 2017 Navy 2017 Navy 2017 Malme et al. 1983, 1984; NRC 2005; Richardson et al. 1995; Southall et al. 2007; Tyack 1998 Malme et al. 1983, 1984; NRC 2005; Richardson et al. 1995; Southall et al. 2007; Tyack 1998

<mark>t for assessing whether or not hift (TTS) limits for listed cetaceans.</mark> <u>idance</u>

nced to 1 micro Pascal (dB re: 1 µPa) in water. riving impulses occur over a 50 to 100 millisecond (msec) period, MS pressure levels are generally "produced" within seconds

driving strike). SEL is the integration over time of the square of the articular source (such as pile strikes). Measured in dB re 1µPa2-s.

; the cSEL value is not a measure of the instantaneous or maximum noise

ving projects in shallow, confined areas, such as rivers. ing projects in shallower, confined spaces. ratory hammer), and this info is not ere estimated using measurements reported in "Technical Guidance for amended in 2012 and 2015) by ICF Jones & Stokes and Illingworth and Rodkin, Inc. <u>https://dot.ca.gov/programs/environmental-analysis/caltrans-biology/biological-studies/hydroacoustics</u> e estimate because of the likely absorption of sound into the riverbed/seafloor, B/10m is also representative of the most commonly seen range of attenuation rates in

lculate the distance to the 150 dB re 1µPa sSEL isopleth.

d energy from multiple strikes would not contribute to injury, regardless of how many pile strikes occur. This SEL is referred to as "effectines a limit on the maximum distance from the pile where injury to fishes is expected – the distance at which the single-strike SEL attenuate severity of the injury can increase within this zone as the number of strikes increases.

ill use SAF). or PSLM (used on the next sheet), as well as on:

esa_status/characterize_sound_propagation_modeling_guidance_memo.pdf

Please refer to Caltrans' compendium (Caltrans 2009; 2012; 2015).

veen strikes. Cumulative SEL = single-strike SEL + $10*\log(\# \text{ strikes})$.

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lus) and Three-spined Stickleback (Gasterosteus aculeatus) in Response to Wind Power Noise and Single-tone Frequ sh from Pile Driving Activities. Memorandum of Agreement between NOAA Fisheries' Northwest and Southwest R

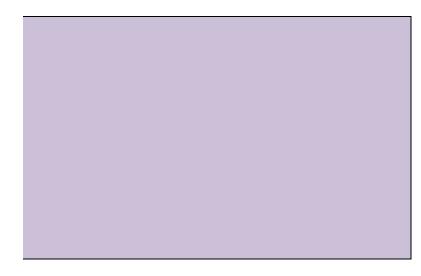
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egion

and sea turtles exposed to elevated DAA Fisheries' 2018 Marine emporary threshold shift (TTS) project site may vary.



This SEL is referred to as "effective quiet", and is h the single-strike SEL attenuates to 150 dB. Beyond



encies. AMBIO: A Journal of the Human Environment 36: 636-638. egions; USFWS Regions 1 and 8; California, Washington, and Oregon Departments of Transportation; California De

Production Exploration Association Journal, 692–708. nical Report. March 31, 2010.

ommendations. Aquatic Mammals 33(4): 411-521

chus mykiss. Aquaculture 272: 687-697.

partment of Fish and Game; and Federal Highways Administration. June 12, 2008.

suffecting the appropriate "pe the filters in each column to nar a dor't know the hammer type (e you find the appropriate proxy anding on which formula you w a have an estimate of the requir x otherwise moted, information	o.g., impact vs. vibra , highlight the ontire att to use. We recome ad number of strikes	nory), assume an imp row, copy it, and pas mend SAF for projec (impact hammer) or o	act hammer will b a it (values only , s in rivers and nea aconds (vibratory	e used, as so not formulas rehore enviro harmer) to i	and prossare) into one of t mments, and nstall the pile	levels produ the grown ro PSLM for a s, insort that	aced by impac nys in the 'Tal pen-ocean pro- member in the	et hanners are blos (Using SA ujects, a appropriate e	i generally load (F)" shart or "T all in Column	ier than those pe fables (Using P? n I, below. This	rodaced by v SLM) sheet, s will impact	thrakey hammers.	f the same materia 1	for a conservative es	elimate.																					
otherwise noted, information sical Guidance for Assessment in download this document her	and Mitigation of the	Hydroncoustic Effect	ts of Pile Driving-	on Fish," proj	pased for Cal	trans in 200	9 and amende	ed in 2012 and	2015 by KF Ja	ones & Stokus at	ad Hingwor	th and Rodkin, Inc.																								
n download Has document fan	Pile Type	Hammer Type		istance Po				kas cSEL ¹ 0 or # ofs		ition Rate Tran			Sea Tartle (TTS, Physiologica) Peak SPL)	SAJ Sea Tartle (TTS, Physiologica SEL weighte	F Sea Turtle al (PTS, Physiologi ed) Peak SPL	Sea Turti al (PTS, to Bohavi	Distance Sea Tr scal(m) Physic SEL v	urtle Sea Ti islogical (TTS, Physic reighted) Peak !	urtle slogical (TT? SPL)	PSLM Sea Turtle i, Physiological (P SEL weighted)	Sea Turtle IS, Physiological Peak SPL)	Sea Turde Dis (PTS, to Behavioral)	tance Stargeon/Salm m) Distance to 206 Peak dB (m)	SAF n Storgon/Salmon I to Physiological SI	istance Stargeon Sala L (m) ¹ Distance to Behavioral R3 (m)	on Storgeon/Sala Distance to 20 DS Peak dll (m)	non Stargeon/Sals 6 Distance to >3 Physiological (m)	PSLM non Stargeon/Salmo lg Distance to <2g cSEL Physiological cS (m)	n Stargeen/Salm Distance to EL Behavioral RM (m)	non Cetacean Dist to Behavioral MS (Impablice) R3 (m)	SAF nace Cetacean Dietz to Behavioral (MS pulse) RMS (m	nev Cstacsan Dista non- to Bohavioral (impulsive) R5 (m)	PSLM new Cetacum Dietan to Behavioral (n 45 palse) EMS (n)	er Preject m-	Project Location	Nator
																																				Sound pressure levels were taken from Table 1.2-2 on of Caltrans (2012) - likely an average of several measu
	Steel H-Type	Vibrakey	5	10	165	150	150NA	NA	5	15		NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		NA	NA	NA	NA	10.0	10.0	0.0	NA	NA	10.0	NA	70.0	NA	1000-0	Not Available	Not Available	taken for this size pile. Calculation for vibramer hammer done by GARPO (-
	Stud Pipe	Vibratory	1-2	10	182	167	157NA	NA	5	15		NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		NA	NA	NA	NA	24.0	44.0	0.3	NA	NA	135.9	24.0	104.0	29.3	13593.6	Point Bubel Foundation Repair	Bay	Original project involved pilos driven using small die hammer. Pilos installed in shallow water near land. Noise measurements came from Table 1.3-2 on page 1 Caltrans (2012) - likoly an overnee of several measure
	Stud Pipe	Vibratory	5	10	171	155	155NA	NA	5	15		NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		NA	NA	NA	NA	20.0	20.0	0.0	NA	NA	21.5	NA	80.0	NA	2154.4	Not Available	Not Available	Catrans (2012) "they an average to reveal model this sized pile." "Typical" Sound pressure levels taken from Table I.3 Catrans (2012) on page I-3. No project specific info SPLs are likely an average of multiple measurements.
	AZ Suel Sheet	Vibratory	15	10	175	160	163NA	NA	5	15		NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		NA	NA	NA	NA	30.0	30.0	0.1	NA	NA	46.4	10.0	90.0	93.0	4641.6	Not Available	Not Available	this size plie. No attenuation rate provided, so GARP 5dB 10m. "Londers" Sound pressure levels taken from Table 12 Column (2017) sound pressure levels taken from Table 12
	AZ Steel Sheet	Vibratory	15	10	182	145	145NA	NA	5	15		NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		NA	NA	NA	NA	40.0	40.0	0.3	NA	NA	100.0	23.0	100.0	21.5	10000.0	Not Available	Not Available	SPL and the data is a paper to compare the property of the second
	Steel Pipe	Vibraney	5	10	185	175	175NA	NA	5	15		NA	NA	NA	NA	10.0	NA	NA		NA	NA	10.0	NA	60.0	60.0	0.4	NA	NA	464.2	43.0	120.0	101.0	46415.9	Not Available	Not Available	No project specific info provided - SPLs are likely a multiple measurements taken for 36° pilos. Listed as "typical" SPL for this size. "Typical" Sound pressure levels taken from Table 1: Caltrans (2012) on page 1-3. No project specific info
	Stael Pipe	Vibrakey	5	10	183	170	170NA	NA	5	15		NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		NA	NA	NA	NA	50.0	50.0	0.3	NA	NA	215.4	30.0	110.0	45.4	21544.3	Not Available	Not Available	SPLs an Hady an average of multiple measurements this size pile. "Londest" Sound pressure levels taken from Table I. Colorest (2017) on more I-3. No measuremently, infor-
	Steel Pipe	Vibratory	5	10	195	190	180NA	NA	5	15		NA	NA	NA	NA	20.0	NA	NA		NA	NA	21.5	NA	70.0	70.0	1.8	NA	NA	1000.0	50.0	130.0	215.4	100000.0	Not Available	Not Available	SPLs are likely an average of multiple measurements this eize pile. Sound pressure levels taken from Table 12-2 of Calm No project specific info provided - SPLs are likely ar multiple measurements taken for 3/6° piles. Lined as
	Stud Pipe	Vibratory	5	10			DUNA	NA	5	15		NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		NA	NA	NA	NA	50.0	50.0	0.2	NA	NA	215.4	31.0	110-0	45.4	21544.3	Not Available	Not Available	'loader' SPL for this size. Calculation with vibratory harmer (-10 dB) done 1 Original project used as impact harmer. Tempora drives in rolarively shallow water alone the cast ha
	Stael Pipe	Vibrakey	d	10	194	141	100NA	NA	5	15		NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		NA	NA	NA 13.6	NA	48.0	32.0	1.6	NA	NA	54.1	12.0	92.0	11.7	5411.7	Bradshaw Bridge		er Joaquin River. Artenation rate of 19Log(Dist) Calculation with vibratory hummer (-10 dB) done b Original project: Diesel impact (D19) hummer. Pile San Joaquin River, where water depth was shallow.
	Stuel Pipe Stuel Pipe	Vibratory	34	10	200	177	165NA 167NA	NA	3	15		NA	NA	NA	NA	20.0	NA	NA		NA NA	NA NA	21.5	NA	44.0	70.0	4.0	NA	NA	631.0	50.0	200.0	215.4	63095.7	Sinckton WWTP Pipeline Sinslaw River Bridge	Stockton, CA - San Joaquin Ro Florence, OR - Siaslaw River	San Jonque River, white what opps was changed CLESSERIE OPP conserve summers (recent) some re- Original project dised impact harmony (D-52). Putt inch thick piles driven in three sections as part of a 1 test Calculation for sthramey done by GARFO (+26-BB
																								46.0					1165.9	52.0	132.0					Impact Hammer without Cashion, -10 dll to get to v Piles driven using 3,000-pound drop hammer that in cashion block. Cashion block consisted of wood, by research from 5 to 40 Coltrase, CBI 2, soo the attem
	Stud Pipe Stud Pipe	Vibrakey	2	10	193	151	168NA 155NA	NA	\$	13		NA	NA	NA	NA NA	22.0 NA	NA	NA		NA	NA	25.1 NA	NA	46.0	72.0	1.4	NA	NA	1165.9	52.0	132.0	251.2	2154.4	Sausalito Dock Mad River Slouth Piteline		y was >5dB after 10m, so GARFO conservatively as Plies driven in tidal river slough using vibratory has attenuation rate provided, so GARFO used 5dB 10th
	Staal Pipe	Viltatory	>15	20	186	170	ISINA	NA	2	15		NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		NA	NA	NA	NA	70.0	120.0	0.9	NA	NA	430.9	70.0	270.0	92.8	43068.7	Richmond - San Rathel Bridge		Calculation with vibrancy hammer does by GABP Original project involved pilos driven in fairly deep a diseat impact (Dubing dP-4C) as part of sientic: for the Richmond-San Rafard Bridge. Very short for in deep starts must to hidge pice. 2 dB 100m atoms GARDO calculated average based on the massreem provided at a dBrown dimension in Table 12-3 (p. 1 o
	Food Rev.	10 million and		10	107	170	1000	~							NA	21.3								70.0	106.7				877.7		200 2		85769.6	Rodeo Dock Renair		Calculation for vibramry hammer (- 10xIII) does by Original project involved dock repair using does I hammer (Delmag D36-32). Amenation rate of AII by GARPD based on approximate average of meas provided in Table 12-3 (p. 1 of 4).
																																				Calculations with vibratory hammer done by GAB Original project involved emergency bridge repair Ranstan River during rainy seasons hen river was stage. These were temporary mode piles driven or to water through samenad solls. Dissel impact has Di-6-22, Amenuation mer et didl 10m done by G
	Stud Pipe	Vibratory	0	15	187	175	163NA	NA	4	15		NA	NA	NA	NA	15.0	NA	NA		NA	NA	15.0	NA	47.5	77.5	0.8	NA	NA	696.2	52.5	152.5	150.0	69623.8	Rassian River Geyserville Temponey Trestle Piles	Geyserville - Russian River, C.	on approximate average of measurements provide A 3 (p. 1 of 4) Calculations for vibratory harmon (-10dB) does b Original project involved temporary mostle piles d relatively shallow sense mories.
	Stud Pipe	Vibratory	45	10	195	190	170NA	NA	5	15		NA	NA	NA	NA	20.0	NA	NA		NA	NA	21.5	NA	50.0	70.0	1.8	NA	NA	1000.0	50.0	130.0	215.4	100001.0	Richmond-San Rafael Bridge	San Rafael, CA - San Francisco Bay	Richmond-San Rafael Bridge, Dissell Impact hum D62-223, Amountaion rate of 5dB10hm done by G approximate average of the measurements provid 3 (p. 1 of 4) Calculations for vibraroy hammer (-10dB) dona 1 Original posject involved temporary trends gille 1
	Steel H-Type	Vibratory	2	30	169	155	144NA	NA	5	15		NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	40.0	0.1	NA	NA	64.6	NA	100.0	NA	6463.3	Noyo River Bridge	Fort Bragg, CA	small disul impact harmer in shallow water. Arm varied from -54B at 30-56m from the piles, to -54B from the pile. Based on this, GABPO used 54B 10s attenuation rate. Piles driven using vibratory harmer close to doug
	Stud H-Type	Vibratory	2	10	161	147	IMNA	NA	5	15		NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.0	NA	NA	NA	NA	64.0	NA	631.0	San Rafael Canal	San Rafael, CA	Prior error a using viernexy hammer close is stong shallow water. Sound intensated 10-11 fill after 10 GARPO used 580/10m as a conservative attenuati only two sets of measurements were provided in C/ Plies driven with vibrarrey hammer. Size estimate is communication with Kith Planmareneds of Illingty
	Timber	Vibratory	12.2	9	176	145	145NA	NA	5	15		NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		NA	NA	NA	NA	39.0	39.0	0.1	NA	NA	90.0	19.0	99.0	19.4	9000.0	Norfulk Naval Station	Norfolk, VA	communication with Koh Pommeronck of Illington Rodkin (5/221/6). Massurements were the highest ar recorded lovels in the provided range (Illingtworth & 2015; p. 1-181-5).

