



TETRA TECH EC, INC.

February 27, 2008

Shane Guan  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Room Number 13756  
1315 East West Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

**RE: Northeast Gateway Deepwater Port Project Incidental Harassment Authorization Request**

Dear Mr. Guan:

On behalf of Northeast Gateway Energy Bridge L.L.C. (Northeast Gateway), Tetra Tech EC, Inc submits this request in accordance with 50 CFR 216.104 for Incidental Harassment Authorizations (IHAs) for the “taking” of small numbers of marine mammals incidental to the proposed action described herein or to make a finding that incidental take is unlikely to occur.

On May 14, 2007 Maritime Administration (MARAD) issued a License to Northeast Gateway to own, construct, and operate a Deepwater Port for the import and regasification of LNG located approximately 13 miles (21 kilometers) offshore of Gloucester, Massachusetts in federal waters approximately 270 to 290 feet (82 to 88 meters) in depth. This facility will deliver regasified LNG to onshore markets via new and existing pipeline facilities owned and operated by Algonquin Gas Transmission Company (Algonquin). Construction of the Port was completed in December of 2007 and the Port was commissioned for operation by the USCG in February 2008.

In October 2006, Northeast Gateway submitted its original application to the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for an IHA. The IHA was approved in May 2007, and subsequently amended on November 30, 2007. Level B take for incidental harassment was granted for the North Atlantic right whale, (*Eubalaena glacialis*), humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), fin whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*), pilot whale (*Globicephala* spp.), Atlantic white-sided dolphin (*Lagenorhynchus acutus*), common dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*), harbor porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*), harbor seal (*Phocac vitulina*), and gray seal (*Halichoerus grypus*) for the construction and operational period of May 8, 2007 through May 7, 2008.

Northeast Gateway recognizes the efforts by the NMFS that has already taken place to evaluate the potential take of marine mammal as a result of project activities. Given that the NMFS November

30, 2007 reauthorization of take was based upon the most recent site specific marine mammal data collected in the immediate vicinity of the Project, the numbers provided represent the most accurate assessment of potential take by Project activities to date. As such, Northeast Gateway requests that the maximum number of estimated exposures during project operations authorized by the NMFS for the period of May 2007 to May 2008, be extended for the operating period of May 2008 through May 2009.

Northeast Gateway would like to note however, that unlike construction which consisted of activities that had the potential to meet the 120 dB threshold for Level B harassment of marine mammals over a continuous 8 month period, operational activities will only result in intermittent noise from bow thruster use when EBRVs are in the process of docking with and/or disengaging from the Port facilities. Over the operating period of May 2008 through May 2009, Northeast Gateway anticipates a maximum of 65 port calls from EBRVs, during which marine mammal could be exposed to sound levels above 120 dB re: 1 $\mu$ Pa while thrusters are in use (approximately 10-30 minutes for each vessel arrival and departure). This equates to a maximum period of potential harassment of 65 hours over the course of one operating year. As such, it is likely that the potential for take by harassment for any marine mammal occurring in the Project area will only be a fraction of the take estimated by NMFS in the November 30, 2007 Biological Opinion/Incidental Take Statement reauthorization. Given this change in the extent of Port activities for the operational period of May 2008 through May 2009, Northeast Gateway would be happy to work with the NMFS to reevaluate the extent of take resulting from Port operations authorized on November 30, 2007.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the enclosed application please do not hesitate to contact me at 671-457-8421 or Mike Trammel of Exceleerate Energy at 832-813-7629.

Sincerely,



Jennifer A. Ghiloni  
Environmental Project Manager  
Tetra Tech, EC Inc.

cc: Mike Trammel – Exceleerate Energy

**Application for Incidental Harassment Authorization for the Non-Lethal  
Taking of Marine Mammals in Conjunction with**

**Northeast Gateway Energy Bridge Deepwater Port  
and  
Northeast Gateway Pipeline Lateral**

*Prepared by:*

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**February 2008**

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Northeast Gateway Energy Bridge L.L.C. (Northeast Gateway) submits this request for Incidental Harassment Authorizations (IHAs) under 50 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 216.104.

**50 CFR 216.104 “Submission of Requests”**

(a) In order for the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to consider authorizing the taking by U.S. citizens of small numbers of marine mammals incidental to a specified activity (other than commercial fishing), or to make a finding that incidental take is unlikely to occur, a written request must be submitted to the Assistant Administrator. All requests must include the following information for their activity:

**1.0 A Detailed Description of the Specific Activity or Class of Activities That Can Be Expected to Result in Incidental Taking of Marine Mammals**

Northeast Gateway currently owns and operates the Northeast Gateway Deepwater Port (NEG Port or Port) for the purpose of importing liquefied natural gas (LNG) into the New England region. The NEG Port is located in Massachusetts Bay and consists of a submerged buoy system to dock specifically designed LNG carriers approximately 13 miles (21 kilometers) offshore of Massachusetts in federal waters approximately 270 to 290 feet (82 to 88 meters) in depth. This facility delivers regasified LNG to onshore markets via a 16.06-mile (25.8-kilometer) long, 24-inch (61-centimeter) outside diameter natural gas pipeline lateral (Pipeline Lateral) owned and operated by Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC (Algonquin) and interconnected to Algonquin’s existing offshore natural gas pipeline system in Massachusetts Bay (HubLine)<sup>1</sup>.

The NEG Port consists of two subsea Submerged Turret Loading™ (STL<sup>2</sup>) buoys, each with a flexible riser assembly and a manifold connecting the riser assembly, via a steel flowline, to the subsea Pipeline Lateral. Northeast Gateway utilizes vessels from its current fleet of specially designed Energy Bridge Regasification Vessels (EBRVs), each capable of transporting approximately 2.9 billion cubic feet (82 million cubic meters) of natural gas condensed to 4.9 million cubic feet (138,000 cubic meters) of LNG. Northeast Gateway will also be adding vessels to its fleet that will have a cargo capacity of approximately 151,000 cubic meters. The mooring system installed at the NEG Port is designed to handle both the existing vessels and any of the larger capacity vessels that may come into service in the future. The EBRVs will dock to the STL buoys, which will serve as both the single-point mooring system for the vessels and the delivery conduit for natural gas. Each of the STL buoys is secured to the seafloor using a series of suction anchors and a combination of chain/cable anchor lines.

On June 13, 2005, Northeast Gateway submitted an application to the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) and Maritime Administration (MARAD) seeking a federal license under the Deepwater Port Act to own, construct, and operate a deepwater port for the import and regasification of LNG in Massachusetts Bay, off the coast of Massachusetts. The project was assigned Docket Number USCG-2005-22219. Simultaneous with this filing, Algonquin, a subsidiary of Spectra Energy Gas Transmission, filed a Natural Gas Act Section 7(c) application with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for the Pipeline Lateral that would connect the NEG Port with the existing HubLine natural gas pipeline for transmission throughout New England (FERC Docket Number CP05-383-000).

The USCG published a Final Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (FEIS/EIR) for the proposed NEG Port and Pipeline Lateral on October 27, 2006. This document provides detailed information on the proposed project facilities, construction methods, and analysis of potential impacts on marine mammal. The FEIS/EIR is incorporated herein by reference (USCG 2006).

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<sup>1</sup> HubLine is an existing 30-inch-diameter interstate natural gas pipeline that was constructed by Algonquin in 2002/2003. HubLine starts at its connection with the Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline, LLC Phase III Pipeline in Salem Harbor and runs offshore to the south to the Algonquin “I” System Pipeline in Weymouth.

<sup>2</sup> STL is a trademark of Advanced Production & Loading AS.

On May 14, 2007, MARAD issued a license to Northeast Gateway to own, construct, and operate a deepwater port. Construction of the port was completed in December 2007, and the port was commissioned for operation by the USCG on February 2008.

In October 2006, Northeast Gateway submitted its original application for an IHA. The IHA was approved in May 2007 and subsequently amended on November 30, 2007. Level B take for incidental harassment was granted for the North Atlantic right whale (*Eubalaena glacialis*), humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), fin whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*), pilot whale (*Globicephala* spp.), Atlantic white-sided dolphin (*Lagenorhynchus acutus*), common dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*), harbor porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*), harbor seal (*Phocac vitulina*), and gray seal (*Halichoerus grypus*).

## **1.1 NEG Port Operations**

During NEG Port operations, EBRVs servicing the NEG Port shall utilize the newly configured and International Maritime Organization-approved Boston Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) on their approach to and departure from the NEG Port at the earliest practicable point of transit. EBRVs shall maintain speeds of 12 knots or less while in the TSS unless transiting the Off Race Point Seasonal Management Area between the dates of March 1 and April 30, the Great South Channel Seasonal Management Area between the dates of April 1 and July 31, or when there have been active right whale sightings<sup>3</sup>, active acoustic<sup>4</sup> detections, or both, in the vicinity of the transiting EBRV in the TSS or at the NEG Port whereby the vessels must slow their speeds to 10 knots or less. Appendix A contains the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration-approved Marine Mammal Detection, Monitoring, and Response Plan for Operation of the Northeast Gateway Energy Bridge Deepwater Port and Pipeline Lateral, which describes in detail the measures required for EBRVs transiting in the TSS or within the NEG Port area.

As an EBRV makes its final approach to the NEG Port, vessel speed will gradually be reduced to 3 knots at 1.86 miles out to less than 1 knot at a distance of 1,640 feet from the NEG Port. When an EBRV arrives at the NEG Port, it will retrieve one of the two permanently anchored submerged STL buoys. It will make final connection to the buoy through a series of engine and bow thruster actions. The EBRV will require the use of thrusters for dynamic positioning during docking procedure. Typically, the docking procedure is completed over a 10- to 30-minute period, with the thrusters activated as necessary for short periods of time in second bursts, not a continuous sound source. Once connected to the buoy, the EBRV will begin vaporizing the LNG into its natural gas state using the onboard regasification system. As the LNG is regasified, natural gas will be transferred at pipeline pressures off the EBRV through the STL buoy and flexible riser via a steel flowline leading to the connecting Pipeline Lateral. When the LNG vessel is on the buoy, wind and current effects on the vessel will be allowed to “weathervane” on the single-point mooring system; therefore, thrusters will not be used to maintain a stationary position.

It is estimated that the NEG Port could receive approximately 65 cargo deliveries a year. During this time period thrusters will be engaged in use for docking at the NEG Port approximately 10 to 30 minutes for each vessel arrival and departure.

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<sup>3</sup> Active right whale sightings are all right whale sightings broadcast by the Mandatory Ship Reporting or Sighting Advisory System.

<sup>4</sup> Active acoustic detections are confirmed right whale vocalizations detected by a TSS auto-detection buoy (AB) within 24 hours of each scheduled data review period (e.g., every 30 minutes or every 12 hours, as detailed in subsequent text). Multiple confirmed acoustic detections at a single AB will extend the duration of minimum mandated EBRV response to 24 hours from the last confirmed detection (within the reception area of the detecting AB). Confirmed acoustic detections at multiple ABs within the same 24-hour period will extend the area of minimum mandated EBRV response to encompass the reception areas of all detecting Abs.

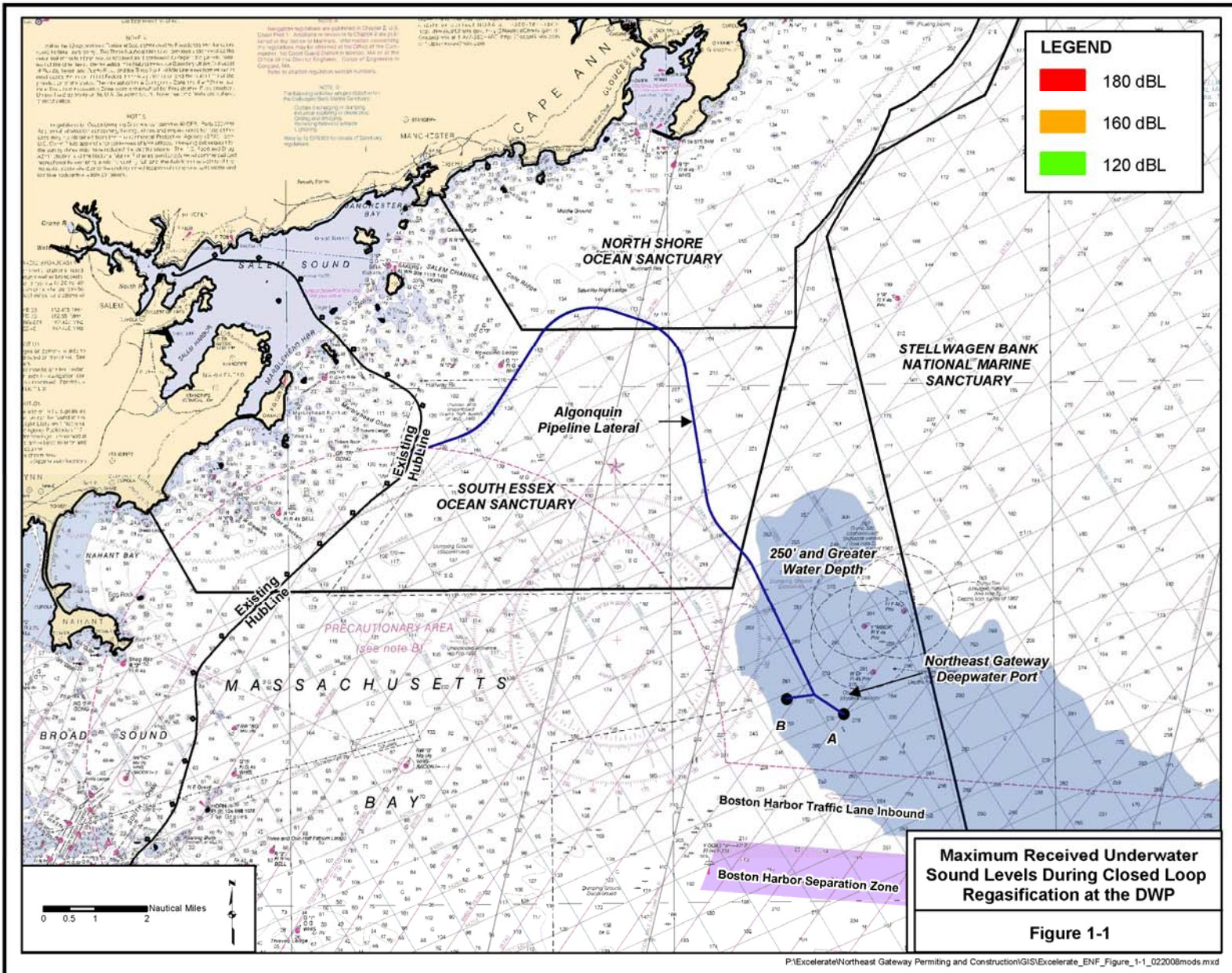
### 1.1.1 NEG Port Operations Noise

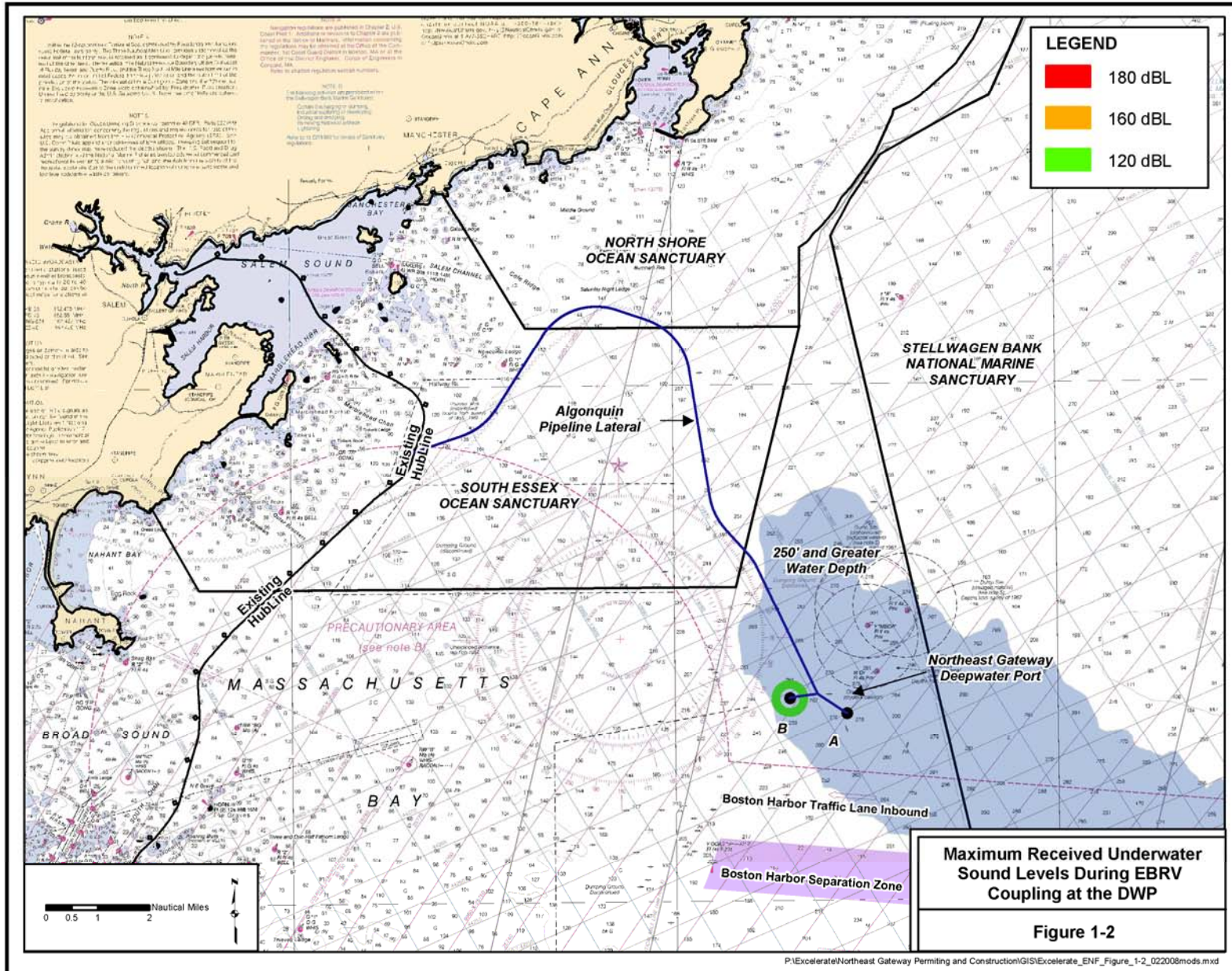
Underwater sound generated during NEG Port operation is limited to regasification and EBRV maneuvering during coupling and decoupling with STL buoys. Sound propagation calculations (see Appendices B and C for methodology and acoustic concepts) used source data including measurements collected on August 6 to 9, 2006, from the *Excelsior* EBRV while it was moored at the operational Gulf Gateway NEG Port located 116 miles offshore in the Gulf of Mexico (the Gulf). The overall purpose of this survey was to verify measurements completed during the first sound survey completed March 21 to 25, 2005, when the *Excelsior* first visited the NEG Port and to further document sound levels during additional operational and EBRV maneuvering conditions, including the use of stern and bow thrusters required for dynamic positioning during coupling. The collected data were used to confirm theoretical calculations employed in supplemental submittals for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIS/EIR) to assess sound energy generated during closed-loop versus open-loop regasification operations. In addition to normalizing complex sound components into source terms, data were used to confirm EBRV sound source energy generation and propagation characteristics, and the identification of near field and far sound fields under different operating and EBRV maneuvering procedures. These data were used to model underwater sound propagation at the Northeast Gateway site. A copy of the field survey report has been included here as Appendix C. The pertinent results of the field survey are provided as underwater sound source pressure levels (decibel [dB] re 1 micro-Pascal [ $\mu$ Pa] at 1 meter) as follows:

- Sound levels during closed-loop regasification ranged from 104 to 110 decibel linear (dBL). Maximum levels during steady state operations were 108 dBL.
- Sound levels during coupling operations were dominated by the periodic use of the bow and stern thrusters and ranged from 160 to 170 dBL.

Figures 1-1 and 1-2 present the net acoustic impact of one EBRV operating at the NEG Port. Figure 1-1 presents the impact of the maximum received underwater sound levels during closed-loop EBRV regasification with a steady-state source level of 108 dBL re 1  $\mu$ Pa at 1 meter. As shown in this plot, there is no area of ensonification above the 120 dBL criteria. Figure 1-2 presents maximum underwater sound levels during EBRV maneuvering and coupling using a source level of 170 dBL re 1  $\mu$ Pa at 1 meter (thrusters used for dynamic positioning). Thrusters are operated intermittently and only for relatively short durations of time. The resulting area within the critical 120 dB isopleth is less than 1 square kilometer with the linear distance to the critical isopleths extending 430 meters. The area within the 160 dB isopleth is very localized and will not extend beyond the immediate area where EBRV coupling operations are occurring.







Maximum Received Underwater Sound Levels During EBRV Coupling at the DWP

Figure 1-2

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## **1.2 Maintenance**

The specified design life of the NEG Port is about 40 years, with the exception of the anchors, mooring chain/rope, and riser/umbilical assemblies, which are based on a maintenance-free design life of 20 years. The buoy pick-up system components are considered consumable and will be inspected following each buoy connection, and replaced (from inside the STL compartment during the normal cargo discharge period) as deemed necessary. The underwater components of the NEG Port will be inspected once yearly in accordance with Classification Society Rules (ABS) using either divers or remotely operated vehicles to inspect and record the condition of the various STL system components. These activities will be conducted using the NEG Port's normal support vessel, and to the extent possible will coincide with planned weekly visits to the NEG Port. Helicopters will not be used for marker line maintenance inspections. No noise sources related to the Project are likely to exceed ambient conditions during routine maintenance activities.

## **2.0 The Dates and Duration of Such Activity and the Specific Geographic Region Where It Will Occur**

### **2.1 Operation Dates and Duration**

The NEG Port completed commissioning activities on February 27, 2008, enabling the facility to receive natural gas and to begin its operations. The Operations Phase will continue for the operational life of the Project.

### **2.2 Specific Geographic Region**

The NEG Port is located at 42° 23' 38.46" N/70° 35' 31.02" W for Buoy A and 42° 23' 56.40 N/70° 37' 0.36" W for Buoy B in Massachusetts Bay. The Pipeline Lateral begins near milepost (MP) 8 on the existing HubLine pipeline in waters approximately 3 miles (4.8 kilometers) to the east of Marblehead Neck in Marblehead, Massachusetts. From the HubLine connection (MP 0.0), the Pipeline Lateral route extends northeast, crossing the outer reaches of the territorial waters of the Town of Marblehead, the City of Salem, the City of Beverly, and the Town of Manchester-by-the-Sea for approximately 6.3 miles (10.1 kilometers). At MP 6.3, the Pipeline Lateral route curves to the east and southeast, exiting Manchester-by-the-Sea territorial waters and entering waters regulated by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The Pipeline Lateral route continues to the south/southeast for approximately 6.2 miles (10 kilometers) to MP 12.5, where it exits state waters and enters federal waters. The Pipeline Lateral route then extends to the south for another approximately 3.5 miles (5.7 kilometers), terminating at the NEG Port. The NEG Port and Pipeline Lateral are depicted in Figure 2-1.

