



February 10, 2013

Ms. Trudy D. Fisher  
Executive Committee Chair  
*Deepwater Horizon* Oil Spill NRDA Trustee Council  
P.O. Box 2261  
Jackson, Mississippi 39225

Dear Ms. Fisher:

I write to formally confirm my endorsement to move forward the two projects approved by the Natural Resource Damage Assessment Trustee Council pursuant to the *Deepwater Horizon* Oil Spill Phase II Early Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment (ERP/EA). Based on the information currently available to me, neither project appears to interfere with or frustrate ongoing response activities.

PROJECTS:

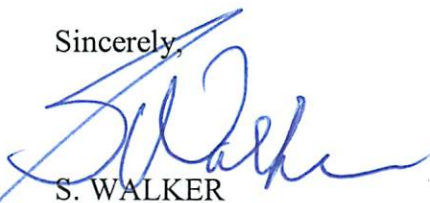
- 1) The Improving Habitat Injured by Spill Response: Restoring the Night Sky Project will not affect our current operations. It is my understanding that the initial efforts of this project will be to identify sources of excessive artificial lighting illuminating loggerhead turtle nesting beaches and coordinate with property owners to eliminate, retrofit or replace existing lighting fixtures on the property. *Deepwater Horizon* Response activities are confined to areas seaward of the dune line. There are some beach segments which remain in active response within the scoped project areas but given the nature of this project, our current operations will not be affected.
- 2) The Comprehensive Program for Enhanced Management of Breeding Habitat Injured by Response Project will take place on some beach segments which remain in active response (Mississippi Barrier Islands, Bon Secour Wildlife Refuge, and portions of Escambia and Okaloosa Counties, Florida), but will not affect our current operations. The *Deepwater Horizon* Response continues to adhere to comprehensive Best Management Practices (BMPs) developed by the US Fish & Wildlife Service. These BMPs have allowed response activities to go on where possible while conforming to Section 7 consultation requirements. Additionally, all work crews are accompanied by Resource Advisors (READS) or Natural Resource Advisors (NRAs) to ensure compliance with BMPs and provide onsite guidance to avoid or minimize contact with nesting species. It is assessed that our continued adherence to this standard operating procedure will prevent any conflict between this project's efforts and our response activities.

I do note that the information currently available to me regarding each of these projects is quite limited. Until it is determined specifically where these projects will take place, it is impossible to know with complete assurance that we will not have to develop a collaborative scheme for

deconfliction. Accordingly, I ask for your support in facilitating direct and frequent communications between the project managers and my External Projects Coordinator at the Gulf Coast Incident Management Team, LT David Simonson (david.r.simonson@uscg.mil; 504-252-8748). Direct and more frequent contact to facilitate ongoing dialogue between managers will surely help avoid conflict as the restoration projects are more fully developed and work begins. This action would be consistent with our respective statutory requirements for deconfliction.

I remain committed to the pledge I made to the Trustee Council previously, to do all in my power to facilitate simultaneous restoration and response activities. I look forward to working closely with the Executive Council as we move forward together in these endeavors.

Sincerely,



S. WALKER  
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard  
Federal On-Scene Coordinator  
*Deepwater Horizon* Response

Copy: USCG GC-IMT External Project Coordinator  
Florida State On-Scene Coordinator  
Alabama State On-Scene Coordinator  
Mississippi State On-Scene Coordinator  
Department of Interior Liaison to GC-IMT  
BP Executive VP, Science, Tech, Envir. & Reg. Affairs, GCRO  
BP Incident Commander, GC-IMT