For impact, dSEL = SEL + 16Log (N), where N = 0 of writesFor vibrary, <math>dSEL = SEL + 00Log(N), where N = duration of exposure in secondsChange-duration and 0 of strikes accordingly

Tables using the Simple Attenuation Formula (SAF) for sound attenuation

In order to use the autogenerated tables, below, copy the row of the "proxy project" you'd like to use from t and Paste Special "Values" in one of the green rows, below. Reformat the tables as you see fit for your pro

Approximate Pile Size	Pile Type	Hammer Type	Water Depth
			(m)

36"	Concrete - Hollow	Impact	5
18"	Concrete - Square	Impact	5
12"	Steel H-Type	Vibratory	5

Action Agencies: For your effects analysis, always include Tables 1 & 2, below. Use of Tables 3-5 will d You can delete/add rows from the tables, as necessary, just be sure that the formulas car

TABLE 1:

Proxy Projects for Estimating Underwater Noise

Project Location	Water Depth (m)	Pile Size (inches)	Pile Type
Walton County, FL	5	36"	Concrete - Hollow
Not Available	5	18"	Concrete - Square
Not Available	5	12"	Steel H-Type

TABLE 2:

Proxy-Based Estimates for Underwater Noise

Type of Pile	Hammer Type	Estimated Peak	Estimated Pressure Level (dB _{RMS})
36" Concrete - Hollow	Impact	200	176
18" Concrete - Square	Impact	185	155
12" Steel H-Type	Vibratory	165	150

TABLE 3:

Estimated Distances to Sturgeon/Salmon Injury and Behavioral Thresholds

Type of Pile	Hammer Type	Distance (m) to 206dB _{Peak} (injury)	Distance (m) to 150 dB _{sSEL} (surrogate for 187 dBcSEL injury)
36" Concrete - Hollow	Impact	NA	42.0
18" Concrete - Square	Impact	NA	42.0

12 Steel II-Type Violatory INA 10.0	12" Steel H-Type	Vibratory	NA	10.0
-------------------------------------	------------------	-----------	----	------

TABLE 4

Estimated Distances to Sea Turtle Injury and Behavioral Thresholds

Type Pile	Hammer Type	weighted) 189	Distance (m) to Sea Turtle TTS (Peak SPL) 226 dB _{Peak}
36" Concrete - Hollow	Impact	NA	NA
18" Concrete - Square	Impact	NA	NA
12" Steel H-Type	Vibratory	NA	NA

TABLE 5:

Estimated Distances to Cetacean Behavioral Thresholds

Type Pile	Hommor Tyno	for impulsive	Distance (m) to 120 dB _{RMS} (behavior for non- pulse noise)
36" Concrete - Hollow	Impact	42.0	NA
18" Concrete - Square	Impact	NA	NA
12" Steel H-Type	Vibratory	NA	70.0

he "Pile Types & Acoustic Formulas" tab, ject/letter.

Distance	Peak (dB)	RMS (dB)	SEL
(m)			

10	200	176	166
10	185	155	166
10	165	150	150

epend on whether or not those species are affected by the pile driving. ry over.

Hammer Type	Attenuation rate (dB/10m)
Impact	5
Impact	5
Vibratory	5

Estimated Si Sound Expos (dB _{sSEL})	0
	166
	166
	150

Distance (m) t Behavioral Di Threshold (15	sturbance
	62.0
	20.0

10.0

Distance (m) to Sea Turtle PTS (SEL weighted) 204 dB _{SEL}	Distance (m) to Sea Turtle PTS (Peak SPL) 232	Distance (m) to Sea Turtle Behavioral Threshold 175 dB _{RMS}
NA	. NA	12.0
NA	. NA	NA
NA	. NA	NA

# of strikes (impact) or # of seconds	cSEL ¹	Attentuation	Transmission loss
(vibratory)		Rate	constant (for
		dB/10 m	PSLM)

2500	199.97940	5	15
5040	203.02431	5	15
12000	190.79181	5	15

		SAF		
Sea Turtle Physiological (TTS,	Sea Turtle Physiological (TTS.		Sea Turtle Physiological (PTS,	Sea Turtle Distance to
SEL weighted)	Peak SPL)	SEL weighted)	Peak SPL)	Behavioral(m)
NA	NA	NA	NA	12

				12
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

		PSLM	
Sea Turtle	Sea Turtle	Sea Turtle Physiological	Sea Turtle Physiological (PTS, Peak
Physiological	Physiological (TTS,	(PTS, SEL weighted)	SPL)
(TTS, SEL	Peak SPL)		
weighted)			

NA	NA	NA	NA
NA	NA	NA	NA
NA	NA	NA	NA

	SAF			
Sea Turtle Distance to Behavioral(m)	Sturgeon/Salmon Distance to 206 Peak dB (m)	Sturgeon/Salmon Distance to Physiological SEL (m) ²	Sturgeon/Salmon Distance to Behavioral RMS (m)	
11.65914	NA	42	62	
NA	NA	42	20	
NA	NA	10	10	

	PSLM		
Sturgeon/Salmon Sturgeon/S Distance to 206 Peak >2g Physio dB (m)	logical cSEL (m) E	Sturgeon/Salmon Distance to <2g Physiological cSEL (m)	Sturgeon/Salmon Distance to Behavioral RMS (m)

3.98107	73.33197	116.59144	541.16953
0.39811	116.59144	116.59144	21.54435
0.01848	10	10	10

Cetacean Distance to Behavioral (impulsive) RMS (m)	SAF Cetacean Distance to Behavioral (non-pulse) RMS (m)	Cetacean Distance to Behavioral (impulsive) RMS (m)	PSLM Cetacean Distance to Behavioral (non-pulse) RMS (m)
42	122	116.59144	54116.95265

42	122	116.59144	54116.95265	
NA	80	NA	2154.43469	
NA	70	NA	1000	

Project

Project Location

Choctawhatchee Bay Test Pile	Walton County, FI
Not Available	Not Available
Not Available	Not Available

Notes

Sound pressure levels taken from Table I.2-1 of Caltrans (2020) for 30-inch square concrete piles. No proje Sound pressure levels taken from Table I.2-1 of Caltrans (2012). No project specific info provided - SPLs a Sound pressure levels were taken from Table I.2-2 on page I-3 of Caltrans (2012) - likely an average of sev

ct specific info provided. re likely an average of multiple measurements taken for this size pile. eral measurements taken for this size pile.

Tables using the Practical Spreading Loss Model (PSLM) for sound attenuation

In order to use the autogenerated tables, below, copy the row of the "proxy project" you'd like to use from t and Paste Special "Values" in one of the green rows, below. Reformat the tables as you see fit for your pro

Approximate Pile Size	Pile Type	Hammer Type	Water Depth
			(m)

Action Agencies: For your effects analysis, always include Tables 1 & 2, below. Use of Tables 3-5 will d *You can delete/add rows from the tables, as necessary, just be sure that the formulas car*

Proxy Projects for Estimating Underwater Noise

Project Location	Water Depth (m)	Pile Size (inches)	Pile Type
0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0

TABLE 2:

Proxy-Based Estimates for Underwater Noise

TABLE 1:

Type of Pile	Hommor Typo	Estimated Peak Noise Level (dB _{Peak})	Estimated Pressure Level (dB _{RMS})
	0	0	0
	0	0	0
	0	0	0
	0	0	0
	0	0	0
	0	0	0

TABLE 3:

Estimated Distances to Sturgeon/Salmon Injury and Behavioral Thresholds

Type of Pile	Hammer Type	Distance (m) to	Distance (m) to cSEL of 187 dB (injury for fish >2g)
	0	0.0	0.0
	0	0.0	0.0
	0	0.0	0.0
	0	0.0	0.0
	0	0.0	0.0
	0	0.0	0.0

TABLE 4

Estimated Distances to Sea Turtle Injury and Behavioral Thresholds

Type Pile	Hammer Type	weighted) 180	Distance (m) to Sea Turtle TTS (Peak SPL) 226 dB _{Peak}
	0	0.0	0.0
	0	0.0	0.0
	0	0.0	0.0
	0	0.0	0.0
	0	0.0	0.0
	0	0.0	0.0

TABLE 5:

Estimated Distances to Cetacean Behavioral Thresholds

Type Pile	Hammer Type	for impulsive	Distance (m) to 120 dB _{RMS} (behavior for non-pulse noise)
-----------	-------------	---------------	--

Type Pile	Hammer Type	dB _{RMS} (behavior for impulsive	Distance (m) to 120 dB _{RMS} (behavior for non-pulse poise)
	0	0.0	0.0
	0	0.0	0.0
	0	0.0	0.0
	0	0.0	0.0
	0	0.0	0.0
	0	0.0	0.0

he "Pile Types & Acoustic Formulas" tab, ject/letter.

Distance (m)	Peak (dB)	RMS (dB)	SEL	# of strikes (impact) or # of seconds (vibratory)

epend on whether or not those species are affected by the pile driving. ry over.

Hammer Type	Attenuation rate (dB/10m)	
	00	
	00	
	00	
	00	
	00	
	00	

Estimated Single Strike Sound Exposure Level (dB _{sSEL})	
	0
	0
	0
	0
	0
	0

cSEL of 183 dB	Distance (m) to Behavioral Disturbance Threshold (150 dB _{RMS})
0.0	0.0
0.0	0.0
0.0	0.0
0.0	0.0
0.0	0.0
0.0	0.0

Distance (m) to Sea Turtle PTS (SEL weighted) 204 dB _{SEL}	Distance (m) to Sea Turtle PTS (Peak SPL)	Distance (m) to Sea Turtle Behavioral Threshold 175 dB _{RMS}
0.0	0.0	0.0
0.0	0.0	0.0
0.0	0.0	0.0
0.0	0.0	0.0
0.0	0.0	0.0
0.0	0.0	0.0

			SAF		
cSEL ¹	Attentuat	Transmission loss	Sea Turtle	Sea Turtle	Sea Turtle
	ion Rate	constant (for	Physiological (TTS,	Physiological (TTS,	Physiological (PTS,
	dB/10 m	PSLM)	SEL weighted)	Peak SPL)	SEL weighted)

			PSLM
Sea Turtle Physiological (PTS, Peak SPL)	Sea Turtle Distance to Behavioral(m)	Sea Turtle Physiological (TTS, SEL weighted)	Sea Turtle Physiological (TTS, Peak SPL)

P	SLM	
Sea Turtle Physiological	Sea Turtle Physiological (PTS, Peak	Sea Turtle Distance to
(PTS, SEL weighted)	SPL)	Behavioral(m)

SAF		PSLM
Sturgeon/Salmon Distance to Physiological SEL (m) ²	Sturgeon/Salmon Distance to Behavioral RMS (m)	Sturgeon/Salmon Distance to 206 Peak dB (m)

	PSLM		SAF
Sturgeon/Salmon Distance to >2g Physiological cSEL (m)	Sturgeon/Salmon Distance to <2g Physiological cSEL (m)	Sturgeon/Salmon Distance to Behavioral RMS (m)	Cetacean Distance to Behavioral (impulsive) RMS (m)

SAF	PSLM			
Cetacean Distance to Behavioral (non-pulse) RMS (m)	Cetacean Distance to Behavioral (impulsive) RMS (m)	Cetacean Distance to Behavior al (non- pulco)	Project	Project Location

Notes



Attenuation measure
Cushion Block (used with impact hammer)
Wood
Micarta
Nylon
Vibratory hammer (used instead of impact hammer)
Any type
Air Bubble Curtain
1-24-inch pile
25-48-inch pile
>49-inch pile
Dewatered Cofferdams/Isolation Casings*
1.04 . 1 . 1
1-24-inch pile
25-48-inch pile
>49-inch pile

If cofferdam is not dewatered, attenuation benefits are limited.

Associated reduction in underwater noise

11 to 26 dB reduction from unattenuated impact hammer underwater sound levels
7 to 8 dB reduction from unattenuated impact hammer underwater sound levels
4 to 5 dB reduction from unattenuated impact hammer underwater sound levels

10 to 20 dB reduction from unattenuated impact hammer underwater sound levels

5 dB reduction in underwater noise 10 db reduction in underwater noise 20 dB reduction in underwater noise

5 dB reduction in underwater noise
10 db reduction in underwater noise

20 dB reduction in underwater noise

Source
ICF Jones & Stokes (2009); page 4-11
ICF Jones & Stokes (2009); page 4-11
ICF Jones & Stokes (2009); page 4-11
ICF Jones & Stokes (2009); page 4-16
ICF Jones & Stokes (2009); page 4-10
ICF Jones & Stokes (2009); page 4-10
ICF Jones & Stokes (2009); page 4-10
ICF Jones & Stokes (2009); page 4-10 "Dewatered coffer dams
generally can be expected to provide attenuation that is at least as great as the attenuation provided by air bubble curtains."
ICF Jones & Stokes (2009); page 4-10 "Dewatered coffer dams
generally can be expected to provide attenuation that is at least as great
as the attenuation provided by air bubble curtains."
ICF Jones & Stokes (2009); page 4-10 "Dewatered coffer dams
generally can be expected to provide attenuation that is at least as great
as the attenuation provided by air bubble curtains."