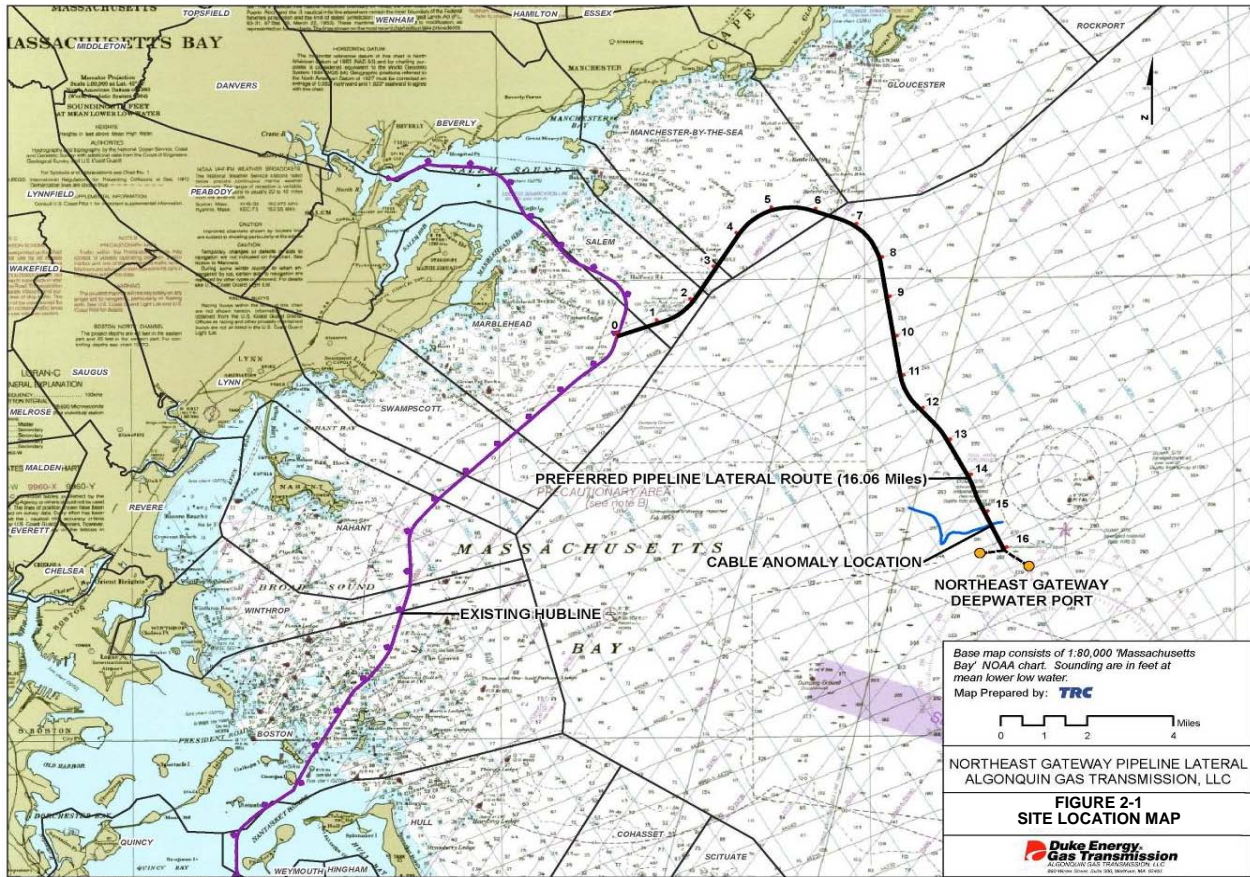


Figure 2-1. Location of the Pipeline Lateral and NEG Port

### 3.0 Species and Numbers of Marine Mammals in Area

Marine mammals known to traverse or occasionally visit the waters within the Project area include both threatened or endangered species, as well as those species that are not threatened or endangered. Sections 3.2.4 and 3.3 of the FEIS/EIR discuss marine mammals both protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 as amended in 1994 (MMPA) and those that are listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. These species are listed in Table 3-1.

Table 3-1. Marine Mammals Known to Occur in the Marine Waters of Massachusetts Bay

Common Name	Scientific Name	NMFS Status	Time of Year in Massachusetts Bay
<b>Toothed Whales (Odontoceti)</b>			
Atlantic white-sided dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus acutus</i>	Non-strategic	Year round
Bottlenose dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	Non-strategic	Late summer, early fall
Short-beaked common dolphin	<i>Delphinus delphis</i>	Non-strategic	Fall and winter
Harbor porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	Non-strategic	Year round (Sept-April peak)
Killer whale	<i>Orcinus orca</i>	Non-strategic	July-Sept
Long-finned pilot whale	<i>Globicephala melaena</i>	Strategic	Year round (Sept-April peak)
Risso's dolphin	<i>Grampus griseus</i>	Non-strategic	Spring, summer, autumn
Striped dolphin	<i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i>	Non-strategic	Year round
White-beaked dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus albirostris</i>	Non-strategic	April-Nov
Sperm whale	<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>	Endangered	Pelagic
<b>Baleen Whales (Mysticeti)</b>			
Minke whale	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	Non-strategic	April-Oct
Blue whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	Endangered	Aug-Oct
Fin whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	Endangered	April-Oct
Humpback whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	Endangered	April-Oct

**Table 3-1.** Continued

Common Name	Scientific Name	NMFS Status	Time of Year in Massachusetts Bay
North Atlantic right whale	<i>Eubalaena glacialis</i>	Endangered	Jan-Jul (year round)
Sei whale	<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>	Endangered	May-Jun
<b>Earless Seals (Phocidae)</b>			
Gray seals	<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>	Non-strategic	Year round
Harbor seals	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	Non-strategic	Late Sept-early May
Hooded seals	<i>Cystophora cristata</i>	Non-strategic	Jan-May
Harp seals	<i>Phoca groenlandica</i>	Non-strategic	Jan-May

#### **4.0 Status, Distribution, and Seasonal Distribution of Affected Species or Stocks of Marine Mammals**

The status, distribution, and seasonal distribution of affected species or stocks are discussed in Sections 3.2.4 and 3.3 of the FEIS/EIR, and in Table 3-1 above. In general, Risso’s dolphins, striped dolphins, sperm whales, hooded seals, and harp seals range outside the Project area, usually in more pelagic waters, while white-beaked dolphins, bottlenose dolphins, killer whales, long-finned pilot whales, blue whales, and sei whales occasionally occur in the shelf waters of the Project area. Given their behavior and distribution, none of the above species is expected to be encountered during the operation phase of the Project, although sightings are possible. Species more commonly found in the shelf waters of Massachusetts Bay and potentially encountered in the Project area include the gray seal, harbor seal, harbor porpoise, Atlantic white-sided dolphin, short-beaked common dolphin, long-finned pilot whale, minke whale, North Atlantic right whale, humpback whale, and fin whale. These latter 10 species are the only ones observed during intensive right whale surveys (2001 to 2005) in nearby Cape Cod by the Province Center for Coastal Studies. These are also the species for which Northeast Gateway is seeking harassment authorization under this application.

#### **5.0 The Type of Incidental Taking Authorization that is being Requested (i.e., Takes by Harassment only; Takes by Harassment, Injury, and /or Death) and the Method Of Take**

The only type of incidental taking sought in this application is takes by Level B noise harassment. The only Project-created noise with sounds exceeding 120 dB (threshold for continuous and intermittent noise) at the source are those stemming from the maneuvering of EBRVs during final docking. In this case the loudest noise sources will emanate from thrusters used for dynamic positioning of EBRVs (see Section 1.1.1).

#### **6.0 Numbers of Marine Mammals that May Potentially be Taken**

Northeast Gateway seeks authorization for potential “taking” of small numbers of marine mammals under the jurisdiction of the NMFS in the proposed region of activity. Species for which authorization is sought include the 10 species mentioned in Section 4 that have the highest likelihood of occurring, at least occasionally, in the Project area.

The only anticipated impacts to marine mammals are associated with noise propagation from the use of dynamic positioning thrusters resulting in short-term displacement of marine mammals from within ensonified zones produced by such noise sources. The operations activities proposed by Northeast Gateway are not expected to take more than small numbers of marine mammals, or have more than a negligible effect on their populations based on the seasonal density and distribution of marine mammals, and the vulnerability of these animals to harassment from the frequency of noises.

## 6.1 Basis for Estimating Numbers of Marine Mammals that Might be “Taken by Harassment”

There are three kinds of noises recognized by NMFS: continuous, intermittent, and pulse. No pulse noise activities, such as seismic, blasting, loud sonar, or pile driving, are associated with the project; thus, the 160/170 dB threshold value does not apply. The noise sources of potential concern are regasification/offloading (continuous) and dynamic positioning of vessels using thrusters (intermittent). Both continuous and intermittent noise sources carry the 120 dB isopleth threshold.

None of the continuous sound sources associated with construction or operation of the Northeast Gateway Project is expected to exceed the 120 dB threshold for Level B harassment. However, the intermittent noise from bow thruster use associated with dynamic positioning of vessels during operation (docking) may result in the occasional exceedance of the 120 dB threshold for intermittent noise sources. Consequently, bow thruster use has the potential for take by harassment for any marine mammal occurring with a zone of ensonification (>120 dB) emanating from the sound source. This area, known as the Zone of Influence (ZOI), has a variable maximum radius dependent on water depth and associated differences in transmission loss:

- For shallow water depths (40 meters) representative of the northern segment of the Pipeline Lateral, the radius is 3.31 kilometers and associated ZOI is 34 square kilometers.
- For moderate depths (80 meters) representative of the NEG Port location and Pipeline Lateral segment nearest Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, the radius is 2.56 kilometer and associated ZOI is 21 square kilometers.
- For deeper depths (120 m) representative of the deepest waters of the Project analysis area, the radius is 2.18 kilometer and associated ZOI is 15 square kilometers.

The basis for the take estimate is the number of marine mammals that would be exposed to sound levels in excess of 120 dB. Typically this is determined by multiplying the ZOI by local marine mammal density estimates, and then correcting for seasonal use by marine mammals, seasonal duration of noise-generating activities, and estimated duration of individual activities when the maximum noise-generating activities are intermittent or occasional. In the absence of any part of this information, it becomes prudent to take a conservative approach to ensure the potential number of takes is not greatly underestimated.

During the reauthorization of the Incidental Take Statement (ITS), issued November 30, 2007, NMFS concluded that the construction and operation of the NEG Port is likely to result in take of northern right (*Eubalaena glacialis*), humpback (*Megaptera novaeaeangliae*), and fin (*Balaenoptera physalus*) whales in the form of harassment, where habitat conditions (i.e., received sound levels above the 120 dB threshold for continuous noise used to determine harassment under the MMPA) will temporarily impair normal behavior patterns. This harassment will occur in the form of avoidance or displacement from preferred habitat and behavioral and/or metabolic compensations to deal with short-term masking or stress. While whales may experience temporary impairment of behavior patterns, no significant impairment resulting in injury (i.e., “harm”) is likely due to the moderate sound output of project components (i.e., sound levels below the thresholds for injury), the ability of whales to easily move to areas beyond the impact zone that also provide suitable prey, and the limited exposure time to disturbing levels of sound (10 to 30 minutes per week during operations).

NMFS does not expect any whales to be injured or killed by these activities. However, planned monitoring and mitigation measures are designed to avoid sudden onsets of potentially disturbing noise, to detect marine mammals occurring near the activities, and to avoid exposing them to sound sources that may cause hearing impairment.

On May 14, 2007, NMFS issued to Northeast Gateway and Algonquin an IHA for a maximum number of 3 right whales, 24 humpback whales, and 13 fin whales that may be taken based on potential exposure to

received sound levels greater than 120 dB 1  $\mu$ Pa (rms) during construction and operation activities between May 8, 2007, and May 7, 2008. However, over the course of construction from May through October 2007, Northeast Gateway's marine mammal monitoring reports indicated that the density of marine mammals known to occur in the general project area was greater than original estimates provided to Northeast Gateway by the NMFS and that take numbers had likely been exceeded (see Appendix D, Northeast Gateway Construction Marine Mammal Sightings and Take Summary Report). Based upon this new information, Northeast Gateway and Algonquin re-initiated consultation with the NMFS regarding harassment takes on marine mammals. On November 30, 2007, the NMFS Northeast Regional Office Administrator, Patricia A. Kurkul, approved and issued to Northeast Gateway and Algonquin a revised ITS allowing for the total maximum number of takes by acoustic harassment for the construction and operational period of May 2007 to May 2008 (when the IHA expires) to include 47 right, 200 fin, and 376 humpback whales.

Northeast Gateway recognizes the efforts by the NMFS that have already taken place to evaluate the potential take of marine mammal as a result of project activities. Given that the NMFS November 30, 2007, reauthorization of take was based upon the most recent site-specific marine mammal data collected in the immediate vicinity of the project, the numbers provided represent the most accurate assessment of potential take by project activities to date. As such, Northeast Gateway requests that the maximum number of estimated exposures during project operations of 47 right, 200 fin, and 376 humpback whales, authorized by the NMFS for the period of May 2007 to May 2008, be extended for the operating period of May 2008 through May 2009.

Northeast Gateway would like to note that unlike construction, which consisted of activities that had the potential to meet the 120 dB threshold for Level B harassment of marine mammals over a continuous 8-month period, operational activities will only result in intermittent noise from bow thruster use when EBRVs are in the process of docking with and/or disengaging from the port facilities. Over the operating period of May 2008 through May 2009, Northeast Gateway anticipates a maximum of 65 port calls from EBRVs, during which marine mammals could be exposed to sound levels above 120 dB re: 1  $\mu$ Pa while thrusters are in use (approximately 10 to 30 minutes for each vessel arrival and departure). This equates to a maximum period of potential harassment of 65 hours over the course of one operating year. As such, it is likely that the potential for take by harassment for any marine mammal occurring within the designated ZOI around the NEG Port will only be a fraction of the take estimated by NMFS in the November 30, 2007, Biological Opinion (BO)/ITS reauthorization.

## **7.0 The Anticipated Impact of the Activity on the Species or Stock**

In the amended BO issued by NMFS on November 30, 2007, NMFS concluded that the construction and operation of the NEG Port would not likely to result in jeopardy to the right, humpback, or fin whale or the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat. Exposure to construction noise, now concluded, and other sound sources associated with this work had the potential to harass right, humpback, and fin whales, although such takes were temporary and had no apparent affect on the reproduction, survival, or recovery of this species.

## **8.0 The Anticipated Impact of the Activity on the Availability of the Species or Stocks of Marine Mammals for Subsistence Uses**

There are no traditional subsistence hunting areas in the Project area.

## **9.0 Anticipated Impact on Habitat**

Short-term Impacts – There are no short-term impacts associated with the operation phase of the Project.

Long-term Impacts – Operation of the NEG Port and Pipeline Lateral will result in long-term effects on the marine environment, including alteration of the seafloor conditions, continued disturbance of the seafloor, regular withdrawal of sea water, and regular generation of underwater noise. A small area (0.14 acre) along the Pipeline Lateral has been permanently altered (armored) at two cable crossings. In addition, the structures associated with the NEG Port (flowlines, mooring wire rope and chain, suction anchors, and pipeline end manifolds) occupy 4.8 acres of seafloor. An additional area of the seafloor of up to 38 acres will be subject to disturbance due to chain sweep while the buoys are occupied.

Each EBRV will require the withdrawal of an average of 4.97 million gallons per day (mgd) of sea water for general ship operations during its 8-day stay at the NEG Port. Plankton associated with the sea water will not likely survive. Based on densities of plankton in Massachusetts Bay, it is estimated that sea water use during operation will consume, on a daily basis, about  $3\text{-}200 \times 10^{10}$  phytoplankton cells (about several hundred grams of biomass),  $6.5 \times 10^8$  zooplankters (equivalent to about 1.2 kilograms of copepods), and on the order of 30,000 fish eggs and 5,000 fish larvae.

## **10.0 Anticipated Impact of Habitat Loss or Modification**

Short-term Impacts – There are no short-term impacts associated with the operation phase of the Project.

Long-term Impacts – Approximately 4.8 acre of seafloor will be converted from soft substrate to artificial hard substrate. The soft-bottom benthic community may be replaced with organisms associated with naturally occurring hard substrate, such as sponges, hydroids, bryozoans, and associated species. The benthic community in the up to 38 acres of soft bottom that may be swept by the anchor chains while EBRVs are docked will have limited opportunity to recover, so this area will experience a long-term reduction in benthic productivity.

Daily removal of sea water will reduce the food resources available for planktivorous organisms. Massachusetts Bay circulation will not be altered, however, so plankton will be continuously transported into the Project area. The removal of these species is minor and unlikely to affect in a measurable way the food sources available to marine mammals.

## **11.0 The Availability and Feasibility (Economic and Technological), Methods, and Manner of Conducting Such Activity or Means of Effecting the Least Practicable Impact Upon Affected Species or Stock, Their Habitat, and of Their Availability for Subsistence Uses, Paying Particular Attention to Rookeries, Mating Grounds, and Areas of Similar Significance**

Northeast Gateway has committed to a comprehensive set of mitigation measures during operation as well as on-going consultations with NMFS. These measures include:

- Passive acoustics program
- Visual monitoring program
- Safety zones
- Reporting
- Vessel speed
- Ramp-up procedures

Details of the proposed mitigations are discussed in the Marine Mammal Detection, Monitoring, and Response Plan included as Appendix A to this application.

There are no traditional subsistence hunting areas in the Project area.



**12.0 Where the Proposed Activity Would Take Place in or Near a Traditional Arctic Subsistence Hunting Area and/or May Affect the Availability of a Species or Stock of Marine Mammal for Arctic Subsistence Uses, the Applicant Must Submit a Plan of Cooperation or Information that Identifies What Measures Have Been Taken and/or Will be Taken to Minimize Any Adverse Effects on the Availability of Marine Mammals for Subsistence Uses. A Plan Must Include the Following:**

There are no traditional Arctic subsistence hunting areas in the Project area and there are no Project activities that may affect the availability of a species or stock of marine mammal for Arctic subsistence uses.

**13.0 The Suggested Means of Accomplishing the Necessary Monitoring and Reporting that Will Result in Increased Knowledge of the Species, the Level of Taking or Impacts on the Population of Marine Mammals that Are Expected to Be Present while Conducting Activities and Suggested Means of Minimizing Burdens by Coordinating Such Reporting Requirements with Other Schemes Already Applicable to Persons Conducting Such Activity. Monitoring Plans Should Include a Description of the Survey Techniques that Would Be Used to Determine the Movement and Activity of Marine Mammals Near the Activity Site(s), Including Migration and Other Habitat Uses, Such as Feeding:**

See the Marine Mammal Detection, Monitoring, and Response Plan included as Appendix A of this application.

**14.0 Suggested Means of Learning of, Encouraging, and Coordinating Research Opportunities, Plans, and Activities Relating to Reducing Such Incidental Taking and Evaluating its Effects:**

As reflected in MARAD/USCG License, the BO, the ITS and original IHA as amended, and the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA) Section 304 (d) Recommendations, the impacts from operation can be effectively monitored and mitigated utilizing passive acoustic detection technology. As such, Northeast Gateway shall monitor the noise environment in Massachusetts Bay in the vicinity of the NEG Port and Pipeline Lateral using an array of 19 Marine Autonomous Recording Units (MARUs) that were deployed initially in April 2007 to collect data during the preconstruction and active construction phases of the Project. A description of the MARUs can be found in Appendix A of this application. These 19 MARUs shall remain in the same configuration for a period of 5 years during full operation of the NEG Port. The MARUs collect archival noise data and are not designed to provide real-time or near-real-time information about vocalizing whales. Rather, the acoustic data collected by the MARUs shall be analyzed to document the seasonal occurrences and overall distributions of whales (primarily fin, humpback, and right whales) within approximately 10 nautical miles of the NEG Port and shall measure and document the noise “budget” of Massachusetts Bay so as to eventually assist in determining whether an overall increase in noise in the Bay associated with the Project might be having a potentially negative impact on marine mammals. The overall intent of this system is to provide better information for both regulators and the general public regarding the acoustic footprint associated with long-term operation of the NEG Port in Massachusetts Bay, and the distribution of vocalizing marine mammals during NEG Port operation (analyzed to assess impacts of former on latter). In addition to the 19 MARUs, Northeast Gateway shall deploy 10 ABs within the TSS for the operational life of the Northeast Gateway Project. A description of the ABs can be found in Appendix A of this application. The purpose of the ABs shall be to detect a calling North Atlantic right whale an average of 5 nautical miles from each AB (detection ranges will vary based on ambient underwater conditions). The AB system shall be the primary detection mechanism that alerts the EBRV Master to the occurrence of right whales, heightens EBRV awareness,

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and triggers necessary mitigation actions as described in the Marine Mammal Detection, Monitoring, and Response Plan included as Appendix A of this application.

Northeast Gateway has engaged representatives from Cornell University's Bioacoustics Research Program and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution as the consultants for developing, implementing, collecting, and analyzing the acoustic data; reporting; and maintaining the acoustic monitoring system.

Further information detailing the deployment and operation of arrays of 19 passive seafloor acoustic recording units (MARUs) centered on the terminal site and the 10 ABs that are to be placed at approximately 5-mile intervals within the recently modified TSS can be found in the Marine Mammal Detection, Monitoring, and Response Plan included as Appendix A of this application.

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- United States Coast Guard. 2006. Final Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report For the Northeast Gateway Deepwater Port License Application

**Appendix A**

**Marine Mammal Detection, Monitoring, and Response Plan  
for Operation of the  
Northeast Gateway Energy Bridge Deepwater Port and Pipeline Lateral**

# Marine Mammal Detection, Monitoring, and Response Plan for Operation of the Northeast Gateway Energy Bridge Deepwater Port and Pipeline Lateral

*Submitted by*



Northeast Gateway Energy Bridge, LLC

*Prepared By*

The Bioacoustics Research Program



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*And*



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## Acronyms and Abbreviations

AB	Auto-detection Buoy
AIS	Automatic Identification System
Algonquin	Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC
ATBA	Area To Be Avoided
BO	Biological Opinion
CCB-SMA	Cape Cod Bay Seasonal Management Area
Cornell	Cornell University's Bioacoustics Research Program
DEIS	Draft Environmental Impact Statement
EBRV	Energy Bridge Regasification Vessel
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FEIS	Final Environmental Impact Statement
GPS	Global Positioning System
GSC-SMA	Great South Channel Seasonal Management Area
GT	Gross Tons
HubLine	Algonquin's existing offshore natural gas pipeline system in Massachusetts Bay
IHA	Incidental Harassment Authorization
IMO	International Maritime Organization
ITS	Incidental Take Statement
LNG	Liquefied Natural Gas
MARAD	Department of Transportation - Maritime Administration
MARSEC	Maritime Security
MARU	Marine Autonomous Recording Units
MMDMRP	Marine Mammal Detection, Monitoring, and Response Plan
MMPA	Marine Mammal Protection Act
MSR	Mandatory Ship Reporting
MSRA	Mandatory Ship Reporting Area
NBDP	Narrow Band Direct Printing
NEG Port or Port	Northeast Gateway Deepwater Port
NEG	Northeast Gateway Energy Bridge, L.L.C.
NER	Northeast Region
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Services
NMSA	National Marine Sanctuary Act
NMSP	National Marine Sanctuary Program
NOAA	National Oceanographic Atmospheric Administration
ORP-SMA	Off Race Point Seasonal Management Area
Pipeline Lateral	Algonquin's new 16.06-mile long, 24-inches diameter natural gas pipeline connecting the NEG Port to the existing Hubline
PMMP	Prevention, Monitoring, and Mitigation Plan
PSV	Port Service Vessel
SAS	Sighting Advisory System
SBNMS	Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary
STL	Submerged Turret Loading
TSS	Traffic Separation Scheme
USCG	United States Coast Guard
VTS	Vessel Traffic Services
WHOI	Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
ZOI	Zone of Influence

# **1 Deepwater Port Project Description**

Northeast Gateway Energy Bridge, L.L.C. (NEG) filed an application with the U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritimes Administration (MARAD) on June 13, 2005, for a license to construct, own, and operate the Northeast Gateway Deepwater Port (NEG Port or Port), located approximately 13 miles southeast of Gloucester, MA. The Maritime Administrator issued a License to own, construct, and operate a Deepwater Port to NEG on May 14, 2007.

The Port, which will be located in Massachusetts Bay, will consist of a submerged buoy system to moor specially designed Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) carriers approximately 13 miles (21 kilometer) offshore of Massachusetts in Federal waters approximately 270 to 290 feet (82 to 88 meters) in depth. The facility will deliver regasified LNG to onshore markets via new and existing pipeline facilities owned and operated by Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC (Algonquin). Algonquin built and will operate a new 16.06-mile (25.8 kilometer) long, 24-inches (61-centimeters) diameter natural gas pipeline (called the Northeast Gateway Pipeline Lateral or Pipeline Lateral) to connect the Port to Algonquin's existing offshore natural gas pipeline system in Massachusetts Bay called the HubLine. NEG's fleet of purpose-built Energy Bridge Regasification Vessels (EBRVs) is based on the design of conventional LNG transport vessels fitted with patented on-board regasification equipment and will transport LNG to the Port. Once at the Port, the EBRVs will begin regasification of the LNG back into its gaseous state and then deliver the natural gas into the submerged Pipeline Lateral connected to the existing HubLine for delivery into the New England energy market.

