



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

*National Marine Fisheries Service*

*P.O. Box 21668*

*Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668*

November 26, 2003

Randall F. Smith  
Director, Office of Water  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 10  
1200 Sixth Avenue  
Anchorage, Alaska 99513

RE: NPDES permit number AK-000039-6  
Cook Inlet Pipeline Drift River Terminal

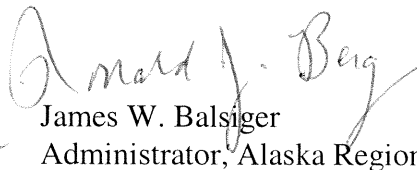
Attn: Cindi Godsey

Dear Mr. Smith:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has reviewed the draft permit and fact sheet for the proposed re-issuance of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for the Cook Inlet Pipeline Company (CIPL). Re-authorization of the NPDES permit would allow for the continued discharge of treated ballast water to an unnamed ditch along with an intermittent discharge of domestic wastewater from the platform Christy Lee into Cook Inlet, Alaska.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has determined that the issuance of the NPDES permit is not likely to have an adverse effect on Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) in the vicinity of the discharges. EPA maintains that requirements such as specific effluent limitations, monitoring and reporting requirements, and the requirement to develop and implement a Best Management Practices Plan, are protective of overall water quality. NMFS concurs that the described action will have minimal impact to EFH, and will not result in any substantive adverse effect. No further EFH Assessment is required. NMFS does not offer any EFH conservation recommendations, and further EFH consultation is not necessary. Moreover, NMFS does not expect any threatened or endangered species under our jurisdiction to occur in the vicinity of the proposed discharge sites. Therefore, NMFS has no objection to the proposed re-authorization of the discharges associated with the Drift River Terminal.

Sincerely,

  
James W. Balsiger  
Administrator, Alaska Region

cc: OHMP, ADEC, USFWS, JPO - Anchorage