Attachment 3

NMFS Response to Documents Submitted April 1, 2021³

³ Obtained via FOIA request to NMFS

Record "FR0000269-FAL.pdf"

Produced by NMFS in Response to FOIA DOC-NOAA-2022-000725

From:	Michael Tucker - NOAA Federal
Subject:	Re: SERO-2018-00280 - Venture Global Plaquemines LNG and Gator Express Project
To:	Ross Hargrove
Cc:	Elizabeth Dolezal; Julia Joy
Sent:	April 5, 2021 12:30 PM (UTC-04:00)

Hi Ross,

Yes, NMFS agrees that the consultation does not need to be reinitiated because the activities are similar to those previously analyzed, and the changes you have described will not change the potential effects of the project, which remain not likely to adversely affect ESA-listed species under NMFS' jurisdiction.

Mike

On Thu, Apr 1, 2021 at 11:23 AM Ross Hargrove < <u>Ross.Hargrove@erm.com</u>> wrote:

Mike,

Hope you are doing well. As you are aware, Venture Global Plaquemines LNG, LLC (Plaquemines LNG) is developing a liquefied natural gas terminal (Terminal) and Venture Global Gator Express, LLC (Gator Express) is developing an associated feed gas pipeline and appurtenant aboveground facilities (Pipeline System). Both companies are wholly owned subsidiaries of Venture Global LNG, Inc. (Venture Global).

In August 2020, Gator Express consulted with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) (SERO-2018-00280 following the modification of Project workspaces and meter station platforms, at which time the NMFS concurred that the modifications would not result in any new or increased impacts to Endangered Species Act-listed species, when compared to those analyzed in the September 2019 consultation. The 2019 consultation concluded that the Project is not likely to adversely affect the green sea turtle (both North and South Atlantic distinct population segments [DPS]); Kemp's ridley sea turtle; leatherback sea turtle; loggerhead sea turtle (Northwest Atlantic DPS); hawksbill sea turtle; giant manta ray; oceanic whitetip shark; Bryde's whale' blue whale; fin whale; sei whale; and, sperm whale.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) approved the Project on September 30, 2019. Since the previous consultation, the Project has proceeded with final design and preparing for construction. Modifications to the Project since the August 2020 consultation included modifications to the pile sizes associated with the meter station platforms to be installed within Barataria Bay.

As a result of recent geotechnical investigations at the meter station sites, Gator Express has chosen to use 36-inchdiameter hollow concrete piles to support the meter stations rather than the 18-inch-square piles previously proposed. Please recall that underwater noise was a concern regarding installation of the meter station platforms within Barataria Bay. To assess the potential for underwater noise associated with the modified piles for the meter stations, Gator Express used the noise spreadsheets developed by the NMFS and concluded that the noise generated by the 36-inch-diameter hollow concrete piles will be similar to that of the previously proposed 18-inch-square concrete piles. The attached memo presents a range in the total number of piles to be installed. Gator Express is in the process of conducting a wave study to determine the final number of piles required for each platform. Regardless of the final quantity of piles, the noise calculations (see attached) will not change since pile installation assumptions (e.g., strikes per pile, piles per day) will remain unchanged.

Venture Global believes the changes described above will not change the previous affect determinations for the

species identified above. Venture Global believes that the consultation does not need to be reinitiated because the activities are similar to those previously considered and no take has occurred. Please review and confirm that the consultation will not need to be reinitiated. Your response will be provided to FERC to facilitate their review of these modifications to the Project. We appreciate your continued review and assistance.

Regards,

Ross

Ross Hargrove Director Consultant M +1 612 805-8244

From: Michael Tucker - NOAA Federal <<u>michael.tucker@noaa.gov</u>>
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2020 8:26 AM
To: Ross Hargrove <<u>Ross.Hargrove@erm.com</u>>
Cc: Elizabeth Dolezal <<u>edolezal@venturegloballng.com</u>>; Julia Joy <<u>Julia.Joy@erm.com</u>>; Kelly Shotts - NOAA Federal <<u>kelly.shotts@noaa.gov</u>>
Subject: Re: SERO-2018-00280 - Venture Global Plaquemines LNG and Gator Express Project

Hi Ross,

Thank you for the update. We agree that the proposed changes to the project plans described herein will not result in any new or increased impacts to ESA-listed species under NMFS' jurisdiction. It is more likely that these proposed changes will reduce any potential effects of the project on ESA-listed species, compared to those analyzed in our September 2019 consultation. Because the proposed project modifications will not cause an effect to ESA-listed species or critical habitat in a manner or to an extent not previously considered, there is no need to reinitiate consultation on this project.

Let me know if you have any questions. Thanks again,

Mike

On Fri, Jul 31, 2020 at 4:55 PM Ross Hargrove <<u>Ross.Hargrove@erm.com</u>> wrote:

Mike,

Per our conversation, I have attached the maps that depict the footprint changes associated with the Venture Global Plaquemines LNG and Gator Express Pipeline Project (collectively Venture Global or the Project) that have been incorporated into the Project since the Section 7 Endangered Species Act consultation (SERO-2018-00280) was concluded in September 2019. The consultation concluded

that the project is not likely to adversely affect the green sea turtle (both North and South Atlantic distinct population segments [DPS]); Kemp's ridley sea turtle; leatherback sea turtle; loggerhead sea turtle (Northwest Atlantic DPS); hawksbill sea turtle; giant manta ray; oceanic whitetip shark; Bryde's whale' blue whale; fin whale; sei whale; and, sperm whale.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) approved the Project on September 30, 2019. Since that time Venture Global has proceeded with final design and preparing for construction. Construction of the Terminal is expected to begin in September 2020 and construction of the pipeline system is expected to begin in January 2021. As part of the final design, Venture Global has made the following changes to the Pipeline System as summarized below.

- The addition of a horizontal directional drill (HDD) installation to minimize coastal marsh impacts;
- Reduction of meter station platform footprints;
- Revision to the barge access route to further minimize impacts on oyster resources and move the route to deeper water;
- Addition of 12 additional temporary workspaces to facilitate pipeline construction across foreign lines and canals;
- Removal of additional temporary workspaces no longer needed and minor adjustments of construction workspaces;
- Modified pipe bridge over the levee resulting in a longer span and increased size of footings;
- Addition of a 6-acre laydown yard; and,
- Use of an existing boat dock, requiring installation of a temporary floating dock to enable transfer of equipment and personnel to the Project site.

Overall the workspace modifications associated with the Pipeline System will reduce impacts on wetlands and waterbodies by approximately 40 acres. Please recall that underwater noise was a concern regarding installation of the meter station platforms within Barataria Bay. The updated meter station platforms will be smaller, however, rather than using 12-inch-diameter steel piles the platforms will be supported by 18-inch-square concrete piles. An updated noise analysis is attached which demonstrates that use of the concrete piles will reduce potential impacts on aquatic life in comparison to the steel piles previously analyzed.

Venture Global believes the changes described above and depicted on the attached maps will not change the previous affect determinations for the species identified above. Venture Global believes that the consultation does not need to be reinitiated because the activities are similar to those previously considered and no take has occurred. Please review and confirm that the consultation will not need to be reinitiated. Your response will be provided to FERC to facilitate their review of these modifications to the Project. We appreciate your continued review and assistance.

Ross

Ross Hargrove Director Consultant

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E ross.hargrove@erm.com | W www.erm.com

Please note our new address as of June 19, 2020.



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Michael Tucker

Endangered Species Biologist

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Michael Tucker

Endangered Species Biologist NOAA Fisheries Southeast Region U.S. Department of Commerce 727-209-5981 https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/region/southeast

Attachment 4

Smith et al. (2020)⁴

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Marine Mammals and Respiration: Evidence of Poor Pulmonary Health in Bottlenose Dolphins Following the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill

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ABSTRACT

[Abstract#688234] The *Deepwater Horizon* (DWH) disaster resulted in large-scale contamination of bays, sounds, and estuaries in the northern Gulf of Mexico (GoM), home to multiple stocks of bottlenose dolphins. Inhalation, direct aspiration, ingestion with subsequent aspiration, and dermal absorption of oil and its toxic components were all considered possible routes of exposure for dolphins living within the oil spill footprint. To determine if dolphins were

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adversely impacted, capture-release health assessments were performed in heavily-oiled Barataria Bay (BB), Louisiana, and in Sarasota Bay (SB), Florida, a comparison site with no DWH oil contamination. Initial studies were conducted as part of a Natural Resource Damage Assessment (2011-2014), with follow-on studies supported by the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (2016-2018). To specifically evaluate pulmonary health, transthoracic ultrasound techniques previously developed for managed dolphins were applied to wild dolphins. Results showed that BB dolphins were ~5 times more likely to have moderate to severe lung disease than SB dolphins in 2011, the year following the spill. Concurrent pathology investigations of dead dolphins in the northern GoM reported similar pulmonary findings. In 2013 and 2014, moderate to severe lung disease persisted among BB dolphins, and remained elevated relative to the prevalence at the SB comparison site. More recent live animal health assessments (2016-2018) showed long-term persistence and potential worsening of moderate to severe lung disease in BB dolphins, specifically in animals alive during the oil spill (prevalence of 0.20, 0.35, and 0.55 in 2016, 2017, and 2018, respectively). Long-term monitoring of dolphin populations is critical to fully understand the potential for and timeline of individual and population recovery from the impacts of a large-scale oil spill event, as well as the cost-benefit trade-offs for restoration activities. In particular, BB dolphins provide valuable insight into the long-lasting effects of oil and oil-related contaminants on animal, human, and ecosystem health.

INTRODUCTION

Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill

In April 2010, the *Deepwater Horizon* (DWH) offshore drilling rig exploded and sank, resulting in large-scale contamination of bays, sounds, and estuaries in the northern Gulf of Mexico

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(GoM) (Michel et al. 2013). More than 3 million barrels of oil (~900 million pounds) were released before the well was sealed (U.S. v. BP et al. 2015), resulting in an oil slick that spanned ~43,000 square miles of ocean and oiled over 1,000 miles of shoreline habitats (ERMA 2015, Michel et al. 2013). Although clean-up efforts removed ~600 million pounds of oil-contaminated waste from Gulf waters and nearshore and coastal environments of the northern GoM (EPA 2011), the oil spill caused substantial injury to marine life (DWH NRDA Trustees 2016).

Injury to Marine Mammals

As DWH oil spread throughout the northern GoM, marine mammals were documented swimming through the oil (Aichinger Dias et al. 2017). Response monitoring activities from April to September 2010 documented over 1,100 cetaceans from at least 10 species of dolphins and whales swimming through thick surface oil or surface oil sheen (Aichinger Dias et al. 2017, Wilkin et al. 2017). Marine mammals living within the oil spill footprint were likely exposed through multiple routes, including inhalation, direct aspiration, ingestion with or without subsequent aspiration, and dermal absorption of oil and its toxic components (Takeshita et al. 2017, Smith et al. 2017).

In the months to follow, one of the largest and longest marine mammal mortality events occurred in the northern GoM, lasting from 2010 through July 2014 (Litz et al. 2014). Marine mammal responders routinely collected biological data and samples from carcasses, and after a comprehensive investigation into all potential causes of the mortality event, the most likely cause was determined to be the DWH oil spill (Litz et al. 2014, Venn-Watson et al. 2015a). Some of the most consistent necropsy findings in non-perinate dolphins recovered within the oil spill footprint were bronchopneumonia and adrenal gland atrophy, and an increased prevalence of fetal distress

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and *in utero* pneumonia was found in dead perinates (Venn-Watson et al. 2015b, Colegrove et al. 2016).

Live dolphins were also examined to investigate the chronic health effects of the oil spill. The temporary capture of dolphins for comprehensive health examinations was performed in heavily-oiled Barataria Bay (BB), Louisiana, as well as oil-impacted Mississippi Sound (MS), Mississippi/Alabama. Dolphins were also examined in Sarasota Bay (SB), Florida, a comparison site with no DWH oil contamination. Initial studies were conducted from 2011-2014 as part of a Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA), with follow-on studies funded by the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (2016-2018).

Results from the live dolphin health studies performed during the NRDA were consistent with findings from the concurrent dead dolphin investigations. Specifically, live dolphins were diagnosed with multiple health issues, including moderate to severe lung disease, poor body condition, an impaired stress response, and hematological/serum chemistry indicators of inflammation, hypoglycemia, and abnormal iron levels (Schwacke et al. 2014). From 2011-2013, nearly half of the dolphins evaluated in oil-impacted habitats (BB and MS) were considered unhealthy, indicated by a guarded or worse prognosis, and 17% percent of examined dolphins received a poor or grave prognosis, meaning they were not expected to survive (Schwacke et al. 2014).

The increased prevalence of dolphins with compromised health coincided with high mortality rates within the oil spill footprint. Follow-up studies of BB dolphins using mark-recapture survival models yielded estimated annual mortality rates of 13.2-19.6% in the years immediately following the spill (Lane et al. 2015, McDonald et al. 2017), which were much higher than mortality rates previously reported for bottlenose dolphins using similar techniques near

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Charleston, South Carolina (4.9%), and Sarasota, Florida (3.8%) (Speakman et al. 2010, Wells et al. 1990). Alternative hypotheses were considered, including exposure to harmful algal blooms (DWH NRDA Trustees 2016), persistent organic pollutants (Balmer et al. 2015), and infectious disease outbreaks (Venn-Watson et al. 2015a). These factors were ruled out as likely contributors to the increased mortality rates documented within the oil spill footprint, leaving exposure to toxic oil components as the most likely cause of death.

Pulmonary Disease in Dolphins

To specifically evaluate pulmonary health in dolphins likely exposed to DWH oil and related byproducts, transthoracic ultrasound techniques previously developed for managed dolphins (Smith et al. 2012) were used on wild dolphins temporarily captured for health assessments. The dolphin body is well-suited for ultrasound, as their skin is smooth and hairless, so doesn't require any preparation before conducting the exam. Current ultrasound machines are powerful enough to penetrate dolphin blubber and rugged enough to be used in extreme field conditions (e.g. high air temperatures, saltwater environments, unstable operating platforms). Pulmonary abnormalities can be rapidly detected and are divided into previously defined categories (Smith et al. 2012): (1) pleural effusion, or fluid surrounding the lungs; (2) superficial pulmonary nodules, or <2cm round/ovoid foci of non-aerated lung; (3) pulmonary masses, or 2cm or greater well-defined areas of non-aerated lung; (4) alveolar-interstitial syndrome, or evidence of reduced air in the lung and replacement of air with cellular infiltrate, and (5) pulmonary consolidation, where fluid or cellular infiltrate is occupying the alveolar spaces in the lungs. Once examinations have been completed, each lung field (left and right) is given an overall score as follows: normal (no evidence of disease), mild, moderate, or severe lung disease (Schwacke et al. 2014, Smith et al. 2017).