## **2 Introduction**

In accordance with Condition 12 of Annex A to the MARAD License, NEG in cooperation with MARAD, the United States Coast Guard (USCG), the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and other Federal and State agencies has established a program for preventing, monitoring, and mitigating environmental impacts (Prevention, Monitoring, and Mitigation Plan [PMMP]). As required, the PMMP is comprised of all Federal, State, and Local environmental permits, certificates, licenses, and approved monitoring and mitigation plans obtained by NEG and Algonquin to support the collective pre-construction, construction, post-construction, and operation of the NEG Port and Pipeline Lateral. Integral to the PMMP, this Marine Mammal Detection, Monitoring, and Response Plan (MMDMRP) has been developed to support the requirements identified in the PMMP to minimize adverse impacts to marine mammals. The information presented in this MMDMRP shall serve as a guide to help NEG and EBRV personnel better understand the procedural requirements for marine mammal protection as identified in the MARAD License, the Endangered Species Act (ESA) Biological Opinion (BO), the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA), and Incidental Take Statement (ITS) as amended, and the National Marine Sanctuary Act (NMSA) Section 304 (d) Recommendations. This MMDMRP has been specifically developed for the NEG Port and vessels calling at the Port.

This MMDMRP is organized under four major headings, beginning with a brief description of the project (Section 1.0); this introduction (Section 2.0), which describes the purpose of this MMDMRP and the NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regulatory oversight for the project relative to marine mammals; Section 3.0 which summarizes the requirements for marine mammal detection, monitoring, and response requirements of MARAD and USCG License, the terms and conditions of the BO, IHA, and ITS as well as the NMSA Section 304 (d) Recommendations and describes the actions to be taken by NEG to meet the identified requirements; and Section 4.0 details the acoustic monitoring strategy. A detailed Heightened Awareness Protocol has also been included as Appendix A to the MMDMRP. In addition, all crew members with navigation responsibilities on the EBRVs (including look-outs) will receive training on marine mammal

sighting/reporting and vessel strike avoidance measures. This training module has been included as Appendix B.

This MMDMRP does not supersede any of the conditions of the Deepwater Port License or the NOAA authorizations listed above; rather, this MMDMRP is intended to provide further detail as to how these conditions are to be implemented during day-to-day operations of the NEG Port. It is important to recognize that the safety of a vessel, its crew, and cargo must be maintained at all times; as such the procedures outlined within the context of this MMDMRP shall be adhered to at all times except under extraordinary circumstances when the safety of the vessel, crew and cargo are in doubt. As defined in the MARAD License issued on May 14, 2007, the amended BO, IHA, ITS all issued on November 30, 2007, extraordinary circumstances are defined as instances:

- (1) where the vessel's Master determines that compliance is not possible "taking into account safety and weather conditions" (BO, Section 2.4, Operational Mitigation Measures; IHA, Section 5.2(b)(ii));
- (2) where the vessel's Master determines that "hydrographic, meteorological or traffic conditions dictate prudent deviation from these procedures to maintain the safety or maneuverability of the vessel" (BO, Section 2.4, Operational Mitigation Measures; IHA, Section 5.2 (b) (v));
- (3) where the vessel's Master must "respond to safety concerns or for safety reasons, or for exigent circumstances at the time of approach to or departure from the NEG Port (MARAD License, Section 12 (b)(ii)(1)(c)(1)); and

In all cases where the vessel Master cannot execute the mitigation and monitoring requirements in this MMDMRP due to the above mentioned extraordinary conditions, each such deviation shall be documented in the logbook of the vessel and reported at the conclusion of the regasification activities of the EBRV to the NMFS Northeast Region (NER) Ship Strike Coordinator and the NOAA National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP)/ Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary (SBNMS).

## **2.1 NOAA Regulatory Oversight: Marine Mammals**

NOAA/NMFS, has determined that serious injury or mortality of even a single individual of the critically endangered North Atlantic right whale could jeopardize this species' continued existence. In addition, serious injury or mortality to other large whale species that frequent greater Massachusetts Bay waters, including North Atlantic fin, humpback, sei and blue whales, is also prohibited due to their endangered status. Therefore, Federal actions that could lead to even a very small increased risk of serious injury or mortality must contain plans to mitigate the potential impact of those actions to these species. Specifically, Federal agencies whose actions may affect endangered and/or threatened species must consult with NMFS as specified under the implementing regulations for Section 7 of the ESA. Any harassment to any marine mammal species due to the licensed activity must also be permitted by NMFS as specified under the MMPA. Under Section 304 (d) of the NMSA, Federally licensed activities likely to adversely affect species within a National Marine Sanctuary are subject to consultation with NOAA's NMSP. Finally, NMSP regulations at 15 CFR Part 922 require a permit to be obtained for any activity conducted in a sanctuary that is otherwise prohibited (such as disturbing the seabed with anchors or moorings). As a result of consultation under NMSA, 13 specific recommendations were developed by NMSP for the NEG Project and submitted to the MARAD/USCG. As required by NMSA, the MARAD/USCG indicated their response to each of the NMSP recommendations, and those accepted were included in the project description as evaluated under ESA as well as in NEG's applications for IHA under the MMPA and the permit for deployments of passive acoustic array elements within the SBNMS. Mitigation/monitoring activities mandated as part of NEG's construction and operation activities resulting from



consultations were also included in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) issued for this project by the MARAD/USCG on October 27, 2006, the Record of Decision, issued by MARAD on February 7, 2007, and the Project's License, issued by the MARAD/USCG on May 14, 2007.

### **3 Marine Mammal Detection, Monitoring, and Response Recommendations and Requirements**

#### **3.1 NEG Port and EBRV Operational Requirements to Reduce Vessel-Whale Strikes**

All NOAA consultations relevant to marine mammal species cited the importance of reducing the potential for vessel-whale strikes by EBRVs during the operational phase of the Project. As such, the MARAD License, the BO, ITS and IHA as amended, and NMSA Section 304 (d) Recommendations have established procedural requirements to ensure that operation of the NEG Port will not adversely affect marine mammals. The specific procedural requirements during the operation of the NEG Port consist of the following:

- A. EBRV's shall utilize the newly-configured and International Maritime Organization (IMO)-approved Boston Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) on their approach to and departure from the NEG Port at the earliest practicable point of transit<sup>1</sup> (subject to exceptional circumstances as defined in Section 1.0 ) in order to lower the risk of whale strikes. Upon entering the TSS the EBRV shall go into a "heighten awareness" mode of operation. The Heightened Awareness Protocol is included as Appendix A.
- B. Prior to entering areas where North Atlantic right whales are known to occur, including the Great South Channel Seasonal Management Area (GSC-SMA) and the SBNMS, the EBRV Master and navigation watch shall:
  - (1) consult recent right whale sighting information through NAVTEX, NOAA Weather Radio, the NOAA Right Whale Sighting Advisory System (SAS) or other means to obtain current right whale sighting information; and
  - (2) receive up-to-date information on acoustic detections of right whales from the passive network of near-real-time auto-detection buoys (ABs) prior to and during transit through the northern leg of the TSS where such buoys are installed.
- C. In accordance with NOAA Regulation 50 CFR 224.103 (c)<sup>2</sup>, all vessels associated with Port activities shall not approach closer than 500 yards (460 meters) to a North Atlantic right whale.
- D. In response to active right whale sightings<sup>3</sup> and active acoustic detections<sup>4</sup>, and taking into account exceptional circumstances as defined in Section 1.0, EBRVs shall take appropriate actions to minimize the risk of striking whales. Specifically EBRVs shall:

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<sup>1</sup> The most practical point at which EBRVs might enter the TSS will be in the Off Race Point area, but generally north of the point after the TSS angles to the west, northwest.

<sup>2</sup> NMFS has implemented specific regulations for some ESA-listed marine mammals which address interactions with humans in the wild. These regulations prohibit approaches closer than 500 yards (460 meters) to right whales in the North Atlantic (50 CFR 224.103).

<sup>3</sup> Active right whale sightings are all right whale sightings broadcast by the MSR or SAS.

<sup>4</sup> Active acoustic detections are confirmed right whale vocalizations detected by a TSS AB within 24 hours of each scheduled data-review period (e.g., every 30 minutes or every 12 hours, as detailed in subsequent text). Multiple confirmed acoustic detections at a single AB will extend the duration of minimum mandated EBRV response to 24 hours from the last confirmed detection (within in the reception area of the detecting AB). Confirmed acoustic detections at multiple ABs within the same 24 hour time period will extend the area of minimum mandated EBRV response to encompass the reception areas of all detecting ABs.

- (1) respond to active right whale sightings reported on the Mandatory Ship Reporting (MSR) or SAS by concentrating monitoring efforts towards the area of most recent detection (see Heightened Awareness Protocol included as Appendix A) and reducing speed to 10 knots or less if the vessel is within the circular area centered on an area 8 nautical miles in radius from the sighting location.
  - (2) respond to active acoustic detections by concentrating monitoring efforts towards the area of most recent detection (see Heightened Awareness Protocol included as Appendix A) and reducing speed to 10 knots or less within an area 5 nautical miles in radius centered on the detecting auto AB.
  - (3) respond to additional sightings made by the designated look-outs on the EBRV within a 2-mile radius of the vessel by slowing the EBRV to 10 knots or less and concentrating monitoring efforts towards the area of most recent sighting (see Heightened Awareness Protocol included as Appendix A) .
- E. In the event that a whale is visually observed within 1 kilometer of the NEG Port or a confirmed acoustic detection is reported on either of the two ABs closest to the Port (western-most in the TSS array), departing EBRVs shall delay their departure from the Deepwater Port, unless exceptional circumstances, as defined in Section 1.0, require that departure is not delayed. This departure delay shall continue until either the observed whale has been visually (during daylight hours) confirmed as more than 1 kilometer from the NEG Port or 30 minutes have passed without another confirmed detection either acoustically within the acoustic detection range of the two ABs closest to the Port, or visually within 1 kilometer from the NEG Port.
- F. EBRVs that are approaching or departing from the Port and are within the Area To Be Avoided (ATBA)<sup>5</sup> surrounding the Port, shall remain at least 1 kilometer away from any visually detected North Atlantic right whale and at least 100 yards (91.4 meters) away from all other visually detected whales unless exceptional circumstances, as defined in Section 1.0, require that the vessel stay its course. The Vessel Master shall designate at least one look-out to be exclusively and continuously monitoring for the presence of marine mammals at all times while the EBRV is approaching or departing from the Port as outlined in the Heightened Awareness Protocol included as Appendix A.
- G. NEG shall ensure that other vessels providing support to the NEG Port operations during regasification activities that are approaching or departing from the Port and are within the ATBA, shall be operated so as to remain at least 1 kilometer away from any visually detected North Atlantic right whale, and at least 100 yards (91.4 meters) from all other visually detected whales.

To further ensure that marine mammals will not be adversely affected by the operation of the NEG Port, the MARAD License, the BO, ITS and IHA as amended, and NMSA Section 304 (d) Recommendations have also established specific speed restrictions that EBRVs must comply with when calling at the Port. The specific speed restrictions required for all EBRVs consist of the following:

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<sup>5</sup> The ATBA is a 1.4-nautical mile diameter area around the NEG Port facility. This is the largest area of the port that will be marked on nautical charts that is enforceable by the USCG.

- A. EBRVs and support vessels<sup>6</sup> shall travel at 10 knots maximum speed when transiting to/from the TSS or to/from the Port. At 1.86 miles (3 kilometers) from the Port, speed will be reduced to 3 knots and to less than 1 knot at 1,640 feet (500 meters) from the NEG buoys.
- B. EBRVs shall maintain speeds of 12 knots or less while in the TSS until reaching the vicinity of the ABs (except during the seasons and areas defined under conditions "C", "D", and "E" below, when speed shall be limited to 10 knots or less) unless exceptional circumstances, as defined in Section 1.0, dictate the need for an alternate speed.
- C. EBRVs shall reduce their maximum authorized transit speed while in the TSS from 12 knots or less to 10 knots or less from March 1 to April 30 in all waters bounded by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated below unless exceptional circumstances, as defined in Section 1.0, dictate the need for an alternate speed. This area shall hereafter be referred to as the Off Race Point Seasonal Management Area (ORP-SMA).

42°30' N 70°30' W	41°40' N 69°57' W
42°30' N 69°45' W	42°12' N 70°15' W
41°40' N 69°45' W	42°12' N 70°30' W
42°04.8' N 70°10' W	42°30' N 70°30' W

- D. EBRVs shall reduce their maximum authorized transit speed while in the TSS from 12 knots or less to 10 knots or less unless exceptional circumstances, as defined in Section 1.0, dictate the need for an alternate speed from April 1 to July 31 in all waters bounded by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated below. This area shall hereafter be referred to as the GSC-SMA.

42°30' N 69° 45' W	41°40' N 69°45' W
42°30' N 67°27' W	42°30' N 69°45' W
42°09' N 67°08.4' W	41°00' N 69°05' W

- E. EBRVs are not expected to transit Cape Cod Bay; however, in the event that transit through Cape Cod Bay is required, EBRVs shall reduce transit speed from 12 knots or less to 10 knots or less (unless exceptional conditions as defined in Section 1.0 dictate the need for an alternate speed) from January 1 to May 15 in all waters in Cape Cod Bay, extending to all shorelines of Cape Cod Bay, with a northern boundary of 42°12' N latitude. This area shall hereafter be referred to as the Cape Cod Bay Seasonal Management Area (CCB-SMA).
- F. The NEG Port area is within the Mandatory Ship Reporting Area (MSRA), as such all EBRVs transiting to and from the NEG Port shall report their activities to the mandatory reporting Section of the USCG to remain apprised of North Atlantic right whale movements within the area. All vessels entering and exiting the MSRA shall report their activities to WHALESNORTH. Vessel operators shall contact the USCG by standard procedures promulgated through the Notice to Mariner system.

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<sup>6</sup> The NEG utilizes a Port Service Vessel (PSV) that operates within the vicinity of the NEG deepwater port for enhanced maritime domain security awareness, crewing, maintenance, transportation of port personnel, performance of surveys, and environmental studies. PSV activities are carefully coordinated and dedicated to those necessary while an EBRV is moored to the subsea buoy and cargo transfer operations are being performed.

The importance of maritime domain security awareness is recognized. The PSV will normally be present at least 70 percent of the time while an EBRV is moored at the NEG during Maritime Security (MARSEC) 1. If the PSV is performing others duties outside of domain awareness it can return to station at the NEG Port within one hour, which will require the vessel to travel at speeds greater than 10 knots in response to a heightened security situation.

- G. The EBRV Master shall receive reports as often as every 30 minutes regarding right whale call detections made by the ABs prior to and during transit through the portion of the TSS where the buoys are installed (see Section 3.1.1). Should a detection occur the following procedures shall be followed:
- (1) In response to active right whale sightings or acoustic detections (as defined in footnotes 3 and 4) and taking into account exceptional circumstances that may exist as defined in Section 1.0, EBRVs shall take appropriate actions to minimize the risk of striking whales, including reducing speed to 10 knots or less and alerting the posted look-out to concentrate monitoring efforts towards the area of most recent detection (see Heightened Awareness Protocol included as Appendix A).
  - (2) EBRVs shall respond to active right whale sightings reported on the MSR or SAS by alerting the look-out posted for marine mammal monitoring duties to concentrate monitoring efforts towards the area of most recent detection (see Heightened Awareness Protocol included as Appendix A) and by reducing speed to 10 knots or less if the vessel is within an 8 nautical mile radius centered on the location of the sighting.
  - (3) EBRVs shall respond to active acoustic detections by concentrating monitoring efforts towards the area of most recent detection (see Heightened Awareness Protocol included as Appendix A) and reducing speed to 10 knots or less within a 5 nautical mile radius centered on the detecting AB.
  - (4) EBRVs shall respond to visual observations made by the look-out within the 2-mile Zone of Influence (ZOI) around the ship by concentrating monitoring efforts towards the area of observation (see Heightened Awareness Protocol is included as Appendix A) and by reducing speed to 10 knots or less.
- H. All individuals onboard the EBRVs responsible for the navigation duties and any other personnel that could be assigned to monitor for marine mammals shall receive training on marine mammal sighting/reporting and vessel strike avoidance measures. See Appendix B for a copy of the marine mammal and sea turtle training materials.

While an EBRV is navigating within the designated TSS there are three people with lookout duties on or near the bridge of the ship including the Master, the Officer-of-the-Watch and the Helmsman on watch. In addition to the standard watch procedures, while the EBRV is transiting within the designated TSS, maneuvering within the ATBA, and/or while actively engaging in the use of thrusters, an additional look-out shall be designated to exclusively and continuously monitor for marine mammals (see Heightened Awareness Protocol included as Appendix A).

All sightings of marine mammals by the designated look-out, individuals posted to navigational lookout duties and/or any other crew member while the EBRV is transiting within the TSS, maneuvering within the ATBA, and/or when actively engaging in the use of thrusters, shall be immediately reported to the Officer-of-the-Watch who shall then alert the Master. The Master or Officer-of-the-Watch shall ensure the required reporting procedures as defined in Appendix A are followed and the designated marine mammal look-out records all pertinent information relevant to the sighting. The Master shall then be responsible for implementing the measures as described in this MMDMRP to ensure impacts to marine mammals are minimized.

Once the Submerged Turret Loading™ (STL) buoy is locked into place within the EBRV and regasification activities have begun, the vessel is no longer considered in Heightened Awareness status. However, when regasification activities conclude and the EBRV prepares to depart from the

NEG Port, the Master shall once again ensure the responsibilities as defined in this MMDMRP are carried out.

- I. Visual sightings made by look-outs from the EBRVs will be recorded using a standard sighting log form (see Attachment 1 to the Heightened Awareness Protocol). Estimated locations will be reported for each individual and/or group of individuals categorized by species, when known, or by general classes (i.e. one large whale, multiple large whales, 100+ dolphins etc.) when species or number is unknown. This data will be entered into a database and a summary of monthly sighting activity will be provided in the Cornell reports and ITS/IHA reports to NOAA (see Section 4.2). Estimates of take and copies of these log sheets will also be included in ITS/IHA reports.

### **3.2 Acoustic Detection Operational and Maintenance Requirements to Reduce Vessel-Whale Strikes**

Vessels associated with maintaining the acoustic seafloor array of Marine Autonomous Recording Units (MARUs) and the AB network operating as part of the mitigation/monitoring protocols under this MMDMRP shall adhere to the following speed restrictions and marine mammal monitoring requirements. These restrictions and requirements are also referred to in the SBNMS permit for this activity (permit number SBNMS-2007-002):

- A. Vessels greater than 300 gross tons (GT) shall not exceed 10 knots.
- B. Vessels less than 300 GT shall not exceed 15 knots at any time, but shall adhere to speeds of 10 knots or less in the following areas and seasons:
  - (1) In the ORP-SMA between March 1 and April 30 as described in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the North Atlantic Right Whale Ship Strike Reduction Strategy and implemented in the BO for this project.
  - (2) In the CCB-SMA between January 1 and May 15 as described in the DEIS for the North Atlantic Right Whale Ship Strike Reduction Strategy and implemented in the BO for this project.
- C. In accordance with NOAA Regulation 50 CFR 224.103 (c), all vessels associated with NEG Port activities shall not approach closer than 500 yards (460 meters) to a North Atlantic right whale (see footnote 2).
- D. All vessels shall post look-outs during operations to help avoid collisions with marine mammals. Individuals posted as look-outs shall receive training in marine mammal observation.
- E. All vessels shall obtain the latest right whale sighting information via the NAVTEX, MSR, SAS, NOAA Weather Radio, or other available means prior to operations to determine if there are right whales present in the operational area.

### **3.3 Injured/Dead Protected Species Reporting**

During all phases of the NEG Project's operation, sightings of any injured or dead protected species (sea turtles and marine mammals) shall be reported immediately, regardless of whether the injury or death was caused by Port activities. Sightings of injured or dead whales and sea turtles not associated with NEG Project activities can be reported to the USCG on VHF Channel 16, or to NMFS Stranding and Entanglement Hotline: (978) 281-9351.

In addition, if the injury or death was caused by a NEG Port vessel or NEG Port-related equipment or material/activity (e.g., EBRV, support vessel, or construction vessel, entanglement, buoy, etc.), NEG shall notify

MARAD and the USCG immediately, and shall provide a full report to NOAA/NMFS NER and NOAA/NMSP/SBNMS. The reports to NOAA shall include the following information:

- (1) the time, date and location (latitude/longitude) of the incident;
- (2) the name and type of the vessel involved or other equipment/material that caused the injury or death;
- (3) the vessel's speed during the incident, if applicable;
- (4) a description of the incident;
- (5) water depth;
- (6) environmental conditions (e.g., wind speed and direction, sea state, cloud cover and visibility);
- (7) the species identification or description of the animal, if possible; and
- (8) the fate of the animal.

## **4 Acoustic Monitoring Strategy**

As reflected in MARAD/USCG License, the BO, ITS and IHA as amended, and the NMSA Section 304 (d) Recommendations, the impacts from operation can be effectively monitored and mitigated utilizing passive acoustic detection technology. As such, NEG shall monitor the noise environment in Massachusetts Bay in the vicinity of the NEG Port and Pipeline Lateral using an array of 19 MARUs that were deployed initially in April 2007 to collect data during the preconstruction and active construction phases of the Project. MARUs are depicted in Figure 1. These 19 MARUs shall remain in the same configuration for a period of 5 years during full operation of the NEG Port. The MARUs collect archival noise data and are not designed to provide real-time or near-real-time information about vocalizing whales. Rather, the acoustic data collected by the MARUs shall be analyzed to document the seasonal occurrences and overall distributions of whales (primarily fin, humpback and right whales) within approximately 10 nautical miles of the NEG Port and shall measure and document the noise "budget" of Massachusetts Bay so as to eventually assist in determining whether or not an overall increase in noise in the Bay associated with the NEG Project might be having a potentially negative impact on marine mammals. The overall intent of this system is to provide better information for both regulators and the general public regarding the acoustic footprint associated with long-term operation of the NEG Port in Massachusetts Bay, and the distribution of vocalizing marine mammals during NEG Port operation (analyzed to assess impacts of former on latter). In addition to the 19 MARUs, NEG shall deploy 10 ABs (Figure 2) within the Separation Zone of the TSS for the operational life of the NEG Project. The purpose of the ABs shall be to detect a calling North Atlantic right whale an average of 5 nautical miles from each AB (detection ranges will vary based on ambient underwater conditions). The AB system shall be the primary detection mechanism that alerts the EBRV Master to the occurrence of right whales, heightens EBRV awareness, and triggers necessary mitigation actions as described in this MMDMRP.

NEG has engaged representatives from Cornell University's Bioacoustics Research Program (Cornell) and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) as the consultants for developing, implementing, collecting and analyzing the acoustic data, reporting, and maintaining the acoustic monitoring system.

The following sections detail the deployment and operation of arrays of 19 passive seafloor acoustic recording units MARUs centered on the terminal site and the 10 ABs (Figure 3)<sup>7</sup> that are to be placed at approximately 5-mile intervals within the recently modified TSS.

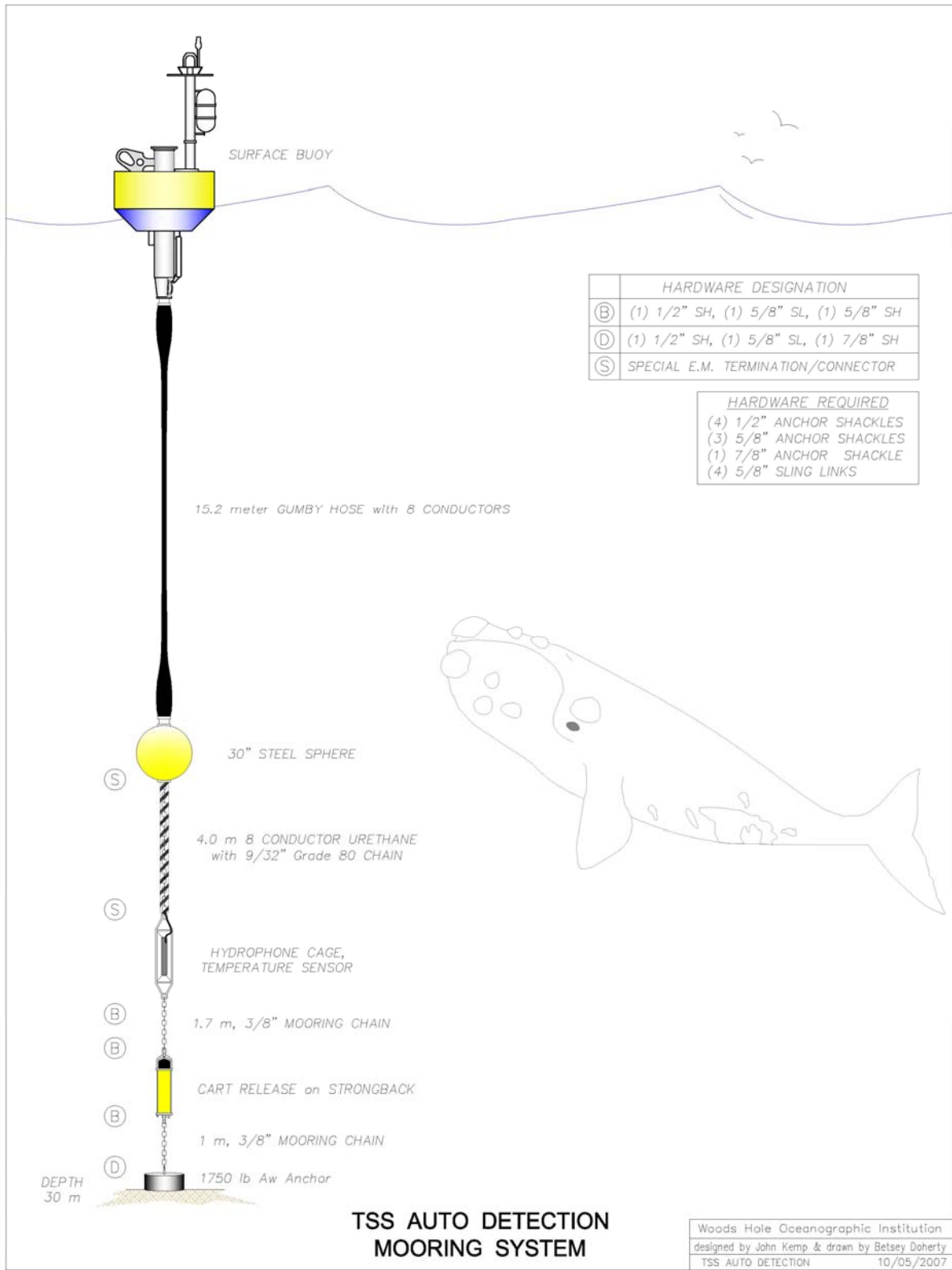
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<sup>7</sup> The configurations of the MARU array and AB network presented in this plan were based upon the configurations developed and recommended by NOAA personnel. This plan represents a technological design based on scientific research. Impacts to MARUs and ABs from vessels transiting the TSS are not known. Modifications to the deployment schedules and configurations of the MARU array and AB network may be required to respond to any adverse impacts from these two activities.

