

**U. S. COMMISSION ON OCEAN POLICY  
(Gulf of Mexico Region)  
Follow-up Inquiry**

Recent correspondence from Admiral James Watkins contained the following supplemental question regarding LOOP's testimony before the U. S. Commission on Ocean Policy (Gulf of Mexico Region) on March 7-8, 2002:

**LOOP must have to deal with a tangle of Federal, State and local laws and regulations. How, in your opinion should the regulatory regime be simplified to be more user friendly for LOOP while at the same time still providing the highest standards of human safety and environmental protection?**

In response, we offer the following:

*In large measure, the system of regulation utilized in the oversight of deepwater port activities has been quite successful as well as user-friendly. When the enabling legislation was passed and original licenses were issued to LOOP, lead agencies were designated at both the federal and state levels to coordinate regulatory and permitting issues, essentially eliminating the potential for conflicting requirements and expectations. At the federal level, the U. S. Coast Guard coordinates all agency activity relative to deepwater port issues and the Louisiana Offshore Terminal Authority performs the same role on behalf of the State of Louisiana. While the periodic rotation of agency personnel in key oversight positions can affect the efficiency of the process, this regime has facilitated a coordinated approach to deepwater port regulation.*