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In the year following the spill, dolphins examined within the oil spill footprint had a 5-fold higher prevalence of moderate to severe lung disease when compared to dolphins living outside the oiled region, based on ultrasound examination (0.34 in BB versus 0.7 in the comparison site) (Schwacke et al. 2014). During 2013 and 2014, the prevalence of moderate to severe lung disease among BB dolphins decreased slightly (0.23 and 0.25, respectively), but remained elevated relative to the prevalence at the SB non-oiled comparison site. Concurrent pathology investigations of dead dolphins recovered from the northern GoM in the years following the spill reported similar pulmonary findings (Colegrove et al. 2016). The prevalence of bacterial pneumonias, many of which were severe, in carcasses recovered within the oil spill footprint was significantly higher than in comparison populations (0.22 (oiled) vs 0.02 (non-oiled)). Pneumonias were caused by multiple bacterial pathogens indicating that lung disease was not due to infection with a single, highly pathogenic bacterium, but rather was due to secondary infection of damaged lung tissue (Venn-Watson et al. 2015b).

The increased prevalence of lung disease in dolphins living within the DWH oil spill footprint was consistent with respiratory findings from humans exposed to oil and its toxic components (Zock et al. 2007, Jung et al. 2013, Alexander et al. 2018, Gam et al. 2018a, Gam et al. 2018b). However, relatively few studies have focused on the chronicity of respiratory disease post-exposure. Therefore, to determine if pulmonary disease would persist in wild dolphins living within the oil spill footprint, BB dolphins were examined during capture-release health assessments in 2016, 2017, and 2018 as part of two Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (GoMRI) supported investigations to better understand the chronic health effects of the DWH disaster.

METHODS

Dolphin capture-release health assessments

Dolphin health assessments were conducted via capture, temporary restraint, and release in oil-impacted BB during 2016, 2017, and 2018, as well as SB (non-oiled comparison site) in 2016 and 2018. For comparative analyses over time, we included previously reported pulmonary data from health assessments in BB (2011, 2013, 2014) and health assessments in SB (2011, 2013) (Schwacke et al. 2014, Smith et al. 2017). We also analyzed additional ultrasound images that had been collected in SB in 2012, 2015, and 2017. Capture-release methodologies and diagnostic sampling techniques are described elsewhere and were similar during all study years and across locations (Wells et al. 2004, Schwacke et al. 2014, Barratclough et al. 2019). Briefly, dolphins were encircled with a seine net and supported by experienced handlers for examination. We avoided small calves with a known or suspected age of less than two years. The amount of time each animal spent out of the water and overall time restrained was minimized, and veterinary staff continuously monitored animals throughout their health assessments.

Pulmonary ultrasound evaluation

Pulmonary ultrasound exams were performed by experienced marine mammal sonographers (CS, FG) using the dorsal-ventral slide technique as previously described (Smith et al. 2012). Pulmonary abnormalities were detected following standardized methods (Smith et al. 2012, Schwacke et al. 2014), to include pleural effusion, alveolar-interstitial syndrome, pulmonary masses, pulmonary nodules, and pulmonary consolidation. Alveolar-interstitial syndrome (AIS) was graded as mild, moderate, or severe as follows: mild – occasional clusters of ring-down artifacts; moderate – frequent clusters of ring-down artifacts, distributed throughout the dorsal, ventral, or entire lung field; severe – contiguous ring-down artifacts that created a 'white-out' effect and loss of reverberation artifact, detected in multiple areas. When present, distribution of

AIS throughout the lung field was noted. Pulmonary nodules (<2cm) and masses (≥2cm) were measured and described.

Photo-identification

We compared dorsal fin images of the dolphins that we sampled to images of known individuals collected from prior photo-identification studies (McDonald et al. 2017, Wells et al. 1990). Our team has conducted photo-identification studies in BB since 2010, and in SB since 1970; therefore, a majority of the dolphins were known. Based on photographic sighting history, we categorized each individual dolphin as being alive in 2010 during the DWH spill, or being born after the spill. This allowed us to compare the prevalence of lung disease in BB dolphins presumably exposed to DWH oil in 2010 to those born after the spill, and to compare similar age cohorts between the two study sites.

Statistical analysis

To examine potential time trend in the prevalence of lung disease for dolphins that were alive in 2010 when the DWH spill occurred, we applied a generalized additive model (GAM) with smoothing splines. We created a binary outcome variable to indicate lung scores that were normal or showed mild lung disease (0), versus those that showed moderate to severe lung disease (1). We used a binomial distribution and logit link for the GAM, and included site (BB/SB) as an additional binary covariate. Because of the short time span, we had limited samples of dolphins born after 2010, therefore we pooled samples across years. To examine potential differences in lung disease prevalence between the two sites for the younger cohort, we applied a similar GAM, but without the smoothing spline term for time. We generated heatmaps stratified by site and age cohort to visually examine prevalence of the various lung abnormalities. For AIS, the heatmap was based on mean score with moderate scores assigned 0.5 and severe scores assigned 1.0, inferring that

severe scores were twice as bad as moderate scores; for all other (binary) variables, the heat maps display prevalence of cases. We conducted an additional GAM, again with smoothing splines, to evaluate temporal changes in worsening AIS dorsal to ventral (yes/no) for dolphins alive at the time of the spill. All analyses were conducted in R (ref); we used the mgcv package for GAM analyses.

RESULTS

Sample demographics

Between 2011 and 2018, we evaluated the pulmonary health of 171 BB dolphins; 132 of which were alive at the time of the spill and 18 born after the oil spill. We could not definitively classify 21 BB dolphins to an age cohort. Over the same time period, we assessed the pulmonary health of 103 dolphins from the unoiled comparison site (SB), 84 which were alive in 2010 and 19 born after 2010.

Dolphins alive in 2010 during the DWH spill

Our GAM analysis indicated that sampling site strongly influenced the prevalence of moderate to severe lung disease (p<0.001), with dolphins sampled in BB, which was heavily oiled by the DWH disaster, having the higher prevalence. Many of the lung scores for BB dolphins were severe (prevalence of 0.23 in 2017 and 0.22 in 2018 in oiled BB), while none of the SB dolphins alive in 2010 were diagnosed with severe lung disease post-DWH (2011-2018).

There was some evidence that prevalence of moderate to severe lung disease changed over the years (GAM smooth term p=0.06 for BB, p=0.07 for SB); however, the increases were primarily confined to one or two years: 2018 in BB and 2016-2017 in SB. The prevalence of moderate to severe lung disease in BB was 0.20, 0.35, and 0.55 in 2016, 2017, and 2018,

respectively. During the period of highest prevalence of moderate lung disease in SB (no SB animals alive at the time of the spill were diagnosed with severe disease), there was also significant uncertainty in the estimates due to limited sample sizes.

AIS was a significant factor in the BB lung disease cases, and in some cases worsened dorsal to ventral within the lung field. While dorsal to ventral worsening was not seen at all in SB dolphins, the prevalence increased over the years for BB dolphins that were alive at the time of the DWH spill (p<0.001) and was highest in 2018, the final year of sampling. We documented other lung abnormalities including pleural effusion, pulmonary nodules, consolidation, and masses in BB. Some of these abnormalities, including pulmonary nodules, were also seen in SB, albeit to a much lesser extent.

Dolphins born after the DWH spill in 2010

Prevalence of moderate or severe lung scores did not differ between BB and SB for dolphins born in 2010 after the DWH spill (p=0.67), and was relatively low. Nodules were the most commonly observed abnormality for both BB and SB cohorts.

DISCUSSION

In the aftermath of the DWH disaster and subsequent oiling of coastal habitats, we found a high prevalence of moderate to severe lung disease in bottlenose dolphins living within one of the heavily-oiled estuaries (BB). BB dolphins have high site fidelity, meaning that animals tend to live in the same region for multiple years and are unlikely to leave (Lane et al. 2015; Wells et al. 2017). Our follow-on studies proved critical in determining that dolphin pulmonary health was not improving. The high prevalence of moderate to severe lung disease suggests a chronic, progressive lung damage has occurred following oil exposure, which should be considered when investigating Abstract#688234

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potential pathways and mechanisms of respiratory compromise. Other possible contributing factors include an increased susceptibility to lung infections due to oil-induced immune system aberrations, cardiac damage with secondary pulmonary compromise, and age-related health changes.

In bottlenose dolphins and other cetaceans (porpoises, dolphins, and whales), the lungs serve a dual purpose of both respiration and buoyancy control (Ridgway et al. 1969). Investigations of dolphin pulmonary anatomy have shown that terminal airways are reinforced with cartilage, and myoelastic sphincters are found surrounding terminal bronchioles and alveolar entrances (Simpson & Gardner 1972). The alveoli can completely collapse at depth, forcing air into the reinforced air spaces, presumably for prevention of decompression sickness (Ridgway et al. 1969). The presence of moderate to severe pulmonary disease would be expected to impair these physiologic mechanisms, negatively impact buoyancy, and increase energetic demands. This is supported by the authors' (CRS, FMG, FIT) personal observations of managed dolphins diagnosed with moderate to severe pulmonary disease that have altered swim and dive patterns, likely due to a decrease in functional lung capacity and concomitant impaired buoyancy.

Pulmonary damage and subsequent respiratory compromise would not be unusual for mammals several years following exposure to an oil spill. Respiratory symptoms were reported in humans following inhalation exposure from multiple spills, including the DWH disaster (Alexander et al. 2018, Rusiecki et al. 2018). In addition to dolphins and humans, studies involving fish and mice experimentally exposed to DWH oil and/or byproducts reported respiratory injury (Brown-Peterson et al. 2015, Jaligama et al. 2015, Pan et al. 2018). Potential mechanisms of primary injury have been compared across taxa, including oxidative damage, cellular damage, and Abstract#688234

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cellular necrosis. Secondary pathways have also been investigated, including immunotoxicity, cardiotoxicity, and chronic stress.

Based on comprehensive examination of all available data collected to date, chronic pulmonary disease was likely a significant factor in the overall poor health of dolphins living within the oil spill footprint, and there were additional consequences to dolphins that had sustained this injury. To help define clinical significance to individual animals, oxygenation and blood gas analyses were conducted (2016 and 2017), which identified evidence of compensatory acid-base imbalances in dolphins with lung disease (Sharp et al. 2017). Poor pulmonary health and acid-base imbalances could help explain the sustained high rates of reproductive failure in BB (Lane et al. 2015; Kellar et al. 2016; Smith et al. 2020), as maternal illness and related adverse health outcomes could put pregnancies at risk and impact a female's ability to adequately care for her young. Additionally, overall health scores have been determined over time (2011-2018) in BB dolphins and showed that dolphin population health has not improved over time, but instead worsened in 2017 and 20178 (Schwacke et al. 2020).

A limitation of this study was the small number of SB dolphins (comparison site) sampled during 2016 and 2017 that were alive during the DWH oil spill (5 in 2016; 8 in 2017), and caution must be taken when interpreting the increasing trend of moderate lung disease during those two years. Although the prevalence of moderate lung disease increases, the prevalence of pulmonary abnormalities remains low. There are no cases of pulmonary masses, pulmonary consolidation, or dorsal-to-ventral worsening of AIS in SB during 2017 or 2018. Additionally, there are no cases of severe pulmonary disease diagnosed in SB during the entire post-DWH disaster study period, compared to a prevalence of 0.23 in 2017 and 0.22 in 2018 in oiled BB.

This study shows strong evidence of a chronic and potentially progressive respiratory injury in bottlenose dolphins living within the oil spill footprint. Other species of cetaceans living further off-shore were exposed, but their health was difficult to evaluate and few data exists to determine the potential adverse health impacts. However, the nearshore bottlenose dolphin data suggests that any cetacean with a similar exposure to DWH oil or its byproducts could sustain a similar injury. Long-term monitoring of dolphin populations living within the oil spill footprint is critical for fully understanding the potential for and timeline of individual and population recovery from the impacts of a such a large-scale oil spill event, to include extrapolation of impacts to other cetacean populations in the northern GoM. BB dolphins in particular provide valuable insight into the long-lasting effects of oil and associated contaminants on animal, human, and ecosystem health.

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numerous organizations and their researchers, veterinarians, and technicians who provided support for the health assessment projects, which include our home institutions.

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Tuesday, October 10, 2023

To the National Marine Fisheries Service,

The Sierra Club submits the following 766 messages on behalf of our supporters with the following language and with 159 personalized messages:

Re: I'm urging you to deny the East Lateral Xpress Pipeline's permit request

Dear Ms. Harrison,

The National Marine Fisheries Service must deny the East Lateral Xpress Pipeline's request for a harassment permit that would threaten up to 40 dolphins in Barataria Bay off the coast of Louisiana. The dolphin population in the Bay has yet to recover from the 2010 BP oil spill and so many other industry activities, and may not survive another blow to their population. Approximately 2,000 dolphins currently reside in Barataria Bay, one of the most important dolphin populations in the Gulf. However, the BP oil spill and other industrial pollution have rendered the population weak and unable to reproduce. Harassing 40 dolphins will destabilize the whole ecosystem. Let me be clear: the stakes are high. This action is not only about dolphins. Approving the permit would exacerbate a host of other pressing issues, including sea-level rise, saltwater intrusion, land loss, oil spills, warming the waters, and low oxygen levels. Our ecosystem is already out of balance, and further disruptions will have devastating consequences. Moreover, harassing this dolphin population will have a direct and adverse impact on the livelihoods of our fishers and shrimpers, who depend on the Gulf's abundant resources. With these critical concerns, we respectfully urge you to protect Barataria Bay's dolphins and the Gulf ecosystem as a whole. We believe it is our collective responsibility to safeguard that delicate balance of our natural world and ensure the well-being of our communities that rely on this ecosystem. We kindly request your intervention as the National Marine Fisheries Service to deny the East Lateral Xpress Pipeline's harassment permit application. Thank you for your time and consideration of this pressing matter. We look forward to your support in preserving our cherished marine environment, keeping the legacy of our cultural identity, and helping the communities that rely on its health.

Thank you for considering my comments.

 Anu Moorthy Baltimore, MD 21215
 All living things are a part of the balance of nature. Whenone component is lost there is a ripple effect on all of the rest.

2. Jane StopherLouisville, KY 40205All of us are God?s creatures and are interconnected. Harming one harms us all.

3. Barbara Tait

Shorewood, IL 60404

Animals of all kinds are being subjected to ever more "harassment", bring impending collapse to many populations and ecosystems around the country. It is time to stop this ever expanding assault on the natural world that supports us. Assaults like this in the name of fossil fuel activity are especially egregious, causing world wide as well as local severe harm. As a scuba diver I know the beauty and intelligence of dolphins up front and I urge you to protect them from this "harassment".