Figure 1. Marine Autonomous Recording Units (MARUs)



Figure 2. Auto-detection buoy (AB) schematic and picture of AB operating off the coast of New England





## 4.1 Acoustic Whale Detection and Response Plan

During NEG Port operations, the NEG Port Manager shall notify Cornell when he receives the USCG required 96-hour notification of arriving vessel from the Master of the EBRV. By this notification Cornell shall be able to determine and the NEG Port Manager will confirm when an EBRV is within 24 hours of entering the TSS.

### 4.1.1 Right Whale Detection and Notifications

At the completion of the construction phase, the six ABs utilized in this phase shall be removed from the construction corridor. Ten (10) newly constructed ABs shall be manufactured by the WHOI and Cornell, and shall be deployed within the TSS. The ABs shall be placed approximately 5 nautical miles from each other within the TSS northward as it approaches and then transits the SBNMS (Figure 3).

Each AB shall continuously screen the low-frequency acoustic environment (less than 1,000 Hertz) for right whale contact calls occurring within an approximately 5 nautical mile radius from each buoy (the AB's detection range) and rank detections on a scale from 1 to 10. Each AB shall transmit all detection data for detections of rank greater than or equal to 6 via Iridium satellite link to the Cornell server website every 20 minutes<sup>8</sup>.

There are two procedures for evaluating the AB data and posting the evaluation results, where posting refers to the protocol by which confirmed detections are communicated to an EBRV:

- (1) Under a normal monitoring condition (no EBRV at the Port, no EBRV in the TSS, no EBRV expected to enter TSS within 24 hours), Cornell staff with expertise in right whale call identification shall evaluate all available AB data and post detection results every 12 hours.
- (2) Under a monitoring-alert condition (when the EBRV is within 24 hours of entering the TSS, is in the TSS or is in the NEG Port area) Cornell staff with expertise in right whale calls shall evaluate all available AB data and post detection results every 30 minutes<sup>9</sup>. During this monitoring-alert condition Cornell personnel with expertise in right whale calls shall be available full-time to confirm all detections.

Once a confirmed detection is made, Cornell shall immediately initiate a process to alert the Master of any EBRVs operating in the area. Until the Automatic Identification System (AIS) transmission is available for communicating confirmed whale detections, the time that Cornell establishes contact with the EBRV Master regarding the presence of a confirmed detection starts the 24 hour period in which that acoustic detection remains "active." Additional communications between Cornell and the EBRV Master regarding new confirmed detections (as often as every 30 minutes or every 12 hours under different monitoring conditions) shall either restart the 24 hour clock at an AB that has received multiple confirmed calls, or start additional 'clocks' associated with coincident detections at additional buoys.

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<sup>8</sup> This 20-minute transmission schedule was determined by consideration of a combination of factors including the tendency of right whale calls to occur in clusters [leading to a sampling logic of listening for other calls rather than transmitting immediately upon detection of a possible call] and the amount of battery power required to complete a satellite transmission.

<sup>9</sup> The time required to complete the transmission of AB data is directly related to the size of the data package (i.e., large packages require more time than small ones.) Therefore, the exact length of time between the start of data transmission from an AB and evaluation of those AB data cannot be precisely specified. In order for Cornell staff to keep up with data evaluation from the same AB, the sum of transmission and evaluation times must be less than 20 minutes. Given the best available information at this time, we anticipate that data evaluation for a single AB data package transmitted every 20 minutes, could be completed within 10 minutes after the start of data transmission. By this schedule, the longest delay time between the actual occurrence of a right whale call detected at an AB and the posting of a message that a calling right whale had been detected would be 30 minutes.

Currently, only the EBRV Excellence and the EBRV Excelerate are authorized to call upon the NEG Port. The contact info and notification content are:

**Energy Bridge Regasification Vessels:**

**EBRV Excellence:**

Phone: 764 337 789 (Bridge - CCR)

Phone: 764 337 790 (Capt. Cabin)

Fax: 764 337 791

Satcom C Telex: 420 543 411

Ocean region to be monitored: AORW (874 for Voice and 574 for Telex)

Call sign: ONBG

E-mail: [master.excelerate@rmx2.rydex.co.uk](mailto:master.excelerate@rmx2.rydex.co.uk) - or - [excellence@shipmanagement.exmar.be](mailto:excellence@shipmanagement.exmar.be)

**EBRV Excelerate:**

Phone: 764 642 316 (Bridge - CCR)

Phone: 764 642 317 (Capt. Cabin)

Fax: 764 642 318

Satcom C Telex: 420 544 410

Ocean region to be monitored: AORW (874 for Voice and 574 for Telex)

Call sign: ONDY

E-mail: [master.excelerate@rmx2.rydex.co.uk](mailto:master.excelerate@rmx2.rydex.co.uk) - or - [excelerate@shipmanagement.exmar.be](mailto:excelerate@shipmanagement.exmar.be)

**The Notification Content shall include:**

- Time of detection – Designated in Local Time (LT)
- Detection AB – Designated by AB-ID# and LAT/LON Coordinates
- Active detection time period – Indicate start (as defined for pre-AIS communication methodology, above, and post-AIS communication methodology, below) and end times for 24 hour mandated response
- Special instructions – Any pertinent information

In order to ensure the efficiency with which whale detection information is transmitted to EBRV Masters, additional notification methods may be developed in cooperation between NOAA, USCG, Cornell, and NEG.

Presently, the default notification mechanism is that Cornell shall make telephone calls to the Master of any EBRV operating in the area. Information detailing the detection shall also be faxed to the NEG Port Manager (Fax #: +1 978 744 5973). Two alternative notification mechanisms, NAVTEX Reporting and AIS Reporting, are being developed in cooperation with NOAA, USCG, Cornell, and NEG to provide content information to the EBRVs.

The objective of these alternative notification methods is to ensure that whale detection information is transmitted in a manner that (1) allows it to be most efficiently integrated with additional information utilized by EBRV Masters and crew members, and (2) will facilitate broadening of the audience for detection notices to non-EBRV vessels in the area, following either voluntary reception and use of these messages by such additional vessels or determination by NOAA to propose the use of these messages in the agency's ship strike mitigation strategy (including associated evaluation of the impacts of such action, and additional governmental and public review and comment).

Since implementation of these two methods have not been fully developed by NOAA, USCG, Cornell, and NEG at this time, they are not included as part of this MMDMRP for Operation. NEG shall continue to cooperate in the development activities for these two alternative notifications methods and when either method is tested and

confirmed that the EBRVs can integrate the methods into their operating protocols, this MMDMRP shall be amended to describe how the alternative reporting systems shall be implemented and the EBRV crews shall be trained on their implementation. A brief general description of each of the proposed alternative reporting methodologies is provided below.

#### **4.1.2 NAVTEX Reporting**

NAVTEX is a standard Narrow Band Direct Printing (NBDP) system that assures a nearly 100 percent delivery of messages in all weather conditions. The NBDP system can be configured such that all detection messages can be prioritized. Therefore this notification procedure shall require receiver (vessel operator) acknowledgement or an audible alarm keeps repeating. Most vessels over 300 tons have NAVTEX. The IMO has designated NAVTEX as the primary means for transmitting coastal urgent marine safety information to ships worldwide. In the United States, NAVTEX is broadcast from USCG facilities in Cape Cod MA, Chesapeake VA, Savannah GA, Miami FL, New Orleans LA, San Juan PR, Cambria CA, Pt. Reyes CA, Astoria OR, Kodiak AK, Honolulu HI, and Guam. The USCG has been operating NAVTEX from Boston in 1983.

#### **4.1.3 AIS Reporting of North Atlantic Right Whale Detections**

The AIS is currently being used by ship-to-ship, line-of-site communication and principally for identification and locating vessels for navigation safety and collision avoidance. AIS helps to resolve the difficulty of identifying ships when many ships are in one area or when ships are not in sight (e.g., in fog, at far distance) by providing a means for ships to exchange identification, position, course, speed, and other ship data with all other nearby ships and Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) stations. It works by integrating a standardized VHF transceiver system with an electronic navigation system, such as a LORAN-C or Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver, and other navigational sensors aboard a ship (e.g., gyrocompass, rate of turn indicator, speed log, etc.).

NOAA has suggested that the active whale detections be transmitted over the AIS to facilitate the efficiency with which these data are integrated with additional navigational information utilized by vessels fitted with AIS equipment. NEG shall work with representatives from Cornell and the University of New Hampshire to further investigate this new application for the AIS. Transmission of whale detection notifications over the AIS shall require authorization from the USCG and IMO.<sup>10</sup>

#### **4.1.4 Maintenance of the Auto-detect Buoy Systems**

AB units shall be refurbished and repaired every three to six months as necessary, and the schedule for such repairs shall be carefully orchestrated so as not to impact auto-detection coverage in the TSS. For example, units would be swapped out during periods when no NEG Project vessels are in the area or expected to enter the area. NEG shall be required to maintain this system for the life of the project. Cornell shall provide regularly reports to MARAD, USCG, and NOAA (both NMFS and NMSP) that includes information on the functioning and performance of this system (see Section 4.2).

### **4.2 Long-term MARU Noise Monitoring and Reporting**

Throughout the construction phase, 19 MARUs have been deployed to record the acoustic environment in the area surrounding the NEG Port. This long-term monitoring effort shall continue seamlessly during the

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<sup>10</sup> NOAA is facilitating the acquisition of this authorization. The USCG has reviewed the binary code proposed for transmission of whale detection notices to NEG's EBRVs and has conditionally approved the use of AIS for this purpose. Additional development and testing are scheduled to take place between December 2007 and March-April 2008, with transmissions scheduled to be available for EBRV reception no later than May 2008. Until this development and testing phase are completed, received information on right whale detections will be reported to the transiting Excelsior Energy EBRVs using the default reporting procedures outlined in Section 3.1.1.

construction to operational transition period, and throughout the first five years of NEG Port operations. Given the present MARU deployment-redeployment schedule, the 19 MARUs deployed in mid-October 2007 near the end of construction shall be recovered and replaced in mid-January 2008 after the start of the operational phase. During the operational phase these MARUs shall continue to be redeployed in the same locations as they were during the construction period. However, based on the best available evidence from activities to date, and in consultation with all necessary parties and taking into consideration the need for permitting of any new locations for deployments within the SBNMS, Cornell shall evaluate the MARU deployment geometry plan and possibly make slight adjustments to the deployment geometry. This might happen, for example, based on changes in the fishing season, new information on bottom topography that indicates a better place to locate a unit where it is less likely to get trawled, or because it can be located in a place that provides better acoustic coverage now that construction is over. MARUs shall be recovered and redeployed on a three-month schedule to provide continuous, year-around passive acoustic monitoring coverage for five years after construction is complete.

Throughout operations, NEG will provide regular reports to MARAD, USCG and NOAA (both NMFS and NMSP) regarding the progress and status of the Project's operational marine mammal detection and monitoring requirements. These reports are summarized in Table 4.2-1.

For the first six months of NEG Port operation, Cornell shall provide a monthly Auto Detection Buoy Report that includes detailed information on the functioning and performance of the AB system as well as reports of whale detections, presence of EBRVs, and EBRV responses to notification. After this initial six-month period, Auto Detection Buoy Report shall be submitted quarterly (every three months) beginning after the ninth month of operation.

On a quarterly basis (approximately every three months) from the start of operations, Cornell will also provide a Passive Acoustic Monitoring Report to MARAD, USCG, and NOAA (both NMFS and NMSP). This report will include information regarding the noise environment of the adjacent area of Massachusetts Bay, the noises attributable to the operation of the Port, and, as feasible, the movement of vocalizing whales in the detection area based on empirical data collected by the MARUs. Included with this report will be a summary of the sighting information collected by the EBRV look-outs. Cornell also has access to both the SAS and MSR data for any given reporting period and will use this data in combination with the visual sighting information collected by the EBRV look-outs (see Section 3.1 and below) to assist in their estimation of the presence of whales during the operation of the Port.

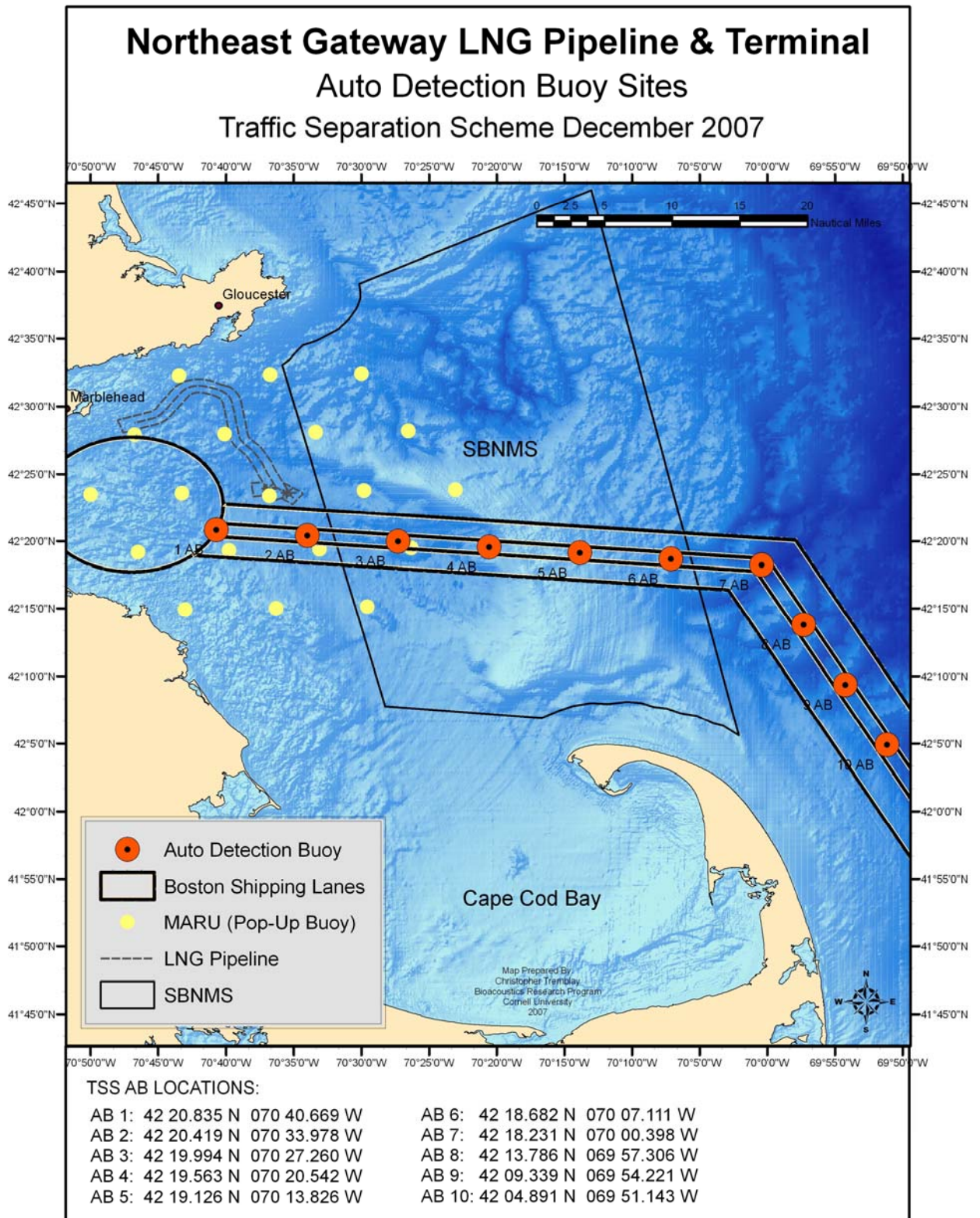
Throughout NEG Port Operations, NEG will provide a monthly IHA/ITS Report. The IHA/ITS Report will include both copies of the raw visual EBRV lookout sighting information of marine mammals and/or sea turtles that occurred within 2 miles of the EBRV while the vessel EBRV is transiting within the TSS, maneuvering within the ATBA, and/or when actively engaging in the use of thrusters, and a summary of the data collected by the look-outs over each reporting period (see Attachment 1 to Appendix A for a copy of the look-out sighting log). This visual sighting data will then be correlated to periods of thruster activity to provide estimates of marine mammal takes (per species/species class) that took place during each reporting period.

At the end of each five-year monitoring period, Cornell shall prepare a MMDMRP Summarization Report and provide it to NEG and to designated representatives of the MARAD, USCG, and NOAA (both NMFS and NMSP).

Table 4.2-1 Marine Mammal Detection and Monitoring Reporting Requirements

Report Title	Scheduled delivery to NOAA	Summary of Contents
ITS/IHA Report	Monthly throughout operations	Tabulation of number of marine mammals visually detected within 2 miles of the EBRV; estimation of take per species/species class; raw sighting logs for month
Auto Detection Buoy Report	Monthly for first 6 months, then every three months (beginning 9 months into operations)	Whale detections by TSS ABs, presence of EBRVs, and EBRV responses to notification
Passive Acoustic Monitoring Report	Approximately every three months during operations, in coordination with the recovery schedule of the MARUs.	Functioning and performance of the MARU network, including information on the noise environment in the MARU monitoring area, the presence of vocalizing whales in the MARU monitoring area, numbers of whales occurring in the MARU monitoring area and in the vicinity of Port Operations (based on the visually and acoustically located animals), and the movements of vocalizing whales based on empirical data collected by the MARUs. This would also include, as feasible, the attribution of specific operational events (as noted in Operations logs), with specific sound events (as recorded on the MARUs).
MMDMRP Summarization Report	Every five years	Overall review of the performance and effectiveness of the passive acoustic monitoring and mitigation systems within the areas of the MARU and AB networks; including documentation, quantification and measurements of the contributors to ocean ambient noise.

Figure 3. Geometry of 19 MARUs (yellow) surrounding the operating terminal site and 10 ABs (red) in the newly designated TSS during Operations.



## **Appendix A: Heightened Awareness Protocol**

In accordance with Annex A of the Northeast Gateway, L.L.C. (Northeast Gateway) Maritime Administration (MARAD) License, the Revised NOAA Biological Opinion (issued November 30, 2007), Incidental Take Statement (issued November 30, 2007), the Revised Incidental Harassment Authorization (issued November 30, 2007), and the National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) recommendations, Northeast Gateway must both acoustically and visually monitor for whale presence while transiting within the designate Boston Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS), while maneuvering within the confines of the Northeast Gateway Deepwater Port (NEG Port or Port)<sup>11</sup>, and while EBRV vessels are actively engaging in the use of thrusters. While engaging in any of these activities, the EBRV crew will be placed on heightened awareness. The following document identifies the specific actions and reporting protocols for the EBRV crew to follow during heightened awareness events.

### **Heightened Awareness Protocols for Operating EBRVs**

- Prior to entering and navigating the modified TSS the Master of the vessel will :
  - Consult NAVTEX, NOAA Weather Radio, the NOAA Right Whale Sighting Advisory System (SAS) or other means to obtain current right whale sighting information as well as the most recent Cornell acoustic monitoring buoy data for the potential presence of marine mammals;
  - Post a look-out who has successfully completed the required Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Training Program, to visually monitor for the presence of marine mammals and/or sea turtles;
  - Place the vessel in the Heightened Awareness mode and ensure the Protocols stated in this in appendix are initiated and implemented as presented.
- While transiting the TSS, maneuvering within the ATBA, and/or while engaging in the use of thrusters, the vessel is considered operating under the requirement of this Heightened Awareness Protocol
- The vessel look-out assigned to visually monitor for the presence of marine mammals and/or sea turtles will be equipped with the following:
  - Recent NAVTEX, NOAA Weather Radio, SAS and/or acoustic monitoring buoy detection data;
  - Binoculars to support observations;
  - Marine mammal detection guide sheets (see attachment 1); and
  - Sighting log (see attachment 2 and reporting requirements below).
- The look-out will concentrate his/her observation efforts within the 2-mile radius zone of influence (ZOI) from the maneuvering EBRV.
- If a marine mammal detection was reported by either NAVTEX, NOAA Weather Radio, SAS, and/or an acoustic monitoring buoy, the look-out will concentrate visual monitoring efforts towards the areas of the most recent detection.

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<sup>11</sup> The ATBA is a 1.4-nautical mile diameter area around the NEG Port facility. This is the largest area of the port that will be marked on nautical charts that is enforceable by the USCG.

- If the look-out (or any other member of the crew) visually detects a marine mammal within the 2-mile radius ZOI of a maneuvering EBRV, he/she will take the following actions:
  - The Officer-of-the-Watch will be notified immediately;
  - The sighting will be recorded in the sighting log by the designated marine mammal look-out (see attachment 2 and the reporting requirements below).
- If the Officer-of-the-Watch is notified by any crewmember of a marine mammal sighting, he/she will relay the sighting information to the Master immediately so that the appropriate action(s) can be taken to ensure impacts to the marine mammal(s) are successfully avoided and/or minimized.
- Once the STL buoy is locked into place within the EBRV and regasification activities have begun, the vessel is no longer considered in Heightened Awareness status. However, when regasification activities conclude and the EBRV prepares to depart from the NEG Port, the crew will once again assume the responsibilities as defined in this Plan.

### **Heightened Awareness Reporting Protocols**

- The look-out responsible for visual monitoring during any given watch period must keep a log of all marine mammal sightings. A sample sighting log sheet has been included as attachment 2. The basic reporting requirements include the following:
  - Date;
  - Time monitoring watch commenced / Time monitoring watch was suspended;
  - Name of look-out;
  - Vessel Name;
  - Lookout Position;
  - Weather and sea-state conditions;
  - Time of sighting;
  - Type of species sighted (categories will include: species [if known], unknown large whale, unknown small whale, unknown dolphin/porpoise, unknown seal, unknown sea turtle), as well as comment area for unusual or obvious behaviors;
  - Number of individuals sighted (record will include: exact number [if known], 5+, 10+, 50+, 100+);
  - Approximate location (latitude and longitude) at the time of the sighting;
  - General direction and distance of sighting from the vessel (distance should be recorded as within 50 yards, within 100 yards, within 500 yards, within 0.5 mile; within 1 mile, within 2 miles, greater than 2 miles);
  - Activity of the vessels at the time of sighting; and
  - Action taken by the observer.
- At the end of each monitoring watch the look-out will provide the log entries to the Officer of the Watch.
- The Officer of the Watch will be responsible for providing the sighting log entries to the Port Manager.
- The NEG will provide a monthly IHA/ITS Report that includes copies of the sighting logs, a summary for the species sighted for the month, and an estimate of Take on a monthly basis to the following:



- **Kristen Koyama**  
NOAA NMFS Northeast Regional Office (NERO)  
Ship Strike Coordinator  
One Blackburn Drive  
Gloucester, MA 01930  
Kristen.Koyama@noaa.gov  
978-281-9300 x 6531
  
- **Leila Hatch**  
Regional Marine Bioacoustic Coordinator  
NOS/NOAA  
Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary  
175 Edward Foster Road  
Scituate, MA 02066  
Leila.Hatch@noaa.gov  
(781) 545-8026 x203
  
- **Shane Guan**  
NOAA NMFS Office of Protected Resources  
1315 East-West Highway  
SSMC-3 Suite 13756  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
[Shane.Guan@noaa.gov](mailto:Shane.Guan@noaa.gov)  
301-713-2289 x 137
  
- **Sean T. Connaughton**  
Maritime Administrator  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
Maritimes Administration  
Office of Deepwater Ports and Offshore Activities  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, #W21-201  
Washington, D.C. 20590-0001
  
- **Admiral Thad W. Allen**  
U.S. Coast Guard Commandant  
USCG Headquarters  
2100 Second Street, S.W., Room 2212  
Washington, D.C. 20593-0001

## Attachment 1 – Marine Mammal Sighting Guide

### Contact Numbers:

#### Whale Watching Information

For more information on the whale watching guidelines or laws pertaining to marine mammals, call: NMFS, Protected Resources Division: 978-281-9300, X-6505

#### Right Whale Sighting

All sightings of a right whale should be called in to the NMFS Sightings Advisory System: 978-585-8473 (pager)

#### Entangled Whale

Any sighting of an entangled whale should be reported. Vessels should stand-by and keep the whale in sight until help arrives (an estimated 45 min. or more) or arrange for another vessel to maintain contact with the whale. Call the Disentanglement HOTLINE (weekdays): 800-900-3622, the Disentanglement Pager: 508-307-5300, the NMFS Hotline: 978-281-9351, or the USCG on CH-16

#### Entangled Right Whale

Maintain 500 yards. To report or get authorization to approach call the Disentanglement HOTLINE (weekdays): 800-900-3622, the Disentanglement Pager: 508-307-5300, or the NMFS Hotline: 978-281-9351

#### Dead Whale

Any sighting of a dead whale should be reported to the NMFS Hotline: 978-281-9351

#### Potential Violations

Any activity that appears to be an intentional or negligent action leading to a collision or harassment incident should be reported to NOAA Enforcement HOTLINE: 800-853-1964

National Marine Fisheries Service  
Northeast Region  
One Blackburn Drive  
Gloucester, MA 01930-2298  
<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov>



Gerry E. Snudds/Stellwagen Bank  
National Marine Sanctuary  
175 Edward Foster Road  
Scituate, MA 02066  
<http://www.stellwagen.noaa.gov>



7/26/06

## GREAT WHALES OF THE NORTHEAST REGION

### Including Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary

#### Fin Whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*)

**Status:** Endangered

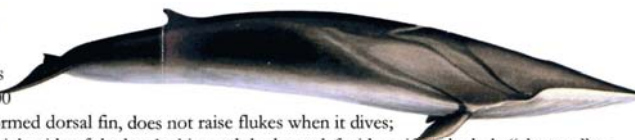
**Size:** up to 80 feet in length, 70-80 tons

**Gulf of Maine Population:** 2,000-3,000

**Features:** fast swimming; large, well-formed dorsal fin, does not raise flukes when it dives; asymmetrical coloration with the lower right side of the head white and the lower left side uniformly dark; "chevron" or white streak that starts behind blow hole and continues along each side used for identifying individuals.

**Prey:** sand lance, herring, mackerel, other small schooling fish, and krill.

**Range:** abundant on Stellwagen Bank, Jeffreys Ledge, off the coasts of Maine, New Hampshire, Cape Ann, Cape Cod, and Long Island from spring-fall; moves south and/or offshore into deep water in the winter; breeding/calving areas unknown.



#### Humpback Whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*)

**Status:** Endangered

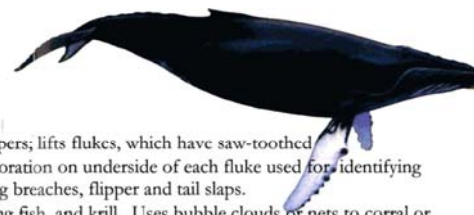
**Size:** up to 55 feet in length, 40 tons

**Gulf of Maine Population:** 800-900

**Features:** stocky baleen whale; long, white pectoral flippers; lifts flukes, which have saw-toothed trailing edges, when it dives; variable black and white coloration on underside of each fluke used for identifying individuals; small dorsal fin; acrobatic behaviors including breaches, flipper and tail slaps.

**Prey:** sand lance, herring, mackerel, other small schooling fish, and krill. Uses bubble clouds or nets to corral or concentrate fish.

**Range:** abundant on Stellwagen Bank, Jeffreys Ledge, off the coasts of Maine, New Hampshire, Cape Ann, and Cape Cod from spring-fall; juveniles seen off Virginia in winter; migrate to Caribbean Sea to breed and calve in winter.



#### North Atlantic Right Whale (*Eubalaena glacialis*)

**Status:** Endangered

**Size:** up to 60 feet in length, 80 tons

**Gulf of Maine Population:** Approx. 300

**Features:** slow-moving; generally stays close to shore; robust body; long baleen; "callosities" on head and jaw used to identify individuals; usually lifts smooth-edged, triangular flukes when diving; lacks dorsal fin.

**Prey:** skim feeds (surface and subsurface) on dense concentrations of zooplankton, particularly copepods.

**Range:** Cape Cod Bay and occasionally Stellwagen Bank during late winter and early spring; Great South Channel in late spring.



#### Minke Whale (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*)

**Status:** Common

**Size:** up to 30 feet, 10 tons

**Gulf of Maine Population:** Approx. 3000-4000

**Features:** Second smallest of the baleen whales, distinctive sickle-shaped dorsal fin; white bands on pectoral flippers; rarely lifts its flukes to dive; displays little or no visible breath or spout.

**Prey:** similar to fin and humpback whales

**Range:** similar to fin whales



Whale Illustrations by Garth Mix

## Attachment 2 – Marine Mammal Sighting Log

Northeast Gateway Deepwater Port Sighting Log Boston, Massachusetts						
LOOK OUT:				DATE:		
LOOK OUT POSITION:				OBSERVATION SHIFT (START/END): /		
VESSEL:				TOTAL OBSERVATION HOURS:		
WEATHER AND WATER CONDITIONS:		% Cloud Cover:		Sea State:		
		Clarity:		Visibility:		
Sightings Logs						
Time	Species	# Sighted	Approximate Location	General Direction / Closest Distance to Vessel	Vessel Activity	Action Taken by Observer
	Known: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Large whale <input type="checkbox"/> Small whale <input type="checkbox"/> Dolphin/Porpoise <input type="checkbox"/> Sea turtle <input type="checkbox"/> Seal <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ Behavior: _____	Known: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> 5+ <input type="checkbox"/> 10+ <input type="checkbox"/> 50+ <input type="checkbox"/> 100+	Lat: _____ Long: _____	Direction: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> ≤50 yd <input type="checkbox"/> ≤100 yd <input type="checkbox"/> ≤500 yd <input type="checkbox"/> ≤0.5 mi <input type="checkbox"/> ≤1 mi <input type="checkbox"/> ≤2 mi <input type="checkbox"/> >2 mi		
	Known: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Large whale <input type="checkbox"/> Small whale <input type="checkbox"/> Dolphin/Porpoise <input type="checkbox"/> Sea turtle <input type="checkbox"/> Seal <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ Behavior: _____	Known: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> 5+ <input type="checkbox"/> 10+ <input type="checkbox"/> 50+ <input type="checkbox"/> 100+	Lat: _____ Long: _____	Direction: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> ≤50 yd <input type="checkbox"/> ≤100 yd <input type="checkbox"/> ≤500 yd <input type="checkbox"/> ≤0.5 mi <input type="checkbox"/> ≤1 mi <input type="checkbox"/> ≤2 mi <input type="checkbox"/> >2 mi		
	Known: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Large whale <input type="checkbox"/> Small whale <input type="checkbox"/> Dolphin/Porpoise <input type="checkbox"/> Sea turtle <input type="checkbox"/> Seal <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ Behavior: _____	Known: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> 5+ <input type="checkbox"/> 10+ <input type="checkbox"/> 50+ <input type="checkbox"/> 100+	Lat: _____ Long: _____	Direction: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> ≤50 yd <input type="checkbox"/> ≤100 yd <input type="checkbox"/> ≤500 yd <input type="checkbox"/> ≤0.5 mi <input type="checkbox"/> ≤1 mi <input type="checkbox"/> ≤2 mi <input type="checkbox"/> >2 mi		
	Known: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Large whale <input type="checkbox"/> Small whale <input type="checkbox"/> Dolphin/Porpoise <input type="checkbox"/> Sea turtle <input type="checkbox"/> Seal <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ Behavior: _____	Known: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> 5+ <input type="checkbox"/> 10+ <input type="checkbox"/> 50+ <input type="checkbox"/> 100+	Lat: _____ Long: _____	Direction: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> ≤50 yd <input type="checkbox"/> ≤100 yd <input type="checkbox"/> ≤500 yd <input type="checkbox"/> ≤0.5 mi <input type="checkbox"/> ≤1 mi <input type="checkbox"/> ≤2 mi <input type="checkbox"/> >2 mi		
	Known: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Large whale <input type="checkbox"/> Small whale <input type="checkbox"/> Dolphin/Porpoise <input type="checkbox"/> Sea turtle <input type="checkbox"/> Seal <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ Behavior: _____	Known: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> 5+ <input type="checkbox"/> 10+ <input type="checkbox"/> 50+ <input type="checkbox"/> 100+	Lat: _____ Long: _____	Direction: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> ≤50 yd <input type="checkbox"/> ≤100 yd <input type="checkbox"/> ≤500 yd <input type="checkbox"/> ≤0.5 mi <input type="checkbox"/> ≤1 mi <input type="checkbox"/> ≤2 mi <input type="checkbox"/> >2 mi		
	Known: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Large whale <input type="checkbox"/> Small whale <input type="checkbox"/> Dolphin/Porpoise <input type="checkbox"/> Sea turtle <input type="checkbox"/> Seal <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ Behavior: _____	Known: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> 5+ <input type="checkbox"/> 10+ <input type="checkbox"/> 50+ <input type="checkbox"/> 100+	Lat: _____ Long: _____	Direction: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> ≤50 yd <input type="checkbox"/> ≤100 yd <input type="checkbox"/> ≤500 yd <input type="checkbox"/> ≤0.5 mi <input type="checkbox"/> ≤1 mi <input type="checkbox"/> ≤2 mi <input type="checkbox"/> >2 mi		
SIGNATURE OF LOOK OUT:				SIGNATURE OF OFFICER OF THE WATCH:		

## **Appendix B**

### **Northeast Gateway Acoustic Modeling Methodology**

Prepared for

Excelerate Energy, LLC  
1330 Lake Robbins Ave, Suite 270  
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and

Tetra Tech EC, Inc.  
133 Federal Street  
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**Prepared by Tech Environmental, Inc.  
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USA**

**October 2006**

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**B1. Underwater Acoustic Concepts**

The loudness of sound is dependent on the radiated sound power of the source and the propagation and attenuation characteristics of the medium through which the sound passes (sea water). The standard unit of sound is the decibel (dB), a logarithmic scale formed by taking 20 times the logarithm (base 10) of the ratio of two pressures: the measured sound pressure divided by a reference sound pressure. For underwater sound, this reference sound pressure is 1 micro-Pascal ( $\mu\text{Pa}$ ). The hearing capabilities and frequency (Hz) responses of marine mammals vary significantly. Therefore, underwater sound levels are typically expressed using unweighted or linear broadband levels (dBL) spanning the entire frequency spectrum under consideration. (For this study, the frequencies analyzed span 10 Hz to 20k Hz). The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) criteria used to assess impact and determine the potential of acoustic take or harassment are also presented in dBL sound levels.

Sound sources are typically presented as sound pressure levels at a distance of 1 meter from an idealized point source, i.e. dB re  $1 \mu\text{Pa}$  at 1 meter. This standardized reference distance was developed to allow for direct comparison of different sound source levels. Received sound levels include the effects of propagation and attenuation that occurred between the source and receptor. Under standard propagation conditions and in non-shallow water environments, received underwater sound levels lower at a horizontal distance 100 meters away from a source will be approximately 40 dBL lower than the source level at a reference of 1 meter. However, because many man-made underwater sound sources have dimensions that are much larger than an idealized point source, the relationship between near-field and far-field sound levels is more complicated than this simple rule and must therefore be determined through field measurements. In the acoustic near field, propagation losses will be generally lower than expected. Conversely, received source levels extrapolated from far-field measurements will be higher when the acoustic energy from a large area source is back-calculated to characterize an idealized point source. To account for sound propagation resulting from a large area source such as the Energy Bridge Regasification Vessel (EBRV), the transition from the acoustic near to far field, as well as the site-specific characteristics, must be well understood

The propagation and attenuation of sound waves under water is a complex phenomena influenced by gradients of temperature, water column depth, salinity, currents, sea surface turbulence and wake bubbles, scattering by seafloor and surface, etc. Within close range of the sound source, attenuation and propagation losses are primarily driven by geometric spreading, i.e. sound levels decreasing with increased distance from the sound source as the sound energy is gradually spread across increasingly larger and larger surfaces. In unbounded sea water, free field spherical wave spreading will occur at a decay rate of  $TL = 20 \log R$ , where R is the horizontal propagation path between the source and receptor in meters and TL symbolizes sound energy transmission loss. Extensive research has demonstrated that spherical wave spreading, together with seawater absorption rates, provides a reasonable fit to measured underwater sound levels under a wide variety of conditions. Because the ocean is bounded by the surface above and the seafloor below, additional adjustments must be made. When the propagation path becomes greater than the water depth, free field spherical spreading can no longer continue. If perfectly reflective boundaries were assumed, the spherical wave spreading would transition to cylindrical spreading, represented by the decay rate of  $TL = 10 \log R$ . However, to account for the fact that neither the surface or seabed floor are perfectly reflective, modified or transitional cylindrical spreading represented by decay rate of  $TL = 15 \log R$  has been shown to have the best fit when compared to actual TL measurements made at sea. At horizontal propagation distances much greater than the depth, standard cylindrical spreading combined with a linear (dB per km) absorption and scattering rate provides conservative modeling results.

**B2. Methodology**

A multitude of underwater acoustic modeling programs have been developed, both proprietary and publicly available. These computer models employ different calculation approaches including the parabolic equation (PE), wave number integration, wave tracing, and normal mode theory, and the models and can be either range-dependent or independent. These models were initially designed to calculate

sound propagation for narrow frequency bands at a set of standard range of water depths, with some models being more appropriate than others for certain applications. The majority of the programs have been developed or supported by Navy sponsors for use in the prediction of sonar propagation and sonar performance prediction. The accuracy of these models is largely dependant on the accuracy of the intrinsically dynamic data inputs used to describe the medium between the path and receiver. The exacting information required can never be achieved for all possible modeling situations, particularly for long-range acoustic modeling where uncertainties in model inputs vary increasingly over large propagation distances. Prediction of received sound levels to the nearest tenth of a decibel at distances beyond 100 meters, regardless of the detail of input parameters, should be viewed with skepticism.

The modeling approach that was developed specifically for the analyses of underwater sound resulting from the construction and operation of the NEG Port Project attempts to simplify the calculation procedure by employing standardized acoustic modeling algorithms with conservative assumptions to provide a transparent calculation methodology that can be easily reviewed by regulators. The resulting decibel levels are not expected to be exceeded under the vast majority of real world Gulf of Maine conditions. Source terms were taken directly from a comprehensive sound survey completed at an existing deepwater port located in the Gulf of Mexico (see Appendix C). For other sources, namely the construction vessels used in the Pipeline Lateral and NEG Port construction, source terms were developed for both the acoustic power emitted and frequency spectrums using frequency shapes from similar vessels reported in the literature. The results do not include existing acoustic ambient conditions (levels estimated at 100 to 120 dBL), which are expected to effectively mask Project sounds.

Assumptions employed in the propagation calculations are as follows:

- Spherical spreading losses ( $20 \log R$ ) for horizontal propagation ranges up to 1.5 times the water depth ( $D$ ) at the source,
- Modified cylindrical spreading ( $15 \log R$ ) for horizontal propagation ranges greater than  $1.5D$ , and
- Cylindrical spreading ( $10 \log R$ ) combined with a 0.5 dB/km linear absorption and scattering rate for propagation distances greater than 1 kilometer.

In addition to geometric spreading losses, frequency dependant seawater absorption rates were incorporated into the attenuation calculation. Corrections for near-field to far-field transition for the EBRV vessel during closed-loop regasification were determined first by calculations, and later verified during the second Gulf Gateway field survey.

### **B3. Acoustic Output Files**

The resulting sound level isopleths presented in Figures 1-1 and 1-2 of the Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) application show the contour plots for the received sound isopleths of concern (120, 160, and 180 dB). These plots are representative of the maximum received sound levels expected for each of the sound sources and activities. Output files of frequency and broadband results or received sound levels have also been provided in the attached Tables B-1 through B-6, with red text identifying distance and frequency levels at the critical 120 dBL isopleths. The calculated received underwater sound levels during construction of the Pipeline Lateral at a location with a water column depth of 80 meters are shown in Table B-1 for a construction vessel transiting the Project area and in Table B-2 for a construction vessel using thrusters. Tables B-3 and B-4 are for the same two sources simulated in a water column with a depth of 40 meters. The 40-meter water column depth is representative of northern areas that the Pipeline Lateral traverses and the 80-meter water column depth for areas near the NEG Port. Table B-5 presents worst case received sound levels during EBRV closed loop regasification and offloading during steady state conditions. As shown in the corresponding Figure 1-2, received sound levels will not exceed the 120-dBL isopleths at any appreciable distance from the EBRV. Finally,

Table B-6 presents data and propagation calculations for an EBRV coupling at the NEG Port with sound level contours displayed in Figure 1-2.

**TABLE B-1: CALCULATED RECEIVED UNDERWATER SOUND LEVELS DURING CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES AT A LOCATION ALONG THE PIPELINE LATERAL (dBL)**

1/3 Octave Band Center Frequencies	Hertz																				Broad Band														
	12.5	16	20	25	31	40	50	63	80	100	125	160	200	250	315	400	500	630	800	1000		1250	1600	2000	2500	3150	4000	5000	6300	8000	10000	12000	16000	20000	
Dominant sound source	Construction vessel transiting																																		
Average depth (D) at source	80.0 meters																																		
Seawater absorption rates (dB per 1 km)	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	0.0	0.0	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2	-0.2	-0.3	-0.4	-0.5	-0.8	-1.2	-1.6	-2.7	-4.0	
Source spectral density (dB re 1 uPa at 1 m)	160.0	161.0	162.0	164.0	162.0	161.0	161.0	157.7	151.0	151.0	147.6	144.2	140.8	137.4	134.0	132.0	130.0	128.0	126.0	124.0	122.0	120.0	118.0	116.0	114.0	112.0	110.0	108.0	106.0	104.0	102.0	100.0	98.0	96.0	170.1
Distance and near field / far field adjustments (dB)	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.4	---
Adjusted source spectrum at 100 m (dB re 1 uPa)	120.0	121.0	122.0	124.0	122.0	121.0	121.0	117.7	111.0	111.0	107.6	104.2	100.8	97.4	94.0	92.0	90.0	88.0	86.0	84.0	82.0	80.0	78.0	76.0	74.0	72.0	70.0	67.9	65.9	63.9	61.8	59.7	57.6	130.1	

General Notes on Calculation Method:  
 - Source level and frequency spectrum estimated at a maximum 160 dBL with energy peaking at 25 Hz to coincide with propeller cavitations  
 - The conservative acoustic modeling approach applied spherical spreading losses (20LogR) at ranges 1.5 times the water depth (D), modified cylindrical spreading (15LogR) for distances greater than 1.5D, and cylindrical spreading (10LogR) with 0.5 dB/km linear absorption and scattering at distances greater than 1 km  
 - The tabulated results are independent of existing area ambient levels in the Gulf of Maine  
 - Red text shows the worst case distance to the critical 120 dBL isopleth