4. Rebecca Oslin Jacksonville, FL 32216 another note should not be necessary..s.hakim

5. Janet Swihart Long Beach, WA 98631 Anything that harms our wildlife ultimately harms our communities. Take action today!

6. Doris Gilestra

New York, NY 10033

As a mother and grandmother, I believe it is our duty to protect and preserve wildlife as precious natural resources held in trust for all future generations. I also feel a deep responsibility as a Steward for all of Earth's Divine Creation. That responsibility will always be more important than politics or profit.

7. Madelynne News

Upper Chichester, PA 19061

As conservationists we are trying to do the right things to help save our planet. And we frown upon companies who try to abuse it by destroy our natural resources and wildlife. Please realize what you are about to do by constructing this pipeline and let your conscience be you guide. Thank you

8. Stephan Donovan Oro Valley, AZ 85737

Big oil is ruining our natural habitats. It is padt time you, in congress represent your voters and stop this now.

9. Susan Olive Niles, OH 44446 Consistently, our wildlife loses to mankind, we must protect wildlife, and be very concerned about oil spills.No pipeline!!

10. Dustin Jackson Scottsbluff, NE 69361 Deny it for the sake of everything that should be good and isn't anymore

11. CHRISTINE CALAISLafayette, LA 70501Despair, pain, are not just human experiences, but are usually caused by us.

12. Allie BarkalowSanta Rosa, CA 95401Dirty water kills wildlife and people. It?s past time to get off of fossil fuels!

13. Pam Harper-Smith College Station, TX 77840 Disrupting the Bay ecosystem to build a gas pipeline is getting the priorities backwards. To combat climate change, we need to stop building oil and gas infrastructure, and building more while interfering with a fragile ecosystem is a poor choice all around.

14. Donald Meroni Winter Haven, FL 33880 Do the right thing!

15. Diane Lesser North Augusta, SC 29860 Do what you?re paid to do

16. Jeannie Finlay-Kochanowski Toledo, OH 43608 Dolphins are important!

17. Denise Garza

Fremont, CA 94536

Dolphins are intelligent and sensitive--a lot like humans, in many ways. Our world, including Barataria Bay, benefits by their live, healthy presence.

18. Jody Baron Broomfield, CO 80020 Dolphins are intelligent precious inhabitants of the Gulf of Mexico off Southeast Louisiana; please protect these sensitive mammals and their young from harrassment from this proposed pipeline.

19. Lorraine ClarkePooler, GA 31322Dolphins are loving and social animals that don't harm anyone and they need our protectionfrom the commercial interests that don't care about life and are leading to the global warmingand destruction of our planet stop it now

20. Michelle Anson Penn, PA 15675 Dolphins are special, intelligent, social animals who form tight bonds in their social groups, need each other, and need your help!

21. Cathy DeptulaBrandon, FL 33511Dolphins are such a joy to see. Protecting them also helps the shrimpers and fishers, which not only important people, also contribute greatly to Louisiana's economy.

22. Janet RountreeSuffolk, VA 23434Dolphins can not stand up for themselves and our environment. We have to

23. Raymond ChomaCharlotte, NC 28278Dolphins deserve protection from commercial interests. We are losing all our animals and this must be stopped.

24. Randy Raspotnik Casselberry, FL 32707 Dolphins have bigger brains than humans, so we should preserve them for when we destroy ourselves.

25. Noah EhlerCarnation, WA 98014Dolphins matter to me because they need fresh air and water to drink and because I love all animals deserve rights as well..

26. Janice JonesEl Cerrito, CA 94530Don't allow harm to these dolphins. We must sacrifice their lives and health to fossil fuels.

27. Tacey Conover

Eugene, OR 97405 DON'T DISTURB THE DOLPHINS!

28. Phoebe BowersGeneva, FL 32733Dont let these precious creators vanish forever.

29. Phyllis Marriott Citrus Heights, CA 95621 Ecosystems and the creatures in them must come first to protect where we all live, the Earth!

30. Beverly De VingoMt Airy, GA 30563Enough already. The Louisiana Gulf coastline has suffered far too much damage already. PLEASE say NO to the East Lateral Xpress Pipeline?s request for a harassment permit.

31. Lorelette KnowlesEverett, WA 98201Every dolphin contributes to the life and beauty of the gulf region. At a time when we are working diligently to pull away from fossil fuels, this permit is completely unnecessary.

32. Amity JonesSpokane, WA 99212Every species is special, and the loss of one jeopardizes all others, including humans.

33. Dorothy MaurerBlue Bell, PA 19422Everyone should be quickly moving away from fossil fuels. Saying no to this pipeline is a needed action.

34. Chris Moore Denver, CO 80210

Exposures to chemical pollution, such as the British Petroleum oil spill, and industries development in the region have made it difficult for female dolphins to reproduce and for the herd to grow anflourish. Please reject a permit application asking permission to harass 40 dolphins in Barataria Bay off the coast of Southeast Louisiana so a pipeline company can ship dirty methane gas to the Plaquemines LNG export terminal. The East Lateral Express Pipeline will only make the environment worse. I ask that you please do not allow this East Lateral Express Pipeline permit to be approved. Thank you.

35. Luanne DeFelice Baldwinsville, NY 13027 Extinction needs to be natural, not man-made! 36. Elsa Caquias

Ocala, FL 34483

for the good of all surrounding marine life and the dependent communities. Humanity and the environment matter.

37. Linda GranatoPhiladelphia, PA 19136Harassing up to 40 dolphins in Barataria Bay by Xpress Pipeline will worsen an already weakecosystem and threaten the wildlife and vulnerable dolphins!

38. Elizabeth Kelch GreenCoveSprings, FL 32043 However, you MUST do MUCH MORE. We MUST keep ALL Climate-Changing fossil fuels IN THE GROUND! We MUST achieve 100% Clean, Renewable Energy like Solar and Wind in electrical generation and transportation by 2030.

39. Anette BrackettNeosho, MO 64850I don?t support oil production at the cost of other vital interests. Our Virente is Noah important than ever.

40. Charles Feezer

Eloy, AZ 85131

I know this is a mass emailed letter, but I can?t put it better than they did. Please read it, and keep our dolphins, fisheries, and the gulf itself safe from the pollution this buildout is sure to cause.

41. Phoebe Bowers

Geneva, FL 32732

I lived on the Gulf Coast for years. I am a member of the Port Aransas Conservancy still working to keep our section of the Gulf free of pipelines and other industries which would damage the dolphin, fish and other wildlife. I support the dolphins of Barataria Bay.

42. James Bauer

New Orleans, LA 70119

I strongly urge you to uphold environmental justice by denying the harassment permit. Do no facilitate pollution at the cost of people and the planet! For the sake for the communities and animals depending on the fragile marine ecosystem, please prevent the harassment of important dolphins. The future is made a reality by your choices. I ask that you make the justice and healthy planet we need a reality by choosing to deny the harmful permit harassment application.

43. Janice March Sarasota, FL 34234 I worked on oil rigs for many years in the Gulf of Mexico. Never again. There is nothing clean about the oil and gas industry. Louisiana is already filthy and polluted. No more fossil fuels please.

44. Vickie West

Fayetteville, AR 72702

I'm asking you to deny this permit for the health inherent dangers and inevitable disaster this pipeline will have on the ecosystem of the area as well as the economy of the region. The dolphins are key to the ecosystem and already threatened. Dolphins are gentle, intelligent creatures. Harassment for profit is just wrong. To think of destroying an ecosystem just to drill for more pollution causing oil at a time when the world desperately needs to develop alternatives to energy is just ludacris. And what about the people who depend on the health of these waters for their livelihood. Do their lives not matter? What about the people that depend on them? Please consider the grave consequences of allowing this permit.

45. Marjorie SkidmoreColchester, CT 06415I've lived on the Gulf for 47 years, and I've seen it attacked in so many ways. Please stop.

46. Sharon Dyal

Fernandina beach, FL 32034

In wilderness is the preservation of the planet. Please save these dolphins from wanton destruction related to big oil's maneuvers, always about the money, money, money. Do your job and protect this fragile ecosystem and its wildlife.

47. Carol E Gentry

Albuquerque, NM 87102

Instead of continuing to damage the life on this planet, we need to be doing everything we can to improve conditions. Greed should not even enter into the decision and a request to allow harassment of marine life in order to ship dirty LNG is nothing but greed.

48. Cameron McElroy Richland, WA 99352 It is beyond time to protect these dolphins

49. Laura Smith College Station, TX 77845 It is important to protect our waters and the 40 dolphins in Barataria Bay.

50. Lusine Harutyunyan Encino, CA 91316 It is past time to do the right thing for our planet and the creatures that inhabit it. I urge you to take this opportunity to protect dolphins. 51. Travis Dickson

Concord, NC 28025

It is really important to me to keep the ecosystem fully functioning and the fossil fuel industry and actions associated with it negatively impact the global environment. Please intervene and stop this.

52. Barbara Burton Memphis, TN 38111 IT MATTERS!!!

53. Christina Baylis

Boise, ID 83702

It's high time to protect our Gulf and its inhabitants, especially dolphins. I was born and raised here, swam in the gulf before I walked and swam with dolphins as an adolescent. These sentient beings are an integral part of our beloved Gulf of Mexico and must be protected.

55. Rachel Campbell Charlotte, NC 28226 LEAVE THE DOLPHENS ALONE!

56. Shelby Coyle Pembroke Pines, FL 33029 Leave the dolphins alone.

57. Nancy Stamm Fort Pierce, FL 34945 Let the dolphins be and stop endangering their habitat.

58. Stephanie Speltz

Lawler, IA 52154

Listen, we're done ravaging the earth. We know our deadline to act to avert climate change is rapidly passing by, and we have all the tools we need to do the right thing. We just need to do it. Further destruction of the Louisiana coastline to make someone some extra bucks is Just. Not. Okay. The Gulf has been through enough already--let it heal.

59. Victoria A Olson Oakland Park, FL 33309 Living beings should be ahead of any profits.

60. Heather M BRaut Nokomis, FL 34275 Living in Florida, I am very concerned about what happens to the habitat of the Gulf of Mexico. The Gulf waters in Louisiana are basically in our backyard. It took years to clean up from the BP mess. We don't need more problems added to the stresses on the waters anywhere near Florida.

61. N Coyle Jensen Beach, FL 34958 LNG companies only benefit themselves and all the risk and harm is inflicted upon local communities. They should all be outlawed.

62. Tracey Dare Doral, FL 33172 My family and I love dolphins. Please protect them

63. Gary Barton Dallas, TX 75229 Nature is a finite resource. Its ability to recover from the damage we inflict should not be taken for granted.

64. Judith Livingstone East Dennis, MA 02641 No harassment of Dolphins! Keep our ecosystems healthy!

65. David BillinghamChicago, IL 60641Oil Permits Only Hasten the Demise of Dolphins and the Life of Our Gulf Waters

66. Haroon Khan Houston, TX 77055 Our oceans and their wildlife are dying. Your denial of this permit request is an important step in stemming this tide!

67. Lee Norvitz Homestead, FL 33035 Our sea life is under incredible pressure these days. Please do the right thing by them and the fishers and shrimpers, who carry on the LA legacy, by denying the ELX Pipeline's permit request. As someone who grew up near the Gulf, I have seen how it has suffered enough and needs to recover.

68. erik melear Orlando, FL 32806 Our world to survive is more important than filling greedy pockets with profits from dirty fossil fuel uses.

69. Judy Kessinger Clearwater, FL 33764

Personal Message

70. Ralph Shannon Hudson, FL 34667 Please be humane and act responsibly to keep our waters safe for dolphins and other wildlife. The domains lives depend on your actions, so please be kind and practice emphany.

71. Mary Gutierrez Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548 Please consider the natural ecosystem that will be devastated by this pipeline. We?ve taken over enough, we can?t keep destroying the land without serious consequences.

72. Sharon McNamaraBranford, CT 06405Please consider this important legislation to support wild life and the echo system which is greatly endangered. What is not done now will have dire consequences for all life on earth. Thank you for your consideration.

73. Nadine James Apopka, FL 32703 Please consider this. Our dolphins and ecosystems are so very important. Don't you want our children to have a clean planet and beautiful wildlife to enjoy and inspire them!!??

74. Nancy Meador Harwood, TX 78632 PLEASE DENY PERMIT FOR THE EAST LATERAL XPRESS PIPELINE. OMG!! .

75. Julie Manciagli Auburn, AL 36830 PLEASE DENY THE EAST LATERAL XPRESS PIPELINE PERMIT! THE DOLPHINS ARE A HUGE PART OF OUR ECOSYSTEM. THEY DESERVE OUR SUPPORT AND PROTECTION!!!

76. Mary Ann Plant Hoover, AL 35226 Please deny this harmful pipeline. It is not reasonable to place the affected ecosystem and marine life at risk from pollution and disruption during its implementation and afterward when leaks are inevitable.

77. Marge Pertuit Cinnaminson, NJ 08077 PLEASE deny this permit, for all the reasons below. It is our responsibility to be stewards of the Gulf, the coasts and wildlife.

78. LUIS VEGA

Corpus Christi, TX 78413 Please do all in your power to protect life in Barataria Bay.

79. seymour hakim Philadelphia, PA 19128 Please do NOT approve this pipeline. The gulf and all its sea life including dolphins should not be sacrificed so we can destroy the world with more oil and gas. We need to get OFF of fossil fuels not double down. Please do not approve this misguided idea.

80. Leslie Smoot Owens Cross Roads, AL 35763 Please do the right thing for the people, dolphins and the planet.

81. Ashley HermanFort Worth, TX 76244Please don?t let the pipeline hurt the dolphins or any residents of our beautiful gulf coast!

82. Sunny Rose Trevino Corpus Christi, TX 78404 Please don?t let them hurt our dolphins!

83. Gary Roy WPB, FL 33411 Please don't harm the dolphins! It is not right to sacrifice the dolphins and the livelihood of fishermen for a pipeline. Additionally in order to protect the environment, I do not believe the pipeline should be approved. We do not need any new fossil fuels projects.

84. Gudrun DennisGainesville, FL 32653Please find a way to protect these beautiful creatures as we find new sustainable and economically feasible ways of addressing the needs of our region.