1/3 Octave Band Center Frequencies	Hertz																				Band												
	12.5	16	20	25	31	40	50	63	80	100	125	160	200	250	315	400	500	630	800	1000		1250	1600	2000	2500	3150	4000	5000	6300	8000	10000	12000	16000
Data for contour plot																																	
Distance (m)																																	
80.0	124.4	125.4	126.4	128.4	126.4	125.4	122.1	115.4	115.4	112.0	108.6	105.2	101.8	98.4	96.4	94.4	92.4	90.4	88.4	86.4	84.4	82.4	80.4	78.4	76.4	74.4	72.4	70.4	68.4	66.3	64.3	62.2	134.5
70.0	123.1	124.1	125.1	127.1	125.1	124.1	120.8	114.1	114.1	110.7	107.3	103.9	100.5	97.1	95.1	93.1	91.1	89.1	87.1	85.1	83.1	81.1	79.1	77.1	75.1	73.1	71.1	69.0	67.0	65.0	62.9	60.8	133.2
60.0	121.9	122.9	123.9	125.9	123.9	122.9	119.6	112.9	112.9	109.5	106.1	102.7	99.3	95.9	93.9	91.9	89.9	87.9	85.9	83.9	81.9	79.9	77.9	75.9	73.9	71.9	69.9	67.9	65.8	63.8	61.7	59.6	132.0
50.0	120.9	121.9	122.9	124.9	122.9	121.9	118.6	111.9	111.9	108.5	105.1	101.7	98.3	94.9	92.9	90.9	88.9	86.9	84.9	82.9	80.9	78.9	76.9	74.9	72.9	70.9	68.9	66.9	64.8	62.8	60.7	58.6	130.7
40.0	120.0	121.0	122.0	124.0	122.0	121.0	117.7	111.0	111.0	107.6	104.2	100.8	97.4	94.0	92.0	90.0	88.0	86.0	84.0	82.0	80.0	78.0	76.0	74.0	72.0	70.0	67.9	65.9	63.9	61.8	59.7	57.6	130.1
30.0	119.2	120.2	121.2	123.2	121.2	120.2	116.8	110.2	110.2	106.8	103.4	100.0	96.6	93.2	91.2	89.2	87.2	85.2	83.2	81.2	79.2	77.2	75.2	73.1	71.1	69.1	67.1	65.1	63.0	61.0	58.9	56.7	129.2
20.0	118.4	119.4	120.4	122.4	120.4	119.4	116.1	109.4	109.4	106.0	102.6	99.2	95.8	92.4	90.4	88.4	86.4	84.4	82.4	80.4	78.4	76.4	74.4	72.4	70.4	68.4	66.4	64.3	62.3	60.2	58.1	55.9	128.5
15.0	117.4	118.4	119.4	121.4	119.4	118.4	115.1	108.4	108.4	105.0	101.6	98.2	94.8	91.4	89.4	87.4	85.4	83.4	81.4	79.4	77.4	75.4	73.4	71.4	69.4	67.4	65.3	63.3	61.2	59.2	57.0	54.8	127.8
10.0	117.0	118.0	119.0	121.0	119.0	118.0	114.8	108.0	108.0	104.6	101.2	97.8	94.4	91.0	89.0	87.0	85.0	83.0	81.0	79.0	77.0	75.0	73.0	71.0	69.0	67.0	64.9	62.8	60.8	58.7	56.5	54.3	127.0
7.5	116.0	117.0	118.0	120.0	118.0	117.0	113.8	107.0	107.0	103.6	100.2	96.8	93.4	90.0	88.0	86.0	84.0	81.9	79.9	77.9	75.9	73.9	71.9	69.9	67.9	65.9	63.9	61.8	59.7	57.6	55.4	53.2	126.0
5.0	115.1	116.1	117.1	119.1	117.1	116.1	112.8	106.1	106.1	102.7	99.3	95.9	92.5	89.1	87.1	85.1	83.1	81.1	79.1	77.1	75.1	73.1	71.1	69.0	67.0	65.0	63.0	60.9	58.8	56.7	54.5	52.2	125.2
2.5	113.6	114.6	115.6	117.6	115.6	114.6	111.3	104.6	104.6	101.2	97.8	94.4	91.0	87.6	85.6	83.6	81.6	79.6	77.6	75.6	73.6	71.6	69.6	67.6	65.6	63.5	61.5	59.4	57.3	55.2	53.0	124.5	
1.5	112.4	113.4	114.4	116.4	114.4	113.4	110.1	103.4	103.4	100.0	96.6	93.2	89.8	86.4	84.4	82.4	80.4	78.4	76.4	74.4	72.4	70.4	68.4	66.4	64.4	62.3	60.3	58.2	56.1	53.9	51.6	49.2	123.5
1.0	111.4	112.4	113.4	115.4	113.4	112.4	109.1	102.4	102.4	99.0	95.6	92.2	88.8	85.4	83.4	81.4	79.4	77.4	75.4	73.4	71.4	69.4	67.4	65.4	63.4	61.3	59.2	57.2	55.0	52.9	50.5	48.0	122.5
0.5	110.6	111.6	112.6	114.6	112.6	111.6	108.2	101.6	101.6	98.2	94.8	91.4	88.0	84.6	82.6	80.6	78.6	76.6	74.6	72.6	70.6	68.6	66.6	64.6	62.5	60.4	58.4	56.2	54.1	51.9	49.4	121.6	
0.2	110.0	111.0	112.0	114.0	112.0	111.0	107.6	101.0	101.0	97.6	94.2	90.8	87.3	83.9	81.9	79.9	77.9	75.9	73.9	71.9	69.9	67.9	65.9	63.9	61.8	59.8	57.7	55.6	53.4	51.2	48.7	46.1	120.0
0.1	109.8	110.8	111.8	113.8	111.8	110.8	107.5	100.8	100.8	97.4	94.0	90.6	87.2	83.8	81.8	79.8	77.8	75.8	73.8	71.8	69.8	67.8	65.8	63.8	61.7	59.7	57.6	55.5	53.3	51.1	48.5	45.9	119.9
0.05	109.1	110.1	111.1	113.1	111.1	110.1	106.8	100.1	100.1	96.7	93.3	89.9	86.5	83.1	81.1	79.1	77.1	75.1	73.1	71.1	69.1	67.1	65.1	63.0	61.0	59.0	56.9	54.8	52.7	50.5	47.9	45.3	119.2
0.02	108.5	109.5	110.5	112.5	110.5	109.5	106.2	99.5	99.5	96.1	92.7	89.3	85.9	82.5	80.5	78.5	76.5	74.5	72.5	70.5	68.5	66.5	64.5	62.4	60.4	58.3	56.2	54.1	51.9	49.3	46.7	44.1	118.6
0.01	107.9	108.9	109.9	111.9	109.9	108.9	105.6	98.9	98.9	95.5	92.1	88.7	85.3	81.9	79.9	77.9	75.9	73.9	71.9	69.9	67.9	65.9	63.8	61.8	59.7	57.6	55.5	53.4	51.2	48.6	45.9	43.3	118.0
0.005	107.4	108.4	109.4	111.4	109.4	108.4	105.1	98.4	98.4	95.0	91.6	88.2	84.8	81.4	79.4	77.4	75.4	73.4	71.4	69.4	67.4	65.4	63.3	61.3	59.2	57.2	55.1	52.9	50.6	48.0	45.4	42.7	117.5
0.002	106.9	107.9	108.9	110.9	108.9	107.9	104.6	97.9	97.9	94.5	91.1	87.7	84.3	80.9	78.9	76.9	74.9	72.9	70.9	68.9	66.9	64.8	62.8	60.8	58.7	56.7	54.6	52.4	50.1	47.5	44.8	42.1	117.0
0.001	106.5	107.5	108.5	110.5	108.5	107.5	104.2	97.5	97.5	94.1	90.7	87.3	83.9	80.5	78.5	76.5	74.5	72.5	70.5	68.5	66.4	64.4	62.4	60.3	58.3	56.2	54.1	51.9	49.3	46.7	44.0	41.4	116.5
0.0005	106.1	107.1	108.1	110.1	108.1	107.1	103.7	97.1	97.1	93.7	90.3	86.9	83.5	80.0	78.0	76.0	74.0	72.0	70.0	68.0	66.0	64.0	62.0	60.0	57.9	55.8	53.6	51.4	48.8	46.1	43.5	40.8	116.0
0.0002	105.7	106.7	107.7	109.7	107.7	106.7	103.3	96.7	96.7	93.3	89.9	86.5	83.1	79.7	77.7	75.7	73.7	71.7	69.7	67.6	65.6	63.5	61.5	59.5	57.4	55.3	53.1	50.9	48.2	45.6	42.9	40.2	115.5
0.0001	105.3	106.3	107.3	109.3	107.3	106.3	102.9	96.3	96.3	92.9	89.5	86.1	82.7	79.3	77.3	75.3	73.3	71.3	69.3	67.2	65.2	63.1	61.1	59.1	57.0	54.9	52.8	50.6	48.0	45.3	42.6	39.9	115.0
0.00005	104.9	105.9	106.9	108.9	106.9	105.9	102.5	95.9	95.9	92.5	89.1	85.7	82.3	78.9	76.9	74.9	72.9	70.9	68.9	66.9	64.8	62.8	60.8	58.7	56.6	54.5	52.4	50.2	47.6	44.9	4		





**TABLE B-3: CALCULATED RECEIVED UNDERWATER SOUND LEVELS DURING CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES AT A LOCATION ALONG THE PIPELINE LATERAL (dBL)**

1/3 Octave Band Center Frequencies	Hertz																							Broad Band											
	12.5	16	20	25	31	40	50	63	80	100	125	160	200	250	315	400	500	630	800	1000	1250	1600	2000		2500	3150	4000	5000	6300	8000	10000	12000	16000	20000	
Input Data for Propagation Calculations																																			
Dominant sound source Construction vessel transiting																																			
Average depth (D) at source	40.0 meters																																		
Seawater absorption rates (dB per 1 km)	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	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2	-0.2	-0.3	-0.4	-0.5	-0.8	-1.2	-1.6	-2.7	-4.0
Source spectral density (dB re 1 uPa at 1m)	160.0	161.0	162.0	164.0	162.0	161.0	161.0	157.7	151.0	151.0	147.6	144.2	140.8	137.4	134.0	132.0	130.0	128.0	126.0	124.0	122.0	120.0	118.0	116.0	114.0	112.0	110.0	108.0	106.0	104.0	102.0	100.0	98.0	97.0	97.0
Distance and near field / far field adjustments (dB)	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.1	-40.1	-40.2	-40.3	-40.4	----	
Adjusted source spectrum at 100 m (dB re 1 uPa)	120.0	121.0	122.0	124.0	122.0	121.0	121.0	117.7	111.0	111.0	107.6	104.2	100.8	97.4	94.0	92.0	90.0	88.0	86.0	84.0	82.0	80.0	78.0	76.0	74.0	72.0	70.0	67.9	65.9	63.9	61.8	59.7	57.6	130.1	

General Notes on Calculation Method:

- Source level and frequency spectrum estimated at a maximum 160 dBL with energy peaking at 25 Hz to coincide with propeller cavitations
- The conservative acoustic modeling approach applied spherical spreading losses (20LogR) at ranges 1.5 times the water depth (D), modified cylindrical spreading (15LogR) for distances greater than 1.5D, and cylindrical spreading (10LogR) with 0.5 dB/km linear absorption and scattering at distances greater than 1 km
- The tabulated results are independent of existing area ambient levels in the Gulf of Maine
- Red text shows the worst case distance to the critical 120 dBL isopleth

1/3 Octave Band Center Frequencies	Hertz																							Band											
	12.5	16	20	25	31	40	50	63	80	100	125	160	200	250	315	400	500	630	800	1000	1250	1600	2000		2500	3150	4000	5000	6300	8000	10000	12000	16000	20000	
Data for contour plot																																			
Distance (m)	Distance (ft)																																		
60.0	199.8	123.3	124.3	125.3	127.3	125.3	124.3	124.3	121.0	114.3	114.3	110.9	107.5	104.1	100.7	97.3	95.3	93.3	91.3	89.3	87.3	85.3	83.3	81.3	79.3	77.3	75.3	73.3	71.3	69.3	67.3	65.2	63.2	61.1	133.4
70.0	229.7	122.3	123.3	124.3	126.3	124.3	123.3	123.3	120.0	113.3	113.3	109.9	106.5	103.1	99.7	96.3	94.3	92.3	90.3	88.3	86.3	84.3	82.3	80.3	78.3	76.3	74.3	72.3	70.3	68.3	66.2	64.2	62.1	60.0	132.4
80.0	262.5	121.5	122.5	123.5	125.5	123.5	122.5	122.5	119.1	112.5	112.5	109.5	106.1	102.7	99.3	95.9	93.5	91.5	89.5	87.4	85.4	83.4	81.4	79.4	77.4	75.4	73.4	71.4	69.4	67.4	65.4	63.3	61.2	59.1	131.5
90.0	295.3	120.7	121.7	122.7	124.7	122.7	121.7	121.7	118.4	111.7	111.7	108.3	104.9	101.5	98.1	94.7	92.7	90.7	88.7	86.7	84.7	82.7	80.7	78.7	76.7	74.7	72.7	70.7	68.6	66.6	64.6	62.5	60.4	58.3	130.7
100.0	328.1	120.0	121.0	122.0	124.0	122.0	121.0	121.0	117.7	111.0	111.0	107.6	104.2	100.8	97.4	94.0	92.0	90.0	88.0	86.0	84.0	82.0	80.0	78.0	76.0	74.0	72.0	70.0	67.9	65.9	63.9	61.8	59.7	57.6	130.1
110.0	360.9	119.4	120.4	121.4	123.4	121.4	120.4	120.4	117.0	110.4	110.4	107.0	103.6	100.2	96.8	93.4	91.4	89.4	87.4	85.4	83.4	81.4	79.4	77.4	75.4	73.4	71.3	69.3	67.3	65.3	63.3	61.2	59.1	56.9	129.4
120.0	393.7	118.8	119.8	120.8	122.8	120.8	119.8	119.8	116.5	109.8	109.8	106.4	103.0	99.6	96.2	92.8	90.8	88.8	86.8	84.8	82.8	80.8	78.8	76.8	74.8	72.8	70.8	68.8	66.8	64.7	62.7	60.6	58.5	56.3	128.9
130.0	426.5	118.3	119.3	120.3	122.3	120.3	119.3	119.3	116.0	109.3	109.3	105.9	102.5	99.1	95.7	92.3	90.3	88.3	86.3	84.3	82.3	80.3	78.3	76.3	74.3	72.3	70.3	68.2	66.2	64.2	62.1	60.1	57.9	55.8	128.4
140.0	459.3	117.8	118.8	119.8	121.8	119.8	118.8	118.8	115.5	108.8	108.8	105.4	102.0	98.6	95.2	91.8	89.8	87.8	85.8	83.8	81.8	79.8	77.8	75.8	73.8	71.8	69.8	67.8	65.7	63.7	61.6	59.6	57.4	55.2	127.9
150.0	492.1	117.4	118.4	119.4	121.4	119.4	118.4	118.4	115.0	108.4	108.4	105.0	101.6	98.2	94.8	91.4	89.4	87.4	85.4	83.4	81.4	79.4	77.4	75.4	73.4	71.3	69.3	67.3	65.3	63.2	61.2	59.1	57.0	54.8	127.4
200.0	656.2	115.5	116.5	117.5	119.5	117.5	116.5	116.5	113.2	106.5	106.5	103.1	99.7	96.3	92.9	89.5	87.5	85.5	83.5	81.5	79.5	77.5	75.5	73.5	71.5	69.4	67.4	65.4	63.4	61.3	59.3	57.2	54.9	52.7	125.5
250.0	820.2	114.0	115.0	116.0	118.0	116.0	115.0	111.7	105.0	101.5	101.5	98.2	94.8	91.4	88.0	86.0	84.0	82.0	80.0	78.0	76.0	74.0	72.0	70.0	68.0	66.0	64.0	62.0	60.0	57.9	55.8	53.4	51.0	124.1	
300.0	984.2	112.8	113.8	114.8	116.8	114.8	113.8	113.8	110.5	103.8	103.8	100.4	97.0	93.6	90.2	86.8	84.8	82.8	80.8	78.8	76.8	74.8	72.8	70.8	68.8	66.8	64.8	62.7	60.7	58.6	56.5	54.4	52.0	49.6	122.9
350.0	1148.3	111.8	112.8	113.8	115.8	113.8	112.8	112.8	109.5	102.8	102.8	99.4	96.0	92.6	89.2	85.8	83.8	81.8	79.8	77.8	75.8	73.8	71.8	69.8	67.8	65.8	63.7	61.7	59.7	57.6	55.4	53.3	50.9	48.4	121.9
400.0	1312.3	111.0	112.0	113.0	115.0	113.0	112.0	112.0	108.8	102.0	102.0	98.6	95.2	91.8	88.4	85.0	83.0	81.0	79.0	76.9	74.9	72.9	70.9	68.9	66.9	64.9	62.9	60.8	58.8	56.7	54.5	52.3	49.9	47.4	121.0
450.0	1476.4	110.2	111.2	112.2	114.2	112.2	111.2	111.2	107.9	101.2	101.2	97.8	94.4	91.0	87.6	84.2	82.2	80.2	78.2	76.2	74.2	72.2	70.2	68.1	66.1	64.1	62.1	60.0	58.0	55.9	53.7	51.5	49.0	46.4	120.3
470.0	1542.0	109.9	110.9	111.9	113.9	111.9	110.9	110.9	107.5	100.9	100.9	97.5	94.1	90.7	87.3	83.9	81.9	79.9	77.9	75.9	73.9	71.9	69.9	67.9	65.9	63.9	61.9	59.7	57.7	55.6	53.4	51.2	48.7	46.0	120.0
500.0	1640.4	109.5	110.5	111.5	113.5	111.5	110.5	110.5	107.2	100.5	100.5	97.1	93.7	90.3	86.9	83.5	81.5	79.5	77.5	75.5	73.5	71.5	69.5	67.5	65.5	63.4	61.4	59.3	57.3	55.1	52.9	50.7	48.2	45.5	119.6
550.0	1804.4	109.9	109.9	110.9	112.9	110.9	109.9	109.9	106.6	99.9	99.9	96.5	93.1	89.7	86.3	82.9	80.9	78.9	76.9	74.9	72.9	70.8	68.8	66.8	64.8	62.8	60.7	58.7	56.6	54.5	52.3	50.0	47.4	44.7	119.4
600.0	1968.5	108.3	109.3	110.3	112.3	110.3	109.3	109.3	106.0	99.3	99.3	95.9	92.5	89.1	85.7	82.3	80.3	78.3	76.3	74.3	72.3	70.3	68.3	66.3	64.2	62.2	60.2	58.1	56.0	53.9	51.6	49.4	46.7	43.9	118.0
650.0	2132.5	107.8	108.8	109.8	111.8	109.8	108.8	108.8	105.5	98.8	98.8	95.4	92.0	88.6	85.2	81.8	79.8	77.8	75.8	73.8	71.8	69.8	67.7	65.7	63.7	61.7	59.6	57.5	55.5	53.3	51.1	48.8	46.1	43.2	117.9
700.0	2296.6	107.3	108.3	109.3	111.3	109.3	108.3	108.3	105.0	98.3	98.3	94.9	91.5	88.1	84.7	81.3	79.3	77.3	75.3	73.3	71.3	69.3	67.2	65.2	63.2	61.2	59.1	57.1	55.0	52.8	50.5	48.2	45.4	42.5	117.4
750.0	2460.6	106.9	107.9	108.9	110.9	108.9	107.9	107.9	104.5	97.9	97.9	94.5	91.1	87.7	84.3	80.9	78.9	76.9	74.9	72.9	70.8	68.8	66.8	64.8	62.8	60.7	58.7	56.6	54.5	52.3	50.0	47.2	44.9	41.9	116.9
800.0	2624.6	106.5	107.5	108.5	110.5	108.5	107.5	107.5	104.1	97.5	97.5	94.1	90.7	87.2	83.8	80.4	78.4	76.4	74.4	72.4	70.4	68.4	66.4	64.3	62.3	60.3	58.2	56.2	54.0	51.8	49.5	47.2	44.3	41.3	116.5
850.0	2788.7	106.1	107.1	108.1	110.1	108.1	107.1	107.1	103.7	97.1	97.1	93.7	90.3	86.9	83.5	80.0	78.0	76.0	74.0	72.0	70.0	68.0	66.0	63.9	61.9	59.9	57.8	55.7	53.6	51.4	49.1	46.7	43.8	40.7	116.1
900.0	2952.7	105.7	106.7	107.7</																															

**TABLE B-4: CALCULATED RECEIVED UNDERWATER SOUND LEVELS DURING CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES AT A LOCATION ALONG THE PIPELINE LATERAL (dBL)**

1/3 Octave Band Center Frequencies	Hertz																							Broad Band										
	12.5	16	20	25	31	40	50	63	80	100	125	160	200	250	315	400	500	630	800	1000	1250	1600	2000		2500	3150	4000	5000	6300	8000	10000	12000	16000	20000
Input Data for Propagation Calculations:																																		
Dominant sound source	Construction vessel thrusters																																	
Average depth (D) at source	40.0 meters																																	
Seawater absorption rates (dB per 1 km)	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	0.0	0.0	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2	-0.2	-0.3	-0.4	-0.5	-0.8	-1.2	-1.6	-2.7	-4.0
Source spectral density (dB re 1 uPa at 1 m)	170.0	170.0	170.0	170.0	170.0	170.0	170.0	170.0	170.0	170.0	166.0	166.0	164.0	162.0	160.0	158.0	158.0	154.0	152.0	150.0	148.0	146.0	144.0	142.0	140.0	138.0	136.0	134.0	132.0	130.0	128.0	126.0	124.0	
Distance and near field / far field adjustments (dB)	-38.9	-38.9	-38.9	-38.9	-38.9	-38.9	-38.9	-38.9	-38.9	-38.9	-38.9	-38.9	-38.9	-38.9	-38.9	-38.9	-38.9	-38.9	-38.9	-38.9	-38.9	-38.9	-38.9	-38.9	-38.9	-38.9	-38.9	-38.9	-39.0	-39.1	-39.2	-39.3		
Adjusted source spectrum at 100 m (dB re 1 uPa)	131.1	131.1	131.1	131.1	131.1	131.1	131.1	131.1	131.1	131.1	129.1	127.1	125.1	123.1	121.1	119.1	117.1	115.1	113.1	111.1	109.1	107.1	105.1	103.1	101.1	99.1	97.1	95.1	93.0	91.0	88.9	86.8	84.7	

General Notes on Calculation Method:  
 - Source level and frequency spectra estimated at a maximum 100 dBL with dominant energy in the low frequencies caused by turbulent flow conditions  
 - The conservative acoustic modeling approach applied spherical spreading losses (20LogR) at ranges 1.5 times the water depth (D), modified cylindrical spreading (15LogR) for distances greater than 1.5D, and cylindrical spreading (10LogR) with 0.5 dB/km linear absorption and scattering at distances greater than 1 km  
 - The tabulated results are independent of existing area ambient levels in the Gulf of Maine  
 - Red text shows the worst case distance to the critical 120 dBL isopleth

1/3 Octave Band Center Frequencies	Hertz																							Band											
	12.5	16	20	25	31	40	50	63	80	100	125	160	200	250	315	400	500	630	800	1000	1250	1600	2000		2500	3150	4000	5000	6300	8000	10000	12000	16000	20000	
Data for contour plot																																			
Distance (m)	60.0	70.0	80.0	90.0	100.0	110.0	120.0	130.0	140.0	150.0	200.0	250.0	300.0	350.0	400.0	450.0	500.0	600.0	700.0	800.0	900.0	1000.0	1200.0	1500.0	2000.0	3000.0	4000.0	5000.0	6000.0	7000.0	8000.0	9000.0	10000.0		
Distance (ft)	198.8	229.7	262.5	295.3	328.1	360.9	393.7	426.5	459.3	492.1	656.2	820.2	984.2	1148.3	1312.3	1476.4	1640.4	1804.4	1968.5	2132.5	2296.6	2460.6	2624.6	2788.7	2952.7	3116.8	3280.8	3444.8	3608.8	3772.8	3936.8	4100.8	4264.8	4428.8	
12.5	134.4	134.4	134.4	134.4	134.4	134.4	134.4	134.4	134.4	134.4	132.4	130.4	128.4	126.4	124.4	122.4	120.4	118.4	116.4	114.4	112.4	110.4	108.4	106.4	104.4	102.4	100.4	98.4	96.4	94.4	92.3	90.3	88.2	144.7	
16	133.4	133.4	133.4	133.4	133.4	133.4	133.4	133.4	133.4	133.4	131.4	129.4	127.4	125.4	123.4	121.4	119.4	117.4	115.4	113.4	111.4	109.4	107.4	105.4	103.4	101.4	99.4	97.4	95.4	93.4	91.4	89.4	87.3	143.7	
20	132.6	132.6	132.6	132.6	132.6	132.6	132.6	132.6	132.6	132.6	130.6	128.6	126.6	124.6	122.6	120.6	118.6	116.6	114.6	112.6	110.6	108.6	106.6	104.6	102.6	100.6	98.6	96.6	94.6	92.5	90.5	88.5	86.4	142.9	
25	131.8	131.8	131.8	131.8	131.8	131.8	131.8	131.8	131.8	131.8	129.8	127.8	125.8	123.8	121.8	119.8	117.8	115.8	113.8	111.8	109.8	107.8	105.8	103.8	101.8	99.8	97.8	95.8	93.8	91.7	89.7	87.7	85.6	142.1	
31	131.1	131.1	131.1	131.1	131.1	131.1	131.1	131.1	131.1	131.1	129.1	127.1	125.1	123.1	121.1	119.1	117.1	115.1	113.1	111.1	109.1	107.1	105.1	103.1	101.1	99.1	97.1	95.1	93.1	91.0	89.0	86.9	84.9	141.4	
40	130.5	130.5	130.5	130.5	130.5	130.5	130.5	130.5	130.5	130.5	128.5	126.5	124.5	122.5	120.5	118.5	116.5	114.5	112.5	110.5	108.5	106.5	104.5	102.5	100.5	98.5	96.5	94.5	92.4	90.4	88.4	86.3	84.3	140.8	
50	129.9	129.9	129.9	129.9	129.9	129.9	129.9	129.9	129.9	129.9	127.9	125.9	123.9	121.9	119.9	117.9	115.9	113.9	111.9	109.9	107.9	105.9	103.9	101.9	99.9	97.9	95.9	93.9	91.9	89.8	87.8	85.7	83.6	140.2	
63	129.4	129.4	129.4	129.4	129.4	129.4	129.4	129.4	129.4	129.4	127.4	125.4	123.4	121.4	119.4	117.4	115.4	113.4	111.4	109.4	107.4	105.4	103.4	101.4	99.4	97.4	95.4	93.4	91.3	89.3	87.3	85.2	83.0	139.7	
80	128.9	128.9	128.9	128.9	128.9	128.9	128.9	128.9	128.9	128.9	126.9	124.9	122.9	120.9	118.9	116.9	114.9	112.9	110.9	108.9	106.9	104.9	102.9	100.9	98.9	96.9	94.9	92.9	90.8	88.8	86.8	84.6	82.5	139.2	
100	128.5	128.5	128.5	128.5	128.5	128.5	128.5	128.5	128.5	128.5	126.5	124.5	122.5	120.5	118.5	116.5	114.5	112.5	110.5	108.5	106.5	104.5	102.5	100.5	98.5	96.5	94.5	92.4	90.4	88.4	86.3	84.2	82.0	138.8	
125	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	126.0	124.0	122.0	120.0	118.0	116.0	114.0	112.0	110.0	108.0	106.0	104.0	102.0	100.0	98.0	96.0	94.0	92.0	90.0	88.0	86.0	84.0	82.0	80.0	138.3
160	126.1	126.1	126.1	126.1	126.1	126.1	126.1	126.1	126.1	126.1	124.1	122.1	120.1	118.1	116.1	114.1	112.1	110.1	108.1	106.1	104.1	102.1	100.1	98.1	96.1	94.1	92.1	90.1	88.1	86.1	84.1	82.1	80.1	78.0	137.8
200	124.0	124.0	124.0	124.0	124.0	124.0	124.0	124.0	124.0	124.0	122.0	120.0	118.0	116.0	114.0	112.0	110.0	108.0	106.0	104.0	102.0	100.0	98.0	96.0	94.0	92.0	90.0	88.0	86.0	84.0	82.0	80.0	78.0	76.0	137.3
250	122.9	122.9	122.9	122.9	122.9	122.9	122.9	122.9	122.9	122.9	120.9	118.9	116.9	114.9	112.9	110.9	108.9	106.9	104.9	102.9	100.9	98.9	96.9	94.9	92.9	90.9	88.9	86.9	84.9	82.9	80.9	78.9	76.9	74.9	136.8
315	122.1	122.1	122.1	122.1	122.1	122.1	122.1	122.1	122.1	122.1	120.1	118.1	116.1	114.1	112.1	110.1	108.1	106.1	104.1	102.1	100.1	98.1	96.1	94.1	92.1	90.1	88.1	86.1	84.1	82.1	80.1	78.1	76.1	74.1	136.3
400	121.3	121.3	121.3	121.3	121.3	121.3	121.3	121.3	121.3	121.3	119.3	117.3	115.3	113.3	111.3	109.3	107.3	105.3	103.3	101.3	99.3	97.3	95.3	93.3	91.3	89.3	87.3	85.3	83.3	81.3	79.3	77.3	75.3	73.3	135.8
500	120.6	120.6	120.6	120.6	120.6	120.6	120.6	120.6	120.6	120.6	118.6	116.6	114.6	112.6	110.6	108.6	106.6	104.6	102.6	100.6	98.6	96.6	94.6	92.6	90.6	88.6	86.6	84.6	82.6	80.6	78.6	76.6	74.6	72.6	135.3
630	120.0	120.0	120.0	120.0	120.0	120.0	120.0	120.0	120.0	120.0	118.0	116.0	114.0	112.0	110.0	108.0	106.0	104.0	102.0	100.0	98.0	96.0	94.0	92.0	90.0	88.0	86.0	84.0	82.0	80.0	78.0	76.0	74.0	72.0	134.8
800	119.4	119.4	119.4	119.4	119.4	119.4	119.4	119.4	119.4	119.4	117.4	115.4	113.4	111.4	109.4	107.4	105.4	103.4	101.4	99.4	97.4	95.4	93.4	91.4	89.4	87.4	85.4	83.4	81.4	79.4	77.4	75.4	73.4	134.3	
1000	118.9	118.9	118.9	118.9	118.9	118.9	118.9	118.9	118.9	118.9	116.9	114.9	112.9	110.9	108.9	106.9	104.9	102.9	100.9	98.9	96.9	94.9	92.9	90.9	88.9	86.9	84.9	82.9	80.9	78.9	76.9	74.9	72.9	133.8	
1200	118.4	118.4	118.4	118.4	118.4	118.4	118.4	118.4	118.4	118.4	116.4	114.4	112.4	110.4	108.4	106.4	104.4	102.4	100.4	98.4	96.4	94.4	92.4	90.4	88.4	86.4	84.4	82.4	80.4	78.4	76.4	74.4	72.4	133.3	
1500	118.0	118.0	118.0	118.0	118.0	118.0	118.0	118.0	118.0	118.0	116.0	114.0	112.0	110.0	108.0	106.0	104.0	102.0	100.0	98.0	96.0	94.0	92.0	90.0	88.0	86.0	84.0	82.0	80.0	78.0	76.0	74.0	72.0	132.8	
2000	117.6	117.6	117.6	117.6	117.6	117.6	117.6	117.6	117.6	117.6	115.6	113.6	111.6	109.6	107.6	105.6	103.6	101.6	99.6	97.6	95.6	93.6	91.6	89.6	87.6	85.6	83.6	81.6	79.6	77.6	75.6	73.6	71.6	132.3	
2500	117.2	117.2	117.2	117.2	117.2	117.2	117.2	117.2	117.2	117.2	115.2	113.2	111.2	109.2	107.2	105.2	103.2	101.2	99.2	97.2	95.2	93.2	91.2	89.2	87.2	85.2	83.2	81.2	79.2	77.2	75.2	73.2	71.2	131.8	
3150	116.8	116.8	116.8	116.8	116.8	116.8	116.8	116.8	116.8	116.8	114.8	112.8	110.8	108.8	106.8	104.8	102.8	100.8	98.8	96.8	94.8	92.8	90.8	88.8	86.8	84.8	82.8	80.8	78.8	76.8	74.8	72.8	70.8	131.3	
4000	116.4	116.4	116.4	116.4	116.4	116.4	116.4	116.4	116.4	116.4	114.4	112.4	110.4	108.4	106.4	104.4	102.4	100.4	98.4	96.4	94.4	92.4	90.4	88.4	86.4	84.4	82.4								

**TABLE B-5: CALCULATED RECEIVED UNDERWATER SOUND LEVELS DURING EBRV CLOSED LOOP REGASIFICATION AND OFFLOADING AT THE NEG DWP (dB)**

1/3 Octave Band Center Frequencies	Hertz																								Broad Band									
	12.5	16	20	25	31	40	50	63	80	100	125	160	200	250	315	400	500	630	800	1000	1250	1600	2000	2500		3150	4000	5000	6300	8000	10000	12000	16000	20000
Input Data for Propagation Calculations																																		
Dominant sound source EBRV regasification																																		
Average depth (D) at source	80.0 meters																																	
Seawater absorption rates (dB per 1 km)	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	0.0	0.0	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2	-0.2	-0.3	-0.4	-0.5	-0.8	-1.2	-1.6	-2.7	-4.0
Source spectral density (dB re 1 µPa at 1 m)	93.5	96.4	98.6	95.7	100.2	96.7	93.6	96.1	88.3	88.5	92.7	86.7	87.9	85.2	83.9	93.4	98.2	82.5	80.0	101.1	84.8	92.6	88.9	83.8	78.0	77.6	77.7	77.8	77.8	79.4	81.4	82.9	82.9	108.2
Distance and near field / far field adjustments (dB)	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	-0.4	-0.4	-0.5	-0.7	----
Adjusted source spectrum at 100 m (dB re 1 µPa)	93.2	96.1	98.3	95.4	99.9	96.4	93.3	95.8	88.0	88.2	92.4	86.4	87.6	84.9	83.6	93.1	97.9	82.2	79.7	100.8	84.5	92.3	88.6	83.5	77.7	77.3	77.4	77.5	77.5	79.0	81.0	82.4	82.2	107.9

General Notes on Calculation Method:  
 - Source level and frequency spectra documented from measurements completed at the existing Gulf Gateway DWP  
 - The conservative acoustic modeling approach applied spherical spreading losses (20LogR) at ranges 1.5 times the water depth (D), modified cylindrical spreading (15LogR) for distances greater than 1.5D, and cylindrical spreading (10LogR) with 0.5 dB/km linear absorption and scattering at distances greater than 1 km  
 - The tabulated results are independent of existing area ambient levels in the Gulf of Maine  
 - Red text shows the worst case distance to the critical 120 dB isopleth

1/3 Octave Band Center Frequencies	Hertz																								Broad Band										
	12.5	16	20	25	31	40	50	63	80	100	125	160	200	250	315	400	500	630	800	1000	1250	1600	2000	2500		3150	4000	5000	6300	8000	10000	12000	16000	20000	
Data for contour plot																																			
Distance (m)	Distance (ft)																																		
60.0	199.8	93.5	96.4	98.6	95.7	100.2	96.7	93.6	96.1	88.3	88.5	92.7	86.7	87.9	85.2	83.9	93.4	98.2	82.5	80.0	101.1	84.8	92.6	88.9	83.8	78.0	77.6	77.7	77.8	77.8	79.4	81.4	82.9	82.9	108.2
70.0	229.7	93.5	96.4	98.6	95.7	100.2	96.7	93.6	96.1	88.3	88.5	92.7	86.7	87.9	85.2	83.9	93.4	98.2	82.5	80.0	101.1	84.8	92.6	88.9	83.8	78.0	77.6	77.7	77.8	77.8	79.4	81.4	82.9	82.9	108.2
80.0	262.5	93.5	96.4	98.6	95.7	100.2	96.7	93.6	96.1	88.3	88.5	92.7	86.7	87.9	85.2	83.9	93.4	98.2	82.5	80.0	101.1	84.8	92.6	88.9	83.8	78.0	77.6	77.7	77.8	77.8	79.4	81.4	82.9	82.9	108.2
90.0	295.3	93.5	96.4	98.6	95.7	100.2	96.7	93.6	96.1	88.3	88.5	92.7	86.7	87.9	85.2	83.9	93.4	98.2	82.5	80.0	101.1	84.8	92.6	88.9	83.8	78.0	77.6	77.7	77.8	77.8	79.4	81.4	82.9	82.9	108.2
100.0	328.1	93.2	96.1	98.3	95.4	99.9	96.4	93.3	95.8	88.0	88.2	92.4	86.4	87.6	84.9	83.6	93.1	97.9	82.2	79.7	100.8	84.5	92.3	88.6	83.5	77.7	77.3	77.4	77.5	77.5	79.0	81.0	82.4	82.2	107.9
110.0	360.9	92.6	95.5	97.7	94.8	99.3	95.8	92.7	95.2	87.4	87.8	91.8	85.8	87.0	84.3	83.0	92.5	97.3	81.6	79.1	100.2	83.9	91.7	88.0	82.9	77.1	76.7	76.8	76.9	76.8	78.4	80.3	81.7	81.6	107.3
120.0	393.7	92.0	94.9	97.1	94.2	98.7	95.2	92.1	94.6	86.8	87.0	91.2	85.2	86.4	83.7	82.4	91.9	96.7	81.0	78.5	99.8	83.3	91.1	87.4	82.3	76.5	76.1	76.2	76.3	76.3	77.8	79.8	81.1	81.0	106.7
130.0	426.5	91.5	94.4	96.6	93.7	98.2	94.7	91.6	94.1	86.3	86.5	90.7	84.7	85.9	83.2	81.9	91.4	96.2	80.5	78.0	99.1	82.8	90.6	86.9	81.8	76.0	75.6	75.7	75.8	75.7	77.3	79.2	80.6	80.4	106.2
140.0	459.3	91.0	93.9	96.1	93.2	97.7	94.2	91.1	93.6	85.8	86.0	90.2	84.2	85.4	82.7	81.4	90.9	95.7	80.0	77.5	98.6	82.3	90.1	86.4	81.3	75.5	75.1	75.2	75.3	75.2	76.8	78.7	80.1	79.9	105.7
150.0	492.1	90.6	93.5	95.7	92.8	97.3	93.8	90.7	93.2	85.4	85.6	89.8	83.8	85.0	82.3	81.0	90.5	95.3	79.6	77.1	98.2	81.9	89.7	86.0	80.9	75.1	74.7	74.7	74.8	74.8	76.3	78.2	79.6	79.4	105.3
175.0	574.1	89.6	92.5	94.7	91.8	96.3	92.8	89.7	92.2	84.4	84.6	88.8	82.8	84.0	81.3	80.0	89.5	94.3	78.6	76.1	97.2	80.9	88.7	85.0	79.9	74.1	73.8	73.7	73.8	73.8	75.3	77.2	78.5	78.3	104.2
200.0	656.2	88.7	91.6	93.8	90.9	95.4	91.9	88.8	91.3	83.5	83.7	87.9	81.9	83.1	80.4	79.1	88.6	93.4	77.7	75.2	96.3	80.0	87.8	84.1	79.0	73.2	72.8	72.8	72.9	72.9	74.4	76.3	77.5	77.3	103.4
250.0	820.2	87.2	90.2	92.3	89.5	94.0	90.5	87.4	89.9	82.1	82.3	86.5	80.5	81.7	79.0	77.7	87.2	92.0	76.3	73.8	94.8	78.5	86.3	82.6	77.5	71.7	71.3	71.4	71.4	71.4	72.9	74.8	76.0	75.7	101.9
300.0	984.2	86.1	89.0	91.2	88.3	92.8	89.3	86.2	88.7	80.9	81.1	85.3	79.3	80.5	77.8	76.5	86.0	90.8	75.1	72.6	93.7	77.4	85.1	81.4	76.3	70.5	70.1	70.2	70.2	70.1	71.6	73.5	74.7	74.3	100.7
350.0	1148.3	85.1	88.0	90.2	87.3	91.8	88.3	85.2	87.7	79.9	80.1	84.3	78.3	79.5	76.8	75.5	85.0	89.8	74.1	71.6	92.7	76.3	84.1	80.4	75.3	69.5	69.1	69.1	69.2	69.1	70.6	72.4	73.5	73.1	99.7
400.0	1312.3	84.2	87.1	89.3	86.4	90.9	87.4	84.3	86.8	79.0	79.2	83.4	77.4	78.8	75.9	74.6	84.1	88.9	73.2	70.7	91.8	75.5	83.3	79.6	74.4	68.6	68.2	68.3	68.3	68.2	69.6	71.5	72.5	72.0	98.9
450.0	1476.4	83.4	86.3	88.5	85.6	90.1	86.6	83.5	86.0	78.2	78.4	82.6	76.6	77.8	75.1	73.8	83.3	88.1	72.4	69.9	91.0	74.7	82.5	78.8	73.7	67.8	67.4	67.5	67.5	67.4	68.8	70.6	71.6	71.0	98.1
500.0	1640.4	82.7	85.7	87.8	85.0	89.5	86.0	82.9	85.4	77.6	77.8	81.9	75.9	77.1	74.4	73.1	82.6	87.4	71.7	69.2	90.3	74.0	81.8	78.1	73.0	67.1	67.1	67.1	67.1	67.1	68.6	70.4	70.8	70.2	97.4
550.0	1804.4	82.1	85.0	87.2	84.3	88.8	85.3	82.2	84.7	76.9	77.1	81.3	75.3	76.5	73.8	72.5	82.0	86.8	71.1	68.6	89.7	73.4	81.2	77.5	72.3	66.5	66.1	66.1	66.1	66.0	67.4	69.2	70.1	69.3	96.8
600.0	1968.5	81.5	84.5	86.6	83.8	88.3	84.8	81.7	84.2	76.4	76.6	80.8	74.8	76.0	73.3	72.0	81.5	86.2	70.5	68.0	91.1	72.8	80.6	76.9	71.8	65.9	65.5	65.5	65.5	65.4	66.8	68.5	69.4	68.6	96.2
650.0	2132.5	81.0	83.9	86.1	83.2	87.7	84.2	81.1	83.6	75.8	76.0	80.2	74.2	75.4	72.7	71.4	80.9	85.7	70.0	67.5	88.6	72.3	80.1	76.4	71.2	65.4	65.0	65.0	65.0	64.8	66.2	67.9	68.7	67.8	95.7
700.0	2296.6	80.5	83.5	85.6	82.8	87.3	83.8	80.7	83.2	75.4	75.6	79.8	73.8	75.0	72.3	71.0	80.4	85.2	69.5	67.0	88.1	71.8	79.6	75.9	70.7	64.9	64.5	64.5	64.5	64.7	66.3	68.1	67.2	95.2	
750.0	2460.6	80.1	83.0	85.2	82.3	86.8	83.3	80.2	82.7	74.9	75.1	79.3	73.3	74.5	71.8	70.5	80.0	84.8	69.1	66.6	87.7	71.3	79.1	75.4	70.3	64.5	64.0	64.0	64.0	63.8	65.1	66.8	67.5	66.5	94.7
800.0	2624.6	79.7	82.6	84.8	81.9	86.4	82.9	79.8	82.3	74.5	74.7	78.9	72.9	74.1	71.4	70.1	79.6	84.4	68.7	66.1	87.2	70.9	78.7	75.0	69.9	64.0	63.6	63.6	63.6	63.6	64.7	66.3	67.9	66.9	94.3
850.0	2788.7	79.3	82.2	84.4	81.5	86.0	82.5	79.4	81.9	74.1	74.3	78.5	72.5	73.7	71.0	69.7	79.2	84.0	68.3	65.8	86.8	70.5	78.3	74.6	69.5	63.6	63.2	63.2	63.1	62.9	64.2	65.8	66.4	65.3	93.9
900.0	2952.7	78.9	81.8	84.0	81.1	85.6	82.1	79.0	81.5	73.7	73.9	78.1	72.1	73.3	70.6	69.3	78.8	83.8	67.9	65.4	86.5	70.1	77.9	74.2	69.1	63.2	62.8	62.8	62.8	62.8	63.5	65.4	65.9	64.7	93.6
950.0	3116.8	78.5	81.5	83.6	80.8	85.3	81.8	78.7	81.2	73.4	73.6	77.8	71.8	73.0	70.3	69.0	78.5	83.2	67.5	65.0	86.1	69.8	77.6	73.8	68.7	62.9	62.4	62.4	62.4	62.4	63.0	64.5	64.9	63.8	92.9
1000.0	3280.8	78.2	81.1	83.3	80.4	84.9	81.4	78.3	80.8	73.0	73.2	77.4	71.4	72.6	69.9	68.6	78.1	82.9	67.2	64.7	85.8	69.5	77.2	73.5	68.4	62.5	62.1	62.1	62.0	61.7	63.0	64.5	64.9	63.8	92.9
2000.0	6561.6	74.7	77.6	79.8	76.9	81.4	77.9	74.8	77.3	69.5	69.7	73.9	67.9	69.1	66.4	65.1	74.6	79.4	63.6	61.1	82.1	65.8	73.5	69.7	64.6	58.6	58.0	57.8	57.5	56.7	57.3	58.0	56.3	52.4	89.3
2450.0	8038.0	73.6	76.5	78.7	75.8	80.3	76.8	73.7	76.2	68.4	68.6	72.8	66.8																						

**TABLE B-6: CALCULATED RECEIVED UNDERWATER SOUND LEVELS DURING EBRV COUPLING OPERATIONS AT THE NEG DWP (dBL)**

1/3 Octave Band Center Frequencies	Hertz																			Broad Band														
	12.5	16	20	25	31	40	50	63	80	100	125	160	200	250	315	400	500	630	800		1000	1250	1600	2000	2500	3150	4000	5000	6300	8000	10000	12000	16000	20000
Input Data for Propagation Calculations																																		
Dominant sound source	BERG thrusters																																	
Average depth (D) at source	80.0 meters																																	
Seawater absorption rates (dB per 1 km)	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	0.0	0.0	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2	-0.2	-0.3	-0.4	-0.5	-0.8	-1.2	-1.6	-2.7	-4.0	
Source spectral density (dB re 1 uPa at 1m)	146.9	148.2	168.7	144.1	139.5	148.8	139.3	140.4	152.3	146.6	148.2	147.9	150.6	149.6	149.4	149.5	146.3	145.5	149.4	148.2	146.0	147.1	149.9	150.4	151.1	151.2	151.0	150.9	151.4	151.5	151.4	150.6	170.0	
Distance and near field / far field adjustments (dB)	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.0	-40.1	-40.1	-40.2	-40.3	-40.4	----	
Adjusted source spectrum at 100 m (dB re 1 uPa)	106.9	108.2	128.7	104.1	99.5	108.8	99.3	100.4	112.3	106.6	108.2	107.9	110.6	109.6	109.4	109.5	107.6	106.3	105.5	109.4	108.2	106.0	107.1	108.9	110.4	111.1	111.2	110.9	110.8	111.3	111.3	111.1	110.2	130.0

General Notes on Calculation Method:

- Source level and frequency spectra documented from measurements completed at the existing Gulf Gateway DTP
- The conservative acoustic modeling approach applied (spherical spreading losses (20logR) at ranges 1.5 times the water depth (D), modified cylindrical spreading (1.5logR) for distances greater than 1.5D, and cylindrical spreading (10logR) with 0.5 dB/km linear absorption and scattering at distances greater than 1 km
- The tabulated results are independent of existing area ambient levels in the Gulf of Mexico
- Red text shows the worst case distance to the critical 120 dBA isopleth

1/3 Octave Band Center Frequencies	Hertz																			Broad Band														
	12.5	16	20	25	31	40	50	63	80	100	125	160	200	250	315	400	500	630	800		1000	1250	1600	2000	2500	3150	4000	5000	6300	8000	10000	12000	16000	20000
Data for contour plot																																		
Distance (m)	80.0	70.0	60.0	50.0	40.0	30.0	20.0	15.0	10.0	7.5	5.0	3.75	2.5	1.88	1.25	0.94	0.71	0.53	0.38	0.28	0.21	0.16	0.12	0.09	0.07	0.05	0.04	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Distance (ft)	96.8	82.7	70.9	59.1	48.3	37.5	26.7	18.9	13.8	10.4	7.6	5.6	4.1	3.0	2.2	1.6	1.2	0.9	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
110.0	110.3	107.6	133.1	108.5	103.9	113.2	103.7	113.8	118.7	111.0	110.6	112.3	115.0	114.0	113.8	113.9	112.0	110.7	109.9	113.8	112.6	110.4	111.5	113.3	114.8	115.5	115.6	115.4	115.3	115.8	115.8	115.7	114.8	134.4
120.0	109.0	106.3	131.8	107.2	102.6	111.9	102.4	112.5	115.4	109.7	109.3	111.0	113.7	112.7	112.5	112.6	110.7	109.4	108.6	112.5	111.3	109.1	110.2	112.0	113.5	114.2	114.3	114.1	113.9	114.4	114.4	114.3	113.4	133.1
130.0	107.8	105.1	130.6	106.0	101.4	110.7	101.2	111.3	114.2	108.5	108.1	109.8	112.5	111.5	111.3	111.4	109.5	108.2	107.4	111.3	110.1	107.9	109.0	110.8	112.3	113.0	113.1	112.9	112.8	113.2	113.3	113.1	112.2	131.9
140.0	106.8	104.1	129.6	105.0	100.4	109.7	100.2	110.3	113.2	107.5	107.1	108.8	111.5	110.5	110.3	110.4	108.5	107.2	106.4	110.3	109.1	106.9	108.0	109.8	111.3	112.0	112.1	111.9	111.7	112.2	112.3	112.1	111.2	130.9
150.0	105.9	103.2	128.7	104.1	99.5	108.8	99.3	109.4	112.3	106.6	106.2	107.9	110.6	109.6	109.4	109.5	107.8	106.3	105.5	109.4	108.2	106.0	107.1	108.9	110.4	111.1	111.2	111.0	110.8	111.3	111.1	111.0	110.2	130.0
160.0	105.1	102.4	127.9	103.3	98.7	108.0	98.5	108.6	111.5	105.8	105.4	107.1	109.8	108.8	108.6	108.7	106.8	105.5	104.7	108.6	107.4	105.2	106.3	108.1	109.5	110.2	110.3	110.1	110.0	110.4	110.5	110.3	109.3	129.1
170.0	104.3	101.6	127.1	102.5	97.9	107.2	97.7	107.8	110.7	105.0	104.6	106.3	109.0	108.0	107.8	107.9	106.0	104.7	103.9	107.8	106.6	104.4	105.5	107.3	108.8	109.5	109.6	109.4	109.2	109.7	109.7	109.5	108.5	128.4
180.0	103.6	101.1	126.6	102.0	97.4	106.7	97.2	107.3	110.2	104.5	104.1	105.8	108.5	107.5	107.3	107.4	105.5	104.2	103.4	107.3	106.1	103.9	105.0	106.8	108.3	109.0	109.0	108.8	108.7	109.1	109.2	108.9	107.9	127.9
190.0	103.3	100.6	126.1	101.5	96.9	106.2	96.7	106.8	109.7	104.0	103.6	105.3	108.0	107.0	106.8	106.9	105.0	103.7	102.9	106.8	105.6	103.4	104.5	106.3	107.8	108.5	108.6	108.3	108.2	108.6	108.7	108.4	107.4	127.4
200.0	102.9	100.2	125.7	101.1	96.5	105.8	96.3	106.4	109.3	103.6	103.2	104.9	107.6	106.6	106.4	106.5	104.6	103.3	102.5	106.4	105.1	102.9	104.0	105.8	107.3	108.0	108.1	107.9	107.7	108.2	108.2	107.9	106.9	126.9
210.0	101.9	99.2	124.7	100.1	95.5	104.8	95.3	104.5	108.3	102.6	102.2	103.9	106.6	105.6	105.4	105.5	103.6	102.3	101.4	105.3	104.1	101.9	103.0	104.8	106.3	107.0	107.1	106.9	106.7	107.1	107.1	106.8	105.8	125.9
220.0	101.0	98.3	123.8	99.2	94.6	103.9	94.4	103.4	107.1	101.3	100.7	104.7	104.5	104.6	102.7	101.4	100.6	104.5	103.3	101.1	102.2	104.0	105.4	106.1	106.2	106.0	105.8	105.6	106.2	106.2	105.9	104.8	125.0	
230.0	99.5	96.8	122.3	97.7	93.1	102.4	92.9	103.0	105.9	100.2	99.8	101.5	104.2	103.2	103.0	103.1	101.2	99.9	99.1	103.0	101.8	99.6	100.7	102.5	104.0	104.7	104.5	104.3	104.7	104.7	104.3	103.2	123.6	
240.0	98.3	95.6	121.1	96.5	91.9	101.2	91.7	101.8	104.7	99.0	98.6	100.3	103.0	102.0	101.8	101.9	100.0	98.7	97.9	101.8	100.6	98.4	99.5	101.3	102.8	103.5	103.5	103.3	103.1	103.5	103.4	103.0	101.8	122.4
250.0	97.3	94.6	120.1	95.5	90.9	100.2	90.7	100.8	103.7	98.0	97.6	99.3	102.0	101.0	100.8	100.9	99.0	97.7	96.9	100.8	99.6	97.4	98.5	100.3	101.8	102.4	102.5	102.2	102.1	102.4	102.4	101.9	100.6	121.4
260.0	96.5	93.8	119.3	94.7	90.1	99.4	89.9	100.0	102.9	97.2	96.8	98.5	101.2	100.2	100.0	100.1	98.2	96.9	96.1	99.9	98.7	96.5	97.8	99.4	100.9	101.8	101.8	101.4	101.1	101.5	101.4	100.8	99.5	120.5
270.0	96.0	93.3	118.9	94.2	89.6	98.9	89.4	99.5	102.4	96.7	96.3	98.0	100.7	99.7	99.5	99.6	97.7	96.4	95.6	98.5	98.3	96.1	97.1	98.9	100.4	101.1	101.1	100.9	100.7	101.0	100.9	100.3	98.9	120.0
280.0	95.7	93.0	118.5	93.9	89.3	98.6	89.1	99.2	102.1	96.4	96.0	97.7	100.4	99.2	99.3	97.4	96.1	95.3	99.2	100.0	97.8	96.8	98.5	100.1	100.8	100.8	100.6	100.3	100.7	100.6	99.9	98.5	119.7	
290.0	95.0	92.3	117.9	93.2	88.8	97.9	88.4	98.5	101.4	95.7	95.3	97.0	99.7	98.7	98.5	96.6	95.4	94.6	96.5	97.3	95.1	96.2	97.9	99.4	100.1	100.1	99.8	99.6	99.9	99.8	99.1	97.8	119.0	
300.0	94.4	91.7	117.2	92.6	88.0	97.3	87.8	97.9	100.8	95.1	94.7	96.4	99.1	98.1	97.9	98.0	96.1	94.8	94.0	97.9	96.7	94.4	95.5	97.3	98.8	99.4	99.5	99.2	99.0	99.2	99.1	98.4	96.8	118.4
310.0	93.9	91.1	116.6	92.0	87.4	96.7	87.2	97.3	100.2	94.5	94.1	95.8	98.5	97.5	97.3	97.4	95.5	94.2	93.4	97.3	96.1	93.9	95.0	96.7	98.2	98.9	98.9	98.6	98.3	98.6	98.4	97.7	96.1	117.8
320.0	93.3	90.6	116.1	91.5	86.9	96.2	86.7	96.8	99.7	94.0	93.6	95.3	98.0	97.0	96.8	96.6	95.0	93.7	92.9	96.6	95.6	93.3	94.4	96.2	97.7	98.3	98.4	98.1	97.8	98.0	97.8	97.0	95.3	117.3
330.0	92.8	90.1	115.6	91.0	86.4	95.7	86.2	96.3	99.2	93.5	93.1	94.8	97.5	96.5	96.3	96.4	94.5	93.2	92.4	96.3	95.1	92.9	93.9	95.7	97.2	97.8	97.9	97.5	97.3	97.5	97.3	96.4	94.6	116.8
340.0	92.4	89.7	115.2	90.6	86.0	95.3	85.8	95.9	98.8	93.1	92.7	94.4	97.1	96.1	95.9	96.0	94.1	92.8	91.9	95.8	94.6	92.4	93.5	95.3	96.7	97.4	97.4	97.1	96.8	97.0	96.8	95.8	94.0	116.4
350.0	92.0	89.3	114.8	90.2	85.6	94.9	85.4	95.5	98.4	92.7	92.3	94.0	96.7	95.7	95.4	95.5	93.6	92.3	91.5	95.4	94.2	92.0	93.1	94.8	96.3	96.9	97.0	96.6	96.3	96.5	96.3	95.4	93.4	115.9
360.0	91.5	88.9	114.4	89.8	85.2	94.5	85.0	95.1	98.0	92.3	91.9	93.6	96.3	95.3	95.1	95.1	93.2	91.9	91.1	95.0	93.8	91.6	92.6	94.4	95.9	96.5	96.5	96.2	96.3	96.1	95.8	94.7	92.8	115.5
370.0	91.2	88.5	114.0	89.4	84.8	94.1	84.6	94.7	97.6	91.9	91.5	93.2	95.9	94.9	94.7	94.8	92.9	91.6	90.7	94.6	93.4	91.2	92.3	94.0	95.5	96.1	96.1	95.8	95					