85. Laura Winston Saint Augustine, FL 32084 Please help save the dolphins and the whole planet!

86. Steve Groze Youngsville, LA 70592 please help these majestic beautiful dolphins

87. Joy Keeping Richmond, TX 77406 Please help us! 88. Hanna CaywoodOdon, IN 47562Please prioritize the health of the bay above fossil fuel profits

89. Diane RameyEnglewood, CO 80113Please protect God?s creatures! The dolphins deserve to live without fear if death.

90. Jenny Ramoni New Orleans, LA 70115 Please protect our wildlife and the planet!

91. Dana HermanShell Lake, WI 54871Please put the future of marine wildlife ahead of profits.

92. Sarah Eubanks Live Oak, FL 32060 Please recognize this issue and stop the harm on these marine wildlife.

93. Michael BuescherLewisville, TX 75077Please reject the permit application asking to harass dolphins in Barataria Bay so a pipeline company can ship methane to the Plaquemines LNG export terminal.

94. Linda Reeves Ocala, FL 34476 Please save these folphins!

95. Debra Guendelsberger Fort Garland, CO 81133 Please stop destroying vital wildlife.

96. Erin Stephens Pensacola, FL 32503 Please stop killing the earth and its species.

97. Jeannie DeFerbrache Davenport, FL 33897 Please take the right action to protect these beautiful animals. We look to you to do the best for them.

98. Pat Garcia Austin, TX 78702 Please, please protect our precious ecosystem from any further damage!

99. philip farinelli Cranston, RI 02920 Please!

100. Thomas Monroe Pompano Beach, FL 33064 Please!

101. Evelyn Pendall Syracuse, NY 13203 Please. We must conserve the oceans and save these dolphins

102. Catherine McNamara Orlando, FL 32828 Protect Nature and protect humanity.

103. Catherine T Bushway SAINT CLOUD, FL 34769 Protect nature!!!

104. Beverly Mitchell BoiseBoise, ID 83709 PROTECT THE DOLPHINS! END ALL PIPELINES!!!

105. Jane WileyTampa, FL 33624Protecting wildlife is of utmost importance to me, for doing so also protects human life.Pipelines and fossil fuels damage our environment. It is high time to limit both.

106. Eric Casey Plano, TX 75075 Save our dolphins and not worsening our marine the livelihood of fishers and shrimpers and reject the permit application for a pipeline company to carry methane gas to Plaquemines LNG export terminal. Thank You Mister Wade

107. Lori Hoffman Ft Lauderdale, FL 33306 Save our dolphins!

108. Rocquelle Woods Huntsville, AL, United States, AL 35824 Save our words, animals, mammals, ocean and air 109. Catherine Stevens Bayonet Point, FL 34667 Save the Dolphins in Louisiana from the LNG Buildout! Anything that harms our wildlife ultimately harms our communities. Take action today! Any new fossil fuel infrastructure is now in keeping with ending fossil fuel emisions. We must stop using fossil fuels!

110. Margie Lynch St Petersburg, FL 33710 Save the Gulf and the wildlife!!

111. Lynda SantosIndiana, PA 15701Say No to the East Lateral Pipeline Permit

112. Debra EspinozaEl Paso, TX 79936Sighting dolphins is always a special moment, that always reminds us humans that there is intelligence in other life forms, that we need to be aware of this and that we must respect it."First they came for the dolphins and I did not speak out, and then . . . "

113. Elliott BailiffWoodland Hills, CA 91367Stop Fossil Fuel Polluting the Gulf!

114. Andres Mejides Homestead, FL 33031 Stop murdering the Gulf

115. Lowell A Sasser Ft Pierce, FL 34981 Stop risking our planet for profit!

116. Kathrin Dodds Mission, TX 78573 stop sacrificing our natural resources...when they are gone, they are gone forever !!

117. Martha Gorak

Katy, TX 77450

Supporting the beloved, declining dolphin populations in Barataria Bay, which are which are irreplaceable, are far more important than short-term benefits to big business. Please do the right thing!

118. Glenn Barclift

Jacksonville, FL 32234 THANK YOU.

119. Andy Colee Valparaiso, FL 32580 Thanks for reading my letter and taking action.

120. Rainbow Di Benedetto Austin, TX 78750 Thanks so much for considering my request.

121. James Jaramillo

Santa Fe, NM 87505

The amount of environmental death and destruction on planet earth over the past 10 years is increasing dramatically. Dolphins live near the top of the food chain. If dolphins are having trouble, as the Barataria Bay dolphins clearly are, you can be sure that the entire ecosystem is in danger. The dolphins are TELLING YOU SOMETHING IMPORTANT. Why would you want to knowingly harass them even further? This makes no sense. No amount of money is worth further damage to the ecosystems that keep us alive. Maybe the wealthy can use the private profits they steal by damaging the environment from everyone to live a little longer than the rest of us. But why should we allow them to do this? Why should YOU allow them to do this?

122. Patrick Dannunzio

The Villages, FL 32162

The BP oil spill is one thing. We don't need the East Lateral Xpress Pipeline to be another. Please deny the East Lateral Xpress Pipeline's permit request.

123. Nancy Pope Tarpon Springs, FL 34689 The evil unleashed will return to the purveyors with a vengeance.

124. Adolfo Arabitg SAINT PETERSBURG, FL 33701

The function and underlying principle of representative democracy is that every decision that you make must either not make us less safe, or make us safer. Boy have you failed at that. I assume that you don't actually believe in the Constitution.

125. William Pritchard

Panama City, FL 32409

The Gulf of Mexico dolphin population has already suffered enough as a result of man made environmental impacts. These amazing creatures should be protected not subjected to more insults.

126. Arlene Macintosh

Weston, FL 33327 The health of this area's waters is important to the people who make their living off of the waters in these areas.

127. Dianne Maughan Inverness, FL 34450 The ocean and its animals are more important than a pipeline

128. Doreen SmithwickCarrollton, TX 75007The time has come for wisdom to prevail in government meaning enabling destructive practices based on parasitic greed to STOP.

129. Randall ForemanMetairie, LA 70005These dolphins are, once again, at risk of survival due to the continued exploitation from the oil industry and development. Please act now before it is too late and reject the permit application.

130. Laura VeraDickinson, TX 77539These mammals deserve to live build your pipeline somewhere else.

131. Jean Saja Raymond, MS 39154 They create messes that affect all .

132. Mary ThorntonFort Worth, TX 76111This group of dolphins needs to be allowed to live freely from harm and not exposed to any potential danger.

133. Jeptha Greer II Sylacauga, AL 35151 This is Critical. We cannot endanger dolphins!

134. Chad FuquaHouston, TX 77080This is quote literally a matter of life and death. Please make the responsible choice. Your constituents, as well as millions of other people whom inhabit this planet we all call home.

135. Charles RodriguezSt Petersburg, FL 33701This MUST stop. Please leave this space for the people and wildlife in the Gulf.

136. Nancy Ruth Krauch Pinellas Park, FL 33781 this not be permitted

137. Robert Stark

Houston, TX 77062

this pipeline must be denied! It will threaten the dolphins that inhabit the Barataria Bay and they are still recovering from the 2010 oil spill!

138. Chad Leming

New Orleans, LA 70114

This pipeline will put a strain on dolphin habitats, possibly costing lives & devastation in unfathomable ways. It?s crucial we consider how our production impacts wildlife by destructing their habitats to make room for our development. There has to be a healthier way to find balance, but without taking these things into consideration, or constant consuming, is creating harm in increasingly significant ways to land, waterways, & air. Plus, destroying living organisms & creatures in the process. More thoughtful action needs to be taken, when deciding on infrastructures. Please take this into consideration when making a decision on the ELX, & if it?s mutually beneficial to wildlife & humans? It no longer needs to be an ?us? vs ?them?mentality just because of greed, you have the power to stop that!

139. Law Office of Arna Cortazzo

1303 Avalon Drive, Rockledge, FL 32955, FL 32955

This population of dolphins is already weak and struggling to reproduce. More stress and harassment of these dolphins is bad for Barataria Bay and all people in the region. NOAA and National Marine Fisheries Service musy people people, the environment, and this dolphin population above the interests of pipeline companies. Protect the dolphins of Barataria Bay and say no to East Lateral Express.

140. Celia O'Kelley

Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

This will also pose a significant threat to the livelihoods of a small community in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, of fishers and shrimpers who rely on the health of our fisheries to make a living. Benefit for a few will cause irreparable harm to so many families and marine creatures living in this fragile environment.

141. Kim White

Kissimmee, FL 34741

We ALL have a responsibility to work together in order to Protect and SAVE our Wilderness, Waterways and Environment from senseless Destruction and Poisoning in the name of Ignorance and Greed. We have to SAVE our Wildlife, including The incredibly amazing Dolphins! We have to STOP the senseless killing of our Wildlife out of Ignorance and Greed!!!

142. Amber Abascal

San Antonio, TX 78232

We are responsible for all that is going on in this world and we must do everything for the survival to all! People and all Wildlife and domestic animals! God created us All!

143. Kevin Hartley Kerrville, TX 78028 We cannot keep destroying our environment! We do live on this earth!

144. Analisa Crandall

Adkins, TX 78101

We don?t need another stinking LNG plant! We don?t need to frack. We do need to take care of the communities and the surrounding environments that are being harmed by these very dirty industries. The wetlands are more important than the ephemeral cash flow from either. Stop destroying the planet for some else?s profit?! Good grief! Dolphins are more important than the narcissist in control of any frigging oil or gas company! Greedy men?s lives are valued in dollars and cents versus an endangered species, an endangered ecosystem, an endangered planet which gives life and breathe to every thing on this planet. Please. Let?s take care of those unable to take care of themselves, who have no voice but live with these decisions everyday.

145. Kellie Evilsizer

Austin, TX 78759

We don?t need anymore petrochemical infrastructure in Louisiana. There has already been too much damage done for a limited number of jobs .

146. Debbie Deland

Orlando, FL 32835

We have already done so much harm to our environment in the pursuit of cheap energy. It really needs to stop. In this case in particular, the wildlife at risk are dolphins, an animal that we know to be emotional and very communicative. In addition, it threatens the traditional livelihood of fishers and shrimpers in the region, who should be protected as those who provide us with truly fresh, local seafood. I always enjoy watching the shrimp boats out on the ocean off the Outer Banks and value heading over to Wanchese when the boats come in with their catch. I imagine it's much the same in Barataria Bay.

147. Lyssa Mercier

Frisco, TX 75034

We HAVE to monitor big business because it obviously won't. Our natural (ocean/dolphins) environment supports us too! I'm sure there's a way for the energy company to do this such that there is no natural impact......they just don't want to spend the money!

148. Pamela MoomanAngleton, TX 77515We must protect these important dolphins. Please do your part.

149. Sharon AlexanderDe Leon, TX 76444We must save all our marine wildlife!! Stop all pipelines n drilling now!! Our planet is now very fragile, the plastics in the ocean are killing our precious marine wildlife n our fish. Please stop this insanity now!!

150. Jacqueline Zimmerman Palm Beach, FL 33480 We must stop endangering our oceans and the species that live there. If we were those dolphins, we wouldn't want that done to us!

151. Cary deVroedtGainesville, FL 32607We need the dolphins as part of our environment and life.

152. Mark GoodmanDallas, TX 75248We need to save these beautiful creatures..Everyone knows that if one species becomes extinct, it affects other species Oil spills are so deadly to animals and our environment

153. Lisa MazzolaTampa, FL 33612We need to transition away from all fossil fuels.

154. Erin Eitel249 Adeline Dr, TX 78640We share the water with these creatures.

155. Malaine Foster

Lakeland, FL 33809

When I was in graduate school I studied the lives & behaviors of dolphins. They are important members of our gulf coast marine ecosystem and are among the most intelligent mammals as well. Their communication systems, their ?language? has inspired researchers and the general public for centuries. They should not be sacrificed while greedy, destructive, polluting business sacrifice this amazing mammal population AND humans as well who come in contact with this proposed heinous business venture.

156. Megan McDonald Huntsville, AL 35803 Why don't we treat all living creatures the way we want to be treated. We are supposed to me the most intelligent of all creatures.

157. Marie Sophia Vassilakidis Houston, TX 77057 Wild places and wildlife are important to my family and me!

158. Kimberley Stoecklein Brooksville, FL 34601 Wildlife should come first? Even in the gulf.

159. Pamela Miller Tolar, TX 76476 Would you want to swim in polluted waters?

160. Michael Curry Austin, TX 78703

161. Veronica Rossetti Jensen Beach, FL 34957

162. Jane Schnee Sebastian, FL 32958

163. Ted Von Hippel South Daytona, FL 32119

164. Vitra García Miami Shores, FL 33138

166. Lou Dhahran Honolulu, HI 96826

167. Kathy Newman San Antonio, TX 78250

168. Jim Titus Sioux City, IA 51106

169. David Zambie Austin, TX 78727

170. Karen McKinley Smith Eastlake, OH 44095

171. Teresa Woods Wesley Chapel, FL 33543

172. Catherine Van Zanten

Austin, TX 78757

173. CATHERINE TETZLAFF HOBE SOUND, FL 33455

174. Denise Bossarte Houston, TX 77064

175. Ardeth Brodie Houston, TX 77062

176. Dietlinde Wolf Miami, FL 33136

177. Dallas Windham Irving, TX 75038

178. Peter Hermann Boerne, TX 78006

179. Karen Sharkey Rockledge, FL 32955

180. gabrielle Granofsky Brooksville, FL 34602

181. Linda Novkov Cape Coral, FL 33909

182. Jaimie Whitbread Coppell, TX 75019

183. Kaneisha Lewis Fort Worth, TX 76123

184. Marilyn Lee Florence, AL 35630

185. clyde stanley Minden, LA 71055

186. Peggy Moody Gwinn, MI 49841 187. Robert Kelley Conroe, TX 77304

188. Ray Telfair Whitehouse, TX 75791

189. Bruce Troutman Key West, FL 33040

190. Tom Anderson Silver Springs, FL 34488

191. Russell Posch Temple, TX 76504

192. Paulo Kelly Naples, FL 34110

193. Kevin Murphy Richardson, TX 75080

194. David Sime Titusville, FL 32780

195. Bruce Zivley Wimberley, TX 78676

196. Elena Rhodes Gainesville, FL 32607

197. Robin Yates Houston, TX 77059

198. Penny Noriega Lutz, FL 33549

199. Betsy Cruckshank Clearwater, FL 33755

200. Colin Flynn Jacksonville, FL 32205

201. Cat Smith Niceville, FL 32578 202. Mobi Warren Don't, TX 78232

203. Natasha Kline Saint Augustine, FL 32086

204. Adrienne Inglis Lago Vista, TX 78645

205. Stephanie Honore Kissimmee, FL 34746

206. Carol Nicholson Alachua, FL 32615

207. Carol Woronow Houston, TX 77070

208. Leigh C Corpus Christi, TX 78411

209. Andrea Chisari Mims, FL 32754

210. Debra Wile The Villages, FL 32162

211. Jennifer Jenkins Houston, TX 77071

212. Randall Speck Fort Myers, FL 33908

213. Marilyn Coronado Miami, FL 33162

214. Deann Darling Arlington, TX 76011

215. Tracey Bonner Arlington, TX 76014

216. Sissi Asperti

Miami Beach, FL 33139

217. Jeanne Stangle Slidell, LA 70460

218. Tammy Lettieri Coconut Creek, FL 33066

219. Yareli Ortega Fort Worth, TX 76106

220. Sandra Baillie Ocala, FL 34472

221. judy mickey Naples, FL 34109

222. James Bryson Houston, TX 77015

223. Carol Grimm San Marcos, TX 78666

224. Robert Posch Orlando, FL 32825

225. Diane M Berry Cedar Park, TX 78613

226. Diana Cowans Bradenton, FL 34209

227. Traver Cowles Branford, CT 06405

228. Daryl Barowicz Tallahassee, FL 32311

229. Karen Spradlin Jacksonville, AL 36265

230. Diana Ward Saint Petersburg, FL 33713 231. Fay Bracken Winter Garden, FL 34787

232. Reginald Presley Miami, FL 33170

233. Wayne Harris Bradenton, FL 34203

234. Laura Long Cedar Creek, TX 78612

235. Rod Stokes Valrico, FL 33596

236. Gail Flanders Coral Gables, FL 33134

237. Darvin Oliver Mart, TX 76664

238. Robert Gonzalez Corpus Christi, TX 78413

239. Pam Wolf Punta Gorda, FL 33950

240. Leah Stables San Mateo, FL 32187

241. Kelly Epstein Spring, TX 77379

242. Steven Cook Seminole, FL 33778

243. Douglas Rives Wheeler, TX 79096

244. Geri Ott Matlacha, - 33993

245. Brian Wilson Coral Gables, FL 33134 246. Jeffrey Bains The Villages, FL 32159

247. Susan Schlessinger Port Saint Lucie, FL 34953

248. Jimmy Anderson Garland, TX 75044

249. Debbie Dossey New Caney, TX 77357

250. Alfred Jonas Biscayne Park, FL 33161

251. ALEJANDRA PARAPAR Key Biscayne, FL 33149

252. Holly Crawford Coral Gables, FL 33134

253. Nancy Warlick Orlando, FL 32803

254. Mary Cato Arlington, TX 76012

255. Lisa Wegman Wichita Falls, TX 76310

256. Alfonso Lopez San Antonio, TX 78237

257. Lisa Tsokos HOUSTON, TX 77005

258. Barbara Zupko Mary Esther, FL 32569

259. Lynn Nelson Atlantic Beach, FL 32233

260. Jo Jones

Clearwater, FL 33764

261. Janet Robinson Jacksonville, FL 32223

262. John Lundborg Livingston, TX 77399

263. Paul Hansen Austin, TX 78727

264. Brant Kotch Houston, TX 77024

265. Gina Stiff Kissimmee, FL 34747

266. Michelle Mondragon Altamonte Springs, FL 32701

267. William Baker Mineral Wells, TX 76067

268. Paul Fields Canton, TX 75103

269. Steve Willingham Largo, FL 33777

270. lynn marlen Panama City, FL 32401

271. Leah Overbeck Ocklawaha, FL 32179

272. Sean Vennett Tampa, FL 33679

273. Cynthia Osborn Huntsville, TX 77320

274. Janine Kwarcinski Parrish, FL 34219 275. Johnny & Karen Armstrong Ruston, LA 71270

276. Whitney Cloud Hawley, TX 79525

277. Vicki Wheeler Deshler, OH 43516

278. Stephen Cohen Palm Coast, FL 32137

279. Barbara Fite Lutz, FL 33549

280. Pat Vassilakidis Houston, TX 77006

281. Vicki Gorman Houston, TX 77021

282. Xiomara Jean-louis Coral Springs, FL 33071

283. Amy Kohlert Spring, TX 77388

284. Jo Mcmillan Ocala, FL 34476

285. iris Shelton Jacksonville, FL 32221

286. Catherine Croom Bulverde, TX 78163

287. Gloria Diggle Fort White, FL 32038

288. Jamie Bechtelheimer Dallas, TX 75228

289. Gordon Seyfarth The Villages, FL 32162 290. Eric Dallin Gulfport, MS 39503

291. Michael Stuart Wilton Manors, FL 33334

292. Martin Becker Marco Island, FL 34145

293. Patricia Reeves Bradenton, FL 34208

294. Alexandra Zeledon Plantation, FL 33317

295. Ann Friedman Taylor, TX 76574

296. Jennifer Gage Palm Harbor, FL 34685

297. Mary Babineau Saint Petersburg, FL 33703

298. William Fisk Palm Bay, FL 32905

299. Rita Garvey Clearwater, FL 33756

300. Monika Apathy Englewood, FL 34223

301. Katherine Dooley Saint Petersburg, FL 33702

302. Lisa Bailey Mountain Brook, AL 35223

303. Glenn E Richton, MS 39476

304. Michele Laporte

Lakeland, FL 33803

305. Barbara Schwartz Ocala, FL 34470

306. Silvia Hall Boca Raton, FL 33431

307. SANDRA MONT Orange, TX 77630

308. Patricia Patterson Wewahitchka, FL 32465

309. Vicky Rey Hudson, FL 34667

310. Jerry Lee Tuscaloosa, AL 35404

311. Michael Kugler Oxford, FL 34484

312. Deb E Richton, MS 39476

313. Liz Murphy Austin, TX 78751

314. Amanda Winters 2110 W Slaughter Ln, TX 78748

315. JANET C DAVIS Gerrardstown, WV 25420

316. Rebecca Boetto El Paso, TX 79912

317. Randolph Streng Dallas, TX 75243

318. Claudia Miranda Lake Mary, FL 32746 319. Christine Gasco Tarpon Springs, FL 34689

320. James Roberts Dallas, TX 75205

321. Juliann Bratcher OCALA, FL 34482

322. Rebecca Jones Clearwater, FL 33762

323. J Dougherty Sanford, FL 32773

324. Lisa Roof Del Rio, TX 78840

325. Benjamin Ochshorn Tampa, FL 33612

326. Laurie Campbell Port Charlotte, FL 33981

327. Linda Singer Huntsville, AL 35801

328. Carol Murray Sarasota, FL 34238

329. Larry Lewis Apopka, FL 32703

330. Kylara Hunter Donna, TX 78537

331. Lisa Thompson Seminole, FL 33776

333. Louis Reichert Boynton Beach, FL 33437

334. Eric West PT ORANGE, FL 32127 335. Elizabeth Yow Georgetown, TX 78626

336. R B Palm Bay, FL 32905

337. Miranda O'shields Fort Payne, AL 35967

338. Elizabeth Scherbak Venice, FL 34293

339. Christine Guldi Dallas, TX 75248

340. Barbara Najarian ST PETERSBURG, FL 33712

341. Philip Ritter Surprise, AZ 85388

342. Marajean Graham Devine, TX 78016

343. Paul Christmas Grand Prairie, TX 75050

344. Lori Oliveira Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418

345. Duncan Brown Canyon, TX 79015

346. Maureen Burke Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418

347. Frank Blake Houston, TX 77006

348. Deborah Walker Palm Harbor, FL 34685

349. Juli Kring

Houston, TX 77099

350. Paul Carvalho El Paso, TX 79912

351. KAREN E BAUM Palestine, TX 75801

352. Von Peacock LAREDO, TX 78043

353. Carol Ohlendorf Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202

354. Lorene A Hollywood, FL 33026

355. Carole Poholek Miami, FL 33136

356. Denise Lemessy Miami, FL 33166

357. Fran Siegfried Dunnellon, FL 34432

358. David Hancock Miami, FL 33133

359. Ian Scofield Liberty Hill, TX 78642

360. David Garfinkle Tarzana, CA 91356

361. Linda Headley Cross City, FL 32628

362. Paul O'Byrne Thonotosassa, FL 33592

363. Linda Fielder Carrollton, TX 75006 364. Judy Moran Panama City, FL 32404

365. Scott Fershleiser New Port Richey, FL 34652

366. BONNIE GLISSON HOUSTON, TX 77025

367. Kim Jones Indian Harbour Beach, FL 32937

368. Mark Koritz Atlanta, GA 30338

369. Susan Hayes Homosassa, FL 34448

370. Catharina Bernabei Miami, FL 33165

371. Susan Caruso Fort White, FL 32038

372. Carol Pennington Manchaca, TX 78652

373. Eleanor Parisi Saint Petersburg, FL 33703

374. Eric Katz Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410

375. JUDY LANDRESS Ozona, TX 76943

376. Alex Zajac Wellington, FL 33449

377. Giselle Whitwell Austin, Texas, TX 78734

378. Mary Puccini Dallas, TX 75243 379. A Martin Garland, TX 75044

380. Lisa Williams Jacksonville, FL 32210

381. Winifred Mears Orlando, FL 32821

382. Ida Nissen Pensacola, FL 32503

383. Heidi Hickman Irving, TX 75038

384. Amy Anderson Spring Hill, FL 34609

385. Meaghan Leavitt St. Petersburg, FL 33710

386. Ewa and Zbigniew Stein Port Charlotte, FL 33948

387. Joseph Ray Jacksonville, FL 32206

388. Judith Gurule Dickinson, TX 77539

389. steve Lucas boca raton, FL 33487

390. Tina Beedle Milton, FL 32570

391. William Forbes Nacogdoches, TX 75963

392. Gwenn Schemer Wellington, FL 33414

393. Dorothy Kobylanski

Port Orange, FL 32129

394. Rev Margaret Raynolds Saint Petersburg, FL 33704

395. Todd Richardson Odessa, TX 79761

396. Cindy Vincelette Livingston, TX 77399

397. Lily Rerecich Austin, TX 78739

398. DeSean Freeman Pike Road, AL 36064

399. Marian Ryan Winter Haven, FL 33880

400. Elizabeth Watts Boynton Beach, FL 33436

401. Jenny Bramlette Wesley Chapel, FL 33545

402. Bettina Moser Gainesville, FL 32607

403. Tara Roberts Apalachicola, FL 32320

404. Christi Heilbronner San Antonio, TX 78252

405. Saralee Le Maire Micanopy, FL 32667

406. Katharyn Reiser Austin, TX 78704

407. David Cagle Jacksonville, FL 32277 408. A Patterson Dallas, TX 75218

409. Diane Miller Leesburg, FL 34748

410. Juan Huerta San Antonio, TX 78228

411. Cheryl Stevens Rancho Viejo, TX 78575

412. Donna Burrows Houston, TX 77072

413. CHERYL A CUSELLA Delray Beach, FL 33484

414. Steven G. Kellman Shavano Park, TX 78231

415. Jill Janda Sanibel, FL 33957

416. Penny Fleischman Bushnell, FL 33513

417. Sue Simmons Port Arthur, TX 77642

418. Myra Dewhurst Nokomis, FL 34275

419. Sandra Boylston Sanford, FL 32773

421. Sarah K Birmingham, AL 35213

423. J. Morley Schloss Loxahatchee, FL 33470

424. Cindy Harkness Lubbock, TX 79413 425. Chanin Tong Sarasota, FL 34232

426. Marguerite Donnay Melbourne, FL 32940

427. Joanne Burton Gainesville, FL 32608

428. Joseph VanBlargan Dallas, TX 75214

429. Scott Swanson Austin, TX 78704

430. Diane Moore Dallas, TX 75205

431. Madalynn Carey San Antonio, TX 78230

432. Sharon Cloninger Austin, TX 78757

433. Gloria Morrison Pecos, TX 79772

434. Chris Kotschi Fort Worth, TX 76120

435. Marian Erwin Parrish, FL 34219

436. Gary Hild Navasota, TX 77868

437. Barbara Johnson Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418

438. Holly Farish-Hunt Gainesville, FL 32608

439. Gerald Phipps

Gainesville, FL 32608

440. Bill Langer Hollywood, FL 33026

441. Terrie Smith Spring Valley, CA 91977

442. Lynn Hoang Fullerton, CA 92833

443. Jeffrey Pennell Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410

444. Elisabeth Sommer El Paso, TX 79912

445. Roland Hutson Austin, TX 78745

446. Cynthia Hoffmann Gilroy, CA 95020

447. Dennis Schafer San Antonio, TX 78214

448. Nataliya Yakovleva Largo, FL 33770

449. David Smith CEDAR PARK, TX 78641

450. Ariel Hoover Sanibel, FL 33957

451. Mark Bedgood Corsicana, TX 75110

452. alina szostak Miami, FL 33125

453. Joe and Fran Aguirre Denver, CO 80211

454. Katherine Brown New York, NY 10038

455. Judi Travis Delray Beach, FL 33446