## **Appendix C**

### **Gulf Gateway Deepwater Port: Summary of the Updated Underwater Sound Level Measurement Results**

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## **C1. Introduction**

Tech Environmental, Inc. (TE), in cooperation with Tetra Tech EC, Inc. (TtEC), has completed the second comprehensive sound survey of the Excelerate Energy Bridge™ Regasification Vessel (EBRV) the *Excelsior* while moored at the Gulf Gateway Deepwater Port on August 6 to 9, 2006. The field survey included underwater sound measurements at a site located 116 miles offshore in the Gulf of Mexico (the Gulf). The overall purpose of this survey was to verify measurements completed during the initial sound survey completed March 21 to 25, 2005, and to further document sound levels during additional operational and EBRV maneuvering conditions such as EBRV coupling and decoupling from the buoy system, including the use of stern and bow thrusters required for dynamic positioning. The data collected were also used to confirm theoretical calculations that were employed in supplemental submittals for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIS/EIR) to assess sound energy generated during closed-loop versus open-loop regasification and offloading operations. In addition to normalizing complex sound components into source terms, data were used to confirm EBRV sound source energy generation and propagation characteristics, and the identification of near-field and far sound fields under different operating and EBRV maneuvering procedures.

These sound measurement data results will be used update the preliminary (and previously estimated) source data that were input into the acoustic model to determine sound effects of the proposed Northeast Gateway Deepwater Port Project (Northeast Port) off the coast of Cape Ann, Massachusetts. The results of this second sound survey will be of further use in the evaluation of the potential for underwater noise impacts on marine life at the NEG Port and future prospective project areas.

## **C2. Methodology**

Acoustic engineers from Tech Environmental, Inc. and Tetra Tech EC, Inc. completed underwater sound level monitoring of operational sounds from the *Excelsior* EBRV at a location about 116 miles offshore in the Gulf of Mexico. The overall purpose of this second sound survey was to document sound levels emitted by the EBRV under operational conditions and maneuvering exercises.

Measurements were made with hydrophones when measuring underwater sound. The survey included measurements to characterize tanker operational sound as a function of operating conditions during closed-loop regasification and offloading. The sound generated by the EBRV is transmitted into the air directly from mechanical equipment located on or near the deck, and into the water primarily through energy transmitted through the EBRV hull. During EBRV maneuvering, sound is generated by the bow and stern thrusters. The survey also included the measurement of baseline sound levels in the Gulf in the vicinity of the Gulf Gateway Deepwater Port. These data were used to subtract out extraneous sounds of wave action against the observation vessel, turbulence around the hydrophone (low frequency), and the general movement of the equipment on the boat by waves (affecting very low frequencies <12 Hz). All engines and mechanical equipment on the observation vessel were shut down and the EBRV was anchored and stationary during all measurements.

Measurement positions and distances from the EBRV relative to the observation vessel were determined using a laser range finder. Measurements were completed at multiple distances and reference hydrophone depths to ensure the most accurate measurement data possible. Measurements were also completed directly from the EBRV deck to determine near-field source levels immediately adjacent to the EBRV hull. All measurements were completed during weather and sea state conditions conducive to accurate acoustic measurement. Measurements included broadband and linear one-third-octave band rms (root mean square) sound pressure levels on a decibel (dB) scale. All measurement equipment used on this Project is laboratory tested regularly according to ANSI requirements to ensure a high degree of measurement accuracy. All equipment meets or exceeds ANSI Type 1 Standards for high precision measurement instrumentation.

Underwater sound measurements were completed with Bruel & Kjaer (B&K) model 8104 hydrophones directly connected to model 824 Larson Davis frequency analyzers. The first 8104 hydrophone was equipped with an integral 100-meter cable allowing for deepwater measurements and measurements made directly from the elevated deck of the EBRV. The second 8104 hydrophone was equipped with an integral 10-meter cable for collecting underwater measurements at depths closer to the surface. Simultaneous underwater measurements at two discrete depths were completed where possible to help isolate EBRV source levels from extraneous source contributions such as surface agitation and sound generated from wave action against the observation boat hull. The B&K hydrophones have a frequency response range of 0.1 Hz to 120 kHz. The frequency range used in the survey was selected to include the known frequencies that are audible for marine animals. On-board calibration of the hydrophone measurement chain was accomplished with a B&K model 4229 Hydrophone Calibrator.

The hydrophone was deployed from the EBRV or observation vessel using a system of flotation devices and weights specifically designed to decouple the hydrophone from the boat's movements. Measurements were logged in 1-second intervals using the "Fast" time constants in order to provide a detailed time history. The resultant sound levels were analyzed and compared to the detailed ship logs of operations. A maximum dBL and range of sound source levels for each operation was developed. For measurements completed from the observation vessel as it drifted alongside the EBRV, the data were corrected for divergence and Gulf seawater absorption rates to calculate source terms. Underwater sound levels are reported without weighting as linear values (dBL). The dB reference level for underwater sound measurements is re: 1 micro Pascal.

### **C3. Measurement Results**

Sources associated with degasification and offloading from the EBRV have been identified in Section 4 of the Draft EIS/EIR. The sound generated by the EBRV is transmitted into the air directly from mechanical equipment located on or near the deck of the ship and into the water primarily by energy transmitted through the ship's hull including sound generated during regasification and offloading into the riser and pipeline. An initial sound survey of underwater and in-air sound generated by the EBRV was taken during LNG regasification and offloading operations in the Gulf (March 21 to 25, 2005). Measurements were conducted at the Gulf Gateway site when the vessel was moored and operating in the open-loop regasification mode. Northeast Gateway has committed to operate the EBRVs calling on the Northeast Port only in the quieter closed-loop regasification mode (and this will be a condition of its license). Operating in the closed-loop regasification mode will reduce underwater sound levels and thereby lower the potential for noise harassment of marine mammals to well below the 120 dB threshold limit for Level B harassment.

The reason for the difference in received sound levels between the modes of operation is that operating in the open-loop regasification mode, the vessel draws in sea water in a once-through use to warm and regasify the LNG. As the water passes through the regasification system operating in open loop, it is discharged below the bow of the vessel through either of two discharge pipes with reducer nozzles (depending upon which bank of vaporizers are being operated) located on the bottom of the hull of the EBRV. The turbulence and substantial amount of air bubbles created by this discharge is one of the principal sources of low-frequency underwater noise represented in the data tables of the Draft EIS/EIR. The difference between open- and closed-loop vaporization noise and the noise signature of an EBRV was conservatively estimated to reduce overall broadband levels by a minimum of 7 dB, given that the significant amount of water discharged in open-loop mode is no longer occurring. This reduction was modeled by using two 0.6-meter diameter pipes discharging vertically downward. The discharge rate is 1.74 cubic meters per second ( $m^3/s$ ) (27,500 gallons per minute) per nozzle and is equivalent to the flow rates seen on the EBRV during the initial sound sampling at Gulf Gateway. The changes in fluid pressure result in pressure variation, turbulence, and flow noise. The flow noise frequency characteristics are partially dependant on depth. As the depth of the discharge increases (as product is being offloaded), the flow noise also increases and moves to the lower end of the frequency spectrum. This increase in noise is caused by the decrease of pressure with depth, which allows for an increase in the formation of turbulence



bubbles. The results of the calculations were confirmed during the second Gulf Gateway survey (August 1 to 5, 2006) with maximum source levels during closed-loop regasification and offloading ranging from 105 dBL (approaching ambient levels immediately adjacent to the EBRV hull) to 111 dBL re 1  $\mu$ Pa at 1 meter, dependant on load and output. Each EBRV is expected to be moored during regasification and offloading for 4 days to 1 week per shipment (continuous sound source).

Once at the buoys, dynamic positioning during EBRV coupling requires the used of thrusters. Field measurements documented during the second Gulf field survey resulted in source levels of 160 to 170 dBL re 1  $\mu$ Pa at 1 meter from normal thruster operations during coupling/decoupling operations and EBRV maneuvering at the Deepwater Port, depending on percent load. Thrusters typically operate for relatively short periods of time and are necessary at EBRV arrival for docking. Thrusters are typically operated intermittently within a 10- to 30-minute total maneuvering period during normal docking procedures and are the dominant source of underwater sound during these activities.

The results of the second sound survey are presented in Table C-1 and can be readily employed to estimate sound levels from similar deepwater port projects. However, sound wave propagation and attenuation underwater is a very complex phenomenon influenced by gradients of temperature, salinity, currents, sea surface turbulence, and bathymetric data as well as existing ambient ocean sound levels. Research has shown spherical wave spreading, together with seawater absorption, provides a reasonable fit to measured underwater sound levels under a wide variety of conditions. For sound transmission loss in the open ocean, empirical data show spherical wave spreading explains measured sound levels near the source. Because the ocean is bounded at the surface and bottom, a transition from spherical wave spreading to cylindrical wave spreading occurs for distances that are very large compared to the depths of the water. Therefore, for higher energy sound source levels and long-distance propagation scenarios, divergence based on water column depth and source frequency components will need to be incorporated into the modeling analysis.

#### **C4. Conclusions**

Tech Environmental, Inc., in cooperation with Tetra Tech, EC, Inc., completed an investigation of the underwater sound radiated by Excelerate Energy's EBRV moored at the Gulf Gateway Deepwater Port. The results of these measurements can be used for subsequent siting studies and impact analyses. The following conclusions are drawn:

NMFS has established guidelines for what constitutes harassment and acoustic takes on marine mammals under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Two levels of harassment have been defined in the MMPA: Level A harassment with the potential to injure a marine mammal in the wild, and Level B harassment with the potential to disturb a marine mammal in the wild by causing disruption to behavioral patterns such as migration, breeding, feeding, and sheltering. The current thresholds are 180 dBL for Level A harassment, and 160 dBL (impulse) and 120 dBL (continuous) for Level B harassment. The results of this second sound survey clearly demonstrate that during closed-loop regasification, maximum continuous underwater sound levels are well below the NMFS 120 dBL criteria level. Under no circumstances are exceedances of the 180 dBL Level A harassment criteria expected.

Underwater sound generated during EBRV maneuvering (use of bow and stern thrusters) at the Gulf Gateway Deepwater Port were documented at levels well below the conservative estimates used in the Draft EIS/EIR and supporting acoustic modeling calculations. Revisions to the acoustic modeling will be necessary to provide a more accurate characterization of resultant underwater sound levels during these conditions.

TABLE C-1: SUMMARY OF MAXIMUM UNDERWATER SOUND SOURCE LEVELS DURING DEEPWATER PORT OPERATION AND EBRV MANEUVERING EXERCISES

Sound Source	Sound Source Level (dBL re 1 $\mu$ PA at 1 meter)
<b>Operation</b> Closed-Loop Regasification and Offloading	<105 to 111
<b>EBRV Maneuvering</b> Coupling (Dynamic Positioning Using Thrusters)	

**Appendix D**

**Northeast Gateway Construction Marine Mammal Sightings and Take  
Summary Report**

A summary of marine mammal sightings for the Northeast Gateway Construction Project have been compiled for data collected between 26 May 2007 and 31 October 2007. There have been six vessels working on the project between this time period with a maximum of three vessels working during any one time period. There were 4 MMOs assigned to each construction vessel and observation was conducted 24 hours per day. Table 1 shows the total number of work days for each vessel and the total number of sightings per month as well as the sightings per observer day per month. Results are shown graphically in figure 1.

Table 1. Monthly sighting summary

<b>Number of Observation Days per vessel (approx.)</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Jun</b>	<b>Jul</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sep</b>	<b>Oct</b>
<b>Lonestar (Anchored)</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Atlantic (Anchored)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Jumbo Javelin (DP)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Agnes Candies (DP)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Island Vanguard (DP)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>		<b>0</b>
<b>Texas (DP)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>TOTAL OBSERVER DAYS</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>67</b>
<b># (#) = Number of sighting per species (number of sightings per observer day)</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Jun</b>	<b>Jul</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sep</b>	<b>Oct</b>
<b>Humpback</b>	4 (1)	5 (0.09)	10 (0.25)	54 (0.56)	117 (1.58)	42 (0.63)
<b>Fin</b>	0 (0)	2 (0.04)	7 (0.18)	22 (0.23)	27 (0.36)	8 (0.12)
<b>Minke</b>	0 (0)	1 (0.02)	11 (0.27)	6 (0.06)	10 (0.13)	0 (0)
<b>UID Whale</b>	0 (0)	0 (0)	5 (0.13)	27 (0.28)	9 (0.12)	3 (0.04)
<b>AWS Dolphin</b>	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0.01)	3 (0.04)	6 (0.09)
<b>Seal (Harbor &amp; Gray)</b>	0 (0)	0 (0)	10 (0.25)	5 (0.05)	1 (0.01)	1 (0.01)
<b>Other Marine Mammal *</b>	1 (0.25)	0 (0)	3 (0.08)	1 (0.01)	0 (0)	0 (0)
<b>Marine Turtle</b>	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0.01)	0 (0)	0 (0)

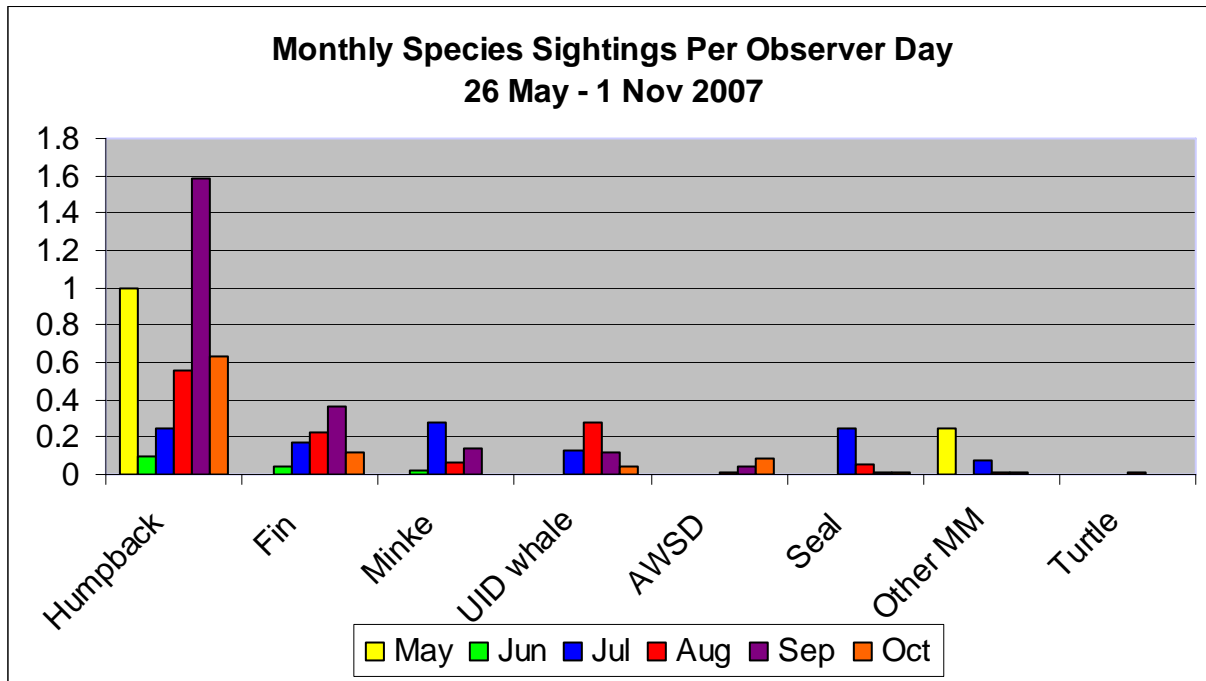


Figure 1. Monthly species sightings per observer day.

Distances were calculated for different categories defined by regulations and biological opinions. Only species defined in the IHA (Fin, Humpback, NARW) were used for these calculations and only those sighting records with a closest vessel distance of 2 miles (3500 yds) or less. Sightings were summaries in 4 categories. The first category includes any sightings within the general marine mammal exclusion of 100yds. The second category is any sightings recorded between the outer edge of the general marine mammal exclusion zone and the outer edge of the NARW exclusion zone (101 – 500yds). The third category is defined as the outer edge of the NARW exclusion zone to 0.5 miles from the vessel. One-half mile was used as a defining distance because it is mentioned in all regulatory documents as the presumed distance of sufficient visibility for marine mammal observers to detect and identify marine mammals within the project area. Table 2 lists the number of sightings and individuals for each distance category.

During visual observation it is likely that an animal is recorded multiple times, particularly when viewed from different vessels or locations within the project site. Upon examination of the sighting data for animals recorded within 2 miles (3500 yards) of the observer, we determined that sighting records within 30 minutes of one another and within the same general bearing and distance were duplicate records. Records within 500yds of the vessel had very low (~1.5%) duplication, this duplication came mainly in the number of individuals and not in the number of sighting records. Record duplication increased with distance. We calculated the duplication percentage for all sightings of Fin and Humpback whales recorded at distances of greater than 500yds from the vessel. We calculated a conservative estimate of duplication for each of the two whale species in the analysis. We estimated that 25% of all fin whale sightings were duplications and 40% of all humpback sightings were likely duplications. The actual duplication number is probably higher. We then calculated the same records for only DP vessels. (Table 3)

Table 2. Summary of distance data for all vessels (Data compiled through 321 Oct 07)

	Description of location	0-100 yrds			101-500 yrds			501-880 yrds		0.5 miles or less		880-3500 yrds		Total affected area
		General Exclusion Zone	Exclusion zone to NARW	Exclusion zone to NARW	Exclusion zone to NARW	Exclusion zone to NARW	Exclusion zone to NARW	Exclusion zone to NARW	Exclusion zone to NARW	Exclusion zone to NARW	Exclusion zone to NARW	Exclusion zone to NARW	Exclusion zone to NARW	Corrected Numbers from 0 - 2 miles
<b>All Vessels</b>	<i>Individuals</i>	2	12	7 (6)	21	20	35 (26)	46						
	<i>Sightings</i>	2	9	6 (5)	17	16	24 (18)	34						
Humpback	<i>Individuals</i>	30	23	47 (28)	100	81	111 (67)	148						
	<i>Sightings</i>	21	16	23 (14)	60	51	52 (31)	82						

Table 3. Summary of distance data for DP vessels only (Data compiled through 321 Oct 07)

	Description of location	0-100 yrds			101-500 yrds			501-880 yrds		0.5 miles or less		880-3500 yrds		Total affected area
		General Exclusion Zone	Exclusion zone to NARW	Exclusion zone to NARW	Exclusion zone to NARW	Exclusion zone to NARW	Exclusion zone to NARW	Exclusion zone to NARW	Exclusion zone to NARW	Exclusion zone to NARW	Exclusion zone to NARW	Exclusion zone to NARW	Corrected Numbers from 0 - 2 miles	
<b>DP Vessels Only</b>	<i>Individuals</i>	0	8	4 (3)	12	11	31 (23)	34						
	<i>Sightings</i>	0	6	4 (3)	10	9	20 (15)	24						
Humpback	<i>Individuals</i>	11	17	27 (16)	55	44	71 (43)	87						
	<i>Sightings</i>	11	12	12 (7)	35	30	30 (18)	48						

Take assessment can be approached in a number of ways, but should only include the DP vessels that utilize thrusters for positioning. Using the 100-yrd and 500-yrd exclusion zones as the location for takes under the IHA:

- We have not exceeded the allowance of right whales (0/3)
- We have not exceeded the allowance of Fins (0/13)
- We have not exceeded the allowance of Humpbacks (11/24)

If we use the assumption that 0.5 miles is the acceptable visual detection distance that can be applied for assessing takes and use only sighting records and not individuals due to probable high duplication in individual numbers

- We have not exceeded the allowance for Right Whales (0/3)
- We have not exceeded the allowance for Fins (11/13)
- We have exceeded the allowance for Humpbacks (30/24).



In the worst case situation where we use 2.0 miles of influence and use the individual animal numbers:

- We have not exceeded the allowance for Right Whales (0/3)
- We have exceeded the allowance for Fins (34/13)
- We have exceeded the allowance of Humpbacks (87/24)

Hopefully this helps out in sorting out the sighting records in relation to takes and other regulatory requirements. Please keep in mind that these numbers are rough and a number of assumptions have been made. There may be minor adjustments made in the final logs after careful review of individual sighting records and field notes. There is likely to be greater differences in the numbers of individuals than the number of sighting records due to duplication and this will increase with distance. Please let me know if you need further information.