456. L Borgen Harker Heights, TX 76548

457. Daniel D San Antonio, TX 78260

458. Carolyn Hawks Pensacola, FL 32506

459. Thomas Wolfsohn San Marcos, TX 78666

460. Martha Singleton Miami, FL 33143

461. Debra Hoven Palm Harbor, FL 34684

462. Margaret Weiss Canyon Lake, TX 78133

463. Vivian Blow Monroe, LA 71201

464. ALAN HART Metairie, LA 70001

465. CHRISTOPHER COFFMAN Ocala, FL 34473

466. Scott Jennings New Orleans, LA 70118

467. Debra Guel Round Rock, TX 78711

468. Barbara Fleischer Metairie, LA 70003 469. Gilda Levinson Coral Springs, FL 33071

470. Lisa Li Jacksonville, FL 32218

471. Craig Nazor Austin, TX 78758

472. Pascale Clerie Homestead, FL 33032

473. Leslie Smith San Marcos, TX 78666

474. Thomas Thompson Hobe Sound, FL 33455

475. Gerry and Louise Fitzgerald Sanibel, FL 33957

476. Ann Marie Teder Chardon, OH 44024

477. Greg Sells Austin, TX 78741

478. Gwendolyn Wood Miami Lakes, FL 33014

479. David Klingensmith Eugene, OR 97401

480. Wendy Wish Winter Park, FL 32792

481. Hilda Gilman St Augustine, FL 32084

482. Leslie O'Loughlin Amarillo, TX 79106

483. Jeanne Jordan

Carrollton, TX 75007

484. Lucy Hart Encino, CA 91316

485. Susan Lefler Livingston, TX 77399

486. Stacey Mazza Myakka City, FL 34251

487. Zachary Rosenberg El Paso, TX 79936

488. Sandra Varvel El Paso, TX 79907

489. Margaret Schulenberg Round Rock, TX 78664

490. Annie Caton Brenham, TX 77833

491. Gregory Chandler Jr Huntsville, AL 35803

492. DeAnna Wiley St. Pete., FL 33709

493. Lynda Prather Tampa, FL 33602

494. Kathy Aub Boca Raton, FL 33431

495. Shawn Russell Sanford, FL 32771

496. Jeffrey M Holstein Clearwater, FL 33756

497. John Evrard Cocoa, FL 32926 498. arline lohli Trinity, FL 34655

499. Sandy Geis St Petersburg, FL 33714

500. Rebecca Cowart orlando, FL 32810

501. Elizabeth Hope Corona Homosassa, FL 34448

502. Malgorzata Marjanska-Fish Indialantic, FL 32903

503. Sue Sefscik Dunnellon, FL 34431

504. James Teas Palmetto Bay, FL 33157

506. Rachel Fickey Palestine, TX 75803

507. Laura Devlin st augustine, FL 32080

508. Helen May Atlantic Beach, FL 32233

509. Donna Shaw Simi Valley, CA 93065

510. Gayle Tolchin Boca Raton, FL 33498

511. Sharon Peariso Leesburg, FL 34748

512. David Mulcihy Houston, TX 77058

513. Kathi Ward Saint Petersburg, FL 33704 514. Dianna Burton Amarillo, TX 79109

515. Rick Petryk Ft. Lauderdael, FL 33301

516. Oron Bass High Springs, FL 32643

517. Rob Self Chicago, IL 60631

518. Damien Condo North Palm Beach, FL 33408

519. J White Deerfield Bch, FL 33442

520. Mary Montanus Orlando, FL 32806

521. Kathy Grafer Weston, FL 33326

522. Ralph Horton Longwood, FL 32779

523. Michele Birdwell Melbourne Beach, FL 32951

524. Judith Hankins Jacksonville, FL 32207

525. Jarrod Simmons Plaquemine, LA 70764

526. Mary Donohoe Dripping Springs, TX 78620

527. Kaiba White Austin, TX 78741

528. Susanne Hesse & Doug Dyer

Alachua, FL 32615

529. Teresa Stringer Ocklawaha, FL 32179

530. Jan Moore Dunedin, FL 34698

531. Karen Branen Orlando, FL 32817

532. Katika Chuon Atlantic Beach, FL 32233

533. Jeannine Dorroh Huntsville, AL 35811

534. Pat Perry Tyler, TX 75701

535. Richard Fowlkes Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459

536. Cheryl Abbott Cocoa, FL 32927

537. Nancy Stevens Tampa, FL 33606

538. Pam Seerden Spring, TX 77388

539. Jennifer Veitenheimer Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076

540. Leonora Xhrouet Davie, FL 33328

541. Denise Inkel Bal Harbour, FL 33154

542. Nancy Carl Carlton, OR 97111 543. Jean Thomad Houston, TX 77068

544. Margaret Creed Orlando, FL 32837

545. Francis Stone Virginia Beach, VA 23464

546. Patty Mark Saint Augustine, FL 32084

547. Julia Wenzel Winter Haven, FL 33881

548. Lilian Burch Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304

549. Lisa Bass St Johns, FL 32259

550. Lisa Rodgers Sarasota, FL 34237

551. linda kitchen oak park, IL 60304

552. Betty Dean St. Augustine, FL 32086

553. Deirdre Fowler Burlington, WI 53105

554. David Lord Coconut Creek, FL 33073

555. Michelle Berlinger Leander, TX 78641

556. Evelyn Adams McKinney, TX 75071

557. Deepak Dadlani Miami, FL 33131 558. Susan Hill Sarasota, FL 34238

559. Fraces Lange San Antonio, TX 78207

560. Michael Reed Dallas, TX 75214

561. Harriet Levine San Antonio, TX 78213

562. Margaret Moncure Kingwood, TX 77339

563. Thomas Lesley Birmingham, AL 35206

565. Catherine Parsley Dallas, TX 75205

566. Wendy Baxter-Kennedy Sarasota, FL 34239

567. Don Faulk Austin, TX 78749

568. LINDALIND REID Texas City, TX 77590

569. Tiffany Gross Saint Augustine, FL 32084

570. Janelle Murphy Texas City, TX 77590

571. Carol Drabin Jupiter, FL 33478

572. Gary Shephard Watauga, TX 76148

573. Jean Toler

Flagler Beach, FL 32136

574. Kate Bremer blanco, TX 78606

575. Alicia Gallagher Benicia, CA 94510

577. Marce Walsh Houston, TX 77066

578. George Cole WESTERLY, RI 02891

579. George Saucedo El Paso, TX 79902

580. Kathy Schatzle Metairie, LA 70001

581. Victoria Buchwald Clearwater, FL 33764

582. Fred Suhr McAllen, TX 78504

583. Marianne Lazarus Melbourne, FL 32940

584. Kim Domangue Houma, LA 70364

585. Evelyn Webert Princeton, TX 75407

586. Elida Macdonald Clearwater, FL 33765

587. Barbara James Lake Worth Beach, FL 33460

588. Sarah Sudheer Austin, TX 78750 589. Pamela Kane Bedminster, NJ 07921

590. Terry Travelute Venice, FL 34285

591. Thomas Dean Tallahassee, FL 32312

592. jenna baiamonte Melbourne, FL 32940

593. Jackie Feliciano Bradenton, FL 34203

594. Bev Griffiths Trinity, FL 34655

595. Marybeth Tepper St Augustine, FL 32092

597. Mindy Le Titusville, FL 32780

598. Kerrin Meyer Austin, TX 78723

599. Kim Keller Rockledge, FL 32955

600. Peg Runnels Austin, TX 78759

601. Nellie Medlin Holly Springs, MS 38635

602. Jeri Romero Hallandale Beach, FL 33009

603. Heather Fraelick Chicago, IL 60647

604. Kathryn Lemoine West Monroe, LA 71291 605. Susan Brooks Port Charlotte, FL 33953

606. Susan Knabeschuh Beaumont, TX 77706

607. Ella McRae DADE CITY, FL 33523

608. Susan Nichols Kingwood, TX 77339

609. Julie Runion Cocoa, FL 32922

610. Beverly Thomas Wallkill, NY 12589

611. Marc Gill San Antonio, TX 78216

612. Philip Vet and Elyce Remmel Henderson, NV 89012

613. William Fehrs Orange Park, FL 32073

614. Jean Cameron Gainesville, FL 32606

615. Mary Laskowski Spring, TX 77389

616. richard acosta miami, FL 33155

617. Darlene Messer Austin, TX 78745

618. Sue Safford Tallahassee, FL 32301

619. Laura Glover

Nokesville, VA 20181

620. Kaylee Agans Macomb, IL 61455

621. Kathryn Melton Deer Park, TX 77536

622. Nadia Diaz Garibay MIDLAND, TX 79701

623. Marian McCurdy Bulverde, TX 78163

624. Tim Glover Micco, FL 32976

625. Carmen Blakely Lutz, FL 33559

626. Jane Schwamberger Seffner, FL 33584

627. Amber Shay MARIETTA, PA 17547

628. Patricia Emmert Austin, TX 78741

629. Miriam Clark Lake Helen, FL 32744

630. Pamela Paul Safety Harbor, FL 34695

631. Elaine Byrne Austin, TX 78717

632. Claudia Schmid Miami, FL 33145

633. Kay Brainerd Belleville, MI 48111 634. Susan DeWitt Largo, FL 33770

635. William lannone Fort Myers, FL 33919

636. Bruna Laurent Palm Bay, FL 32908

637. DeAnna Blank Waupaca, WI 54981

638. Holly Stuart Salt Lake City, UT 84102

639. Judith Wilson Naples, FL 34108

640. Tammy Harman Land O Lakes, FL 34637

641. Nadia Traietti Austin, TX 78736

642. Evie Mancino Tampa, FL 33618

643. Vanessa Van Doorne New Braunfels, TX 78132

644. Ann Tretter St Pete Beach, FL 33706

645. Karen Iverson Clearwater, FL 33764

646. John Davis Satellite Beach, FL 32937

647. Rachel Arnone Bradenton, FL 34202

648. Art Hanson Lansing, MI 48917 649. Karishma Chatterjee Arlington, TX 76016

650. Nicholas Frederick Erath, LA 70533

651. Peter Monie San Antonio, TX 78232

652. Lyn Taylor St Petersburg, FL 33704

653. Andre Meaux West Palm Beach, FL 33409

654. Scott McCarthy Gainesville, FL 32609

655. Annie Dwight Key Largo, FL 33037

656. Maggie Lauer Clearwater, FL 33756

657. Claire Bush Austin, TX 78722

658. Caleb Merendino Hollywood, FL 33020

659. Sonora Hudson Houston, TX 77023

660. Theresa Gerace Langhorne, PA 19047

661. Janene Lindholm PFLUGERVILLE, TX 78660

662. Heather Woodman Orlando, FL 32825

663. Lauren Tozzi

Seattle, WA 98103

664. tami schreurs Boynton, FL 33472

665. REBECCA H Acuna Orlando, FL 32803

666. Meredith McGuire Bulverde, TX 78163

667. Kathryn Flood Stuart, FL 34997

668. Lauretta Finiguerra New Orleans, LA 70113

669. Terry Burns San Antonio, TX 78216

670. Maureen Kowsky SEMINOLE, FL 33772

671. Kathy Cott Mesquite, TX 75149

672. Joan West Plano, TX 75074

673. Kenneth Turner Bryan, TX 77802

674. Sarah McGee Killlen, AL 35645

675. L M Cypress, TX 77433

676. Mister Wade 1000 Biscayne Blvd, FL 33136

677. Solomon Blecher New York, NY 10009 678. Cynthia Engel Dallas, TX 75238

679. Lynne Mattingly Coleman, TX 76834

680. Barbara Hicks Sarasota, FL 34243

681. Terry Shelton Hobe Sound, FL 33455

682. Mary Lou Zeis Hamburg, NY 14075

683. Barbara Abraham Hampton, VA 23661

684. Dr. Susan Brooks Port Charlotte, FL 33953

685. Riah Wemple pittsburg, CA 94565

686. Thomas Jaudzemis South Padre Island, TX 78597

687. Dirk Rogers Wichita Falls, TX 76301

688. Helen Goldenberg Tamarac, FL 33321

689. Mitzi duBois Milton, FL 32570

690. Heather Johnson LYNN HAVEN, FL 32444

691. annso laurent Carrollton, TX 78000

692. anne sophie Luenrt Carrollton, TX 75010 693. Jan Rose Hewitt, NJ 07421

694. Joni Wilson Houston, TX 77070

695. Corinne Ramsey Helena, AL 35080

696. Suzanne Ivy Paige, TX 78659

697. Stephanie Gilbert Pelham, AL 35124

698. Jennifer Yacio Arlington, TX 76012

700. Kaylee Dickerson Jacksonville, FL 32223

701. Neil McQueen Corpus Christi, TX 78412

702. Melanie Lipton Sarasota, FL 34241

703. Dawn Ohlsson Sarasota, FL 34231

704. Stephanie Moya Spring, TX 77388

705. Roddy Hughes , - 87106

706. Linda Jones Cornville, AZ 86325

707. Jerry Christiansen Dripping Springs, TX 78620

708. Nancy Bliss

Orlando, FL 32822

709. Julie Witek CINCINNATI, OH 45249

710. Linda Smithe Jupiter, FL 33458

712. Andria Childs Winter Garden, FL 34787

713. Joyce Basciano Austin, TX 78703

714. Shane O'Shea Humble, MA 77396

715. Karyn Ann Kowaleski Cape Coral, FL 33909

716. Sandra Remilien North Miami, FL 33161

717. Benjamin Alpers Austin, TX 78721

718. Melanie Sinclair Austin, TX 78745

719. Deborah Longman-Marien Melbourne, FL 32940

720. Denise Jones Conroe, TX 77305

721. Lynn O'Brien Jacksonville, FL 32225

722. Anil Prabhakar Cedar Park, TX 78613

723. Henry Schneiderman Parrish, FL 34219 725. Jim Aldrich Tallahassee, FL 32317

726. Frances Howell-Coleman Winter Haven, FL 33881

727. Jennifer Manderfeld San Antonio, TX 78212

728. Aaron Moore Rockwall, TX 75087

729. H Ande SSsp, MN 55075

730. Melony Boley Huntington, WV 25701

731. Elyse Coulson Winter Park, FL 32792

732. Jamey Ray Richmond, TX 77407

733. Michelle Pierro Spokane, WA 99205

735. Vesa Kaakkuriniemi , - 11742

736. Jane Markley Festus, MO 63028

737. Helen Hays Walnut Creek, CA 94595

738. Mary Helms Tallahassee, FL 32309

739. Joaquin Villarreal Brownsville, TX 78526

740. Paul Eisenberg , - 21210 741. Alec Thorp Yorktown Heights, NY 10598

742. Nicole Bembenek Wauwatosa, WI 53222

743. Debra Bogan St Francisville, LA 70775

744. Betty Sehres Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202

746. Anna K Corpus Christi, TX 78410

747. Annmarie McCann Venice, FL 34293

748. Jamie Gross Pembroke Pines, FL 33027

749. Daniel Gormley Sarasota, FL 34243

750. Katherine Hobbs Chesapeake, VA 23320

751. Christy Folk Orlando, FL 32804

752. Tiffany McEachern Temple, TX 76504

753. Suzanne Fejes Pompano Beach, FL 33062

754. Cheryl Robison Fort Worth, TX 76107

755. Ann Berringer Tampa, FL 33618

756. Diane Langejans

Irvine, CA 92606

757. Robert Akerley DELAND, FL 32720

758. Jacky Kusterer McKinney, TX 75071

759. Nage Kaushik Austin, TX 78753

760. Christian Richer Corpus Christi, TX 78413

761. Lisa Stone Houston, TX 77096

762. Jacqueline Grote Plano, TX 75024

763. Keith Cutler SARASOTA, FL 34234

764. Analyn Urpi PLANO, TX 75024

766. Don Barnhill League City, TX 77573