

NOTE TO READERS

The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) requires that an environmental impact statement be prepared as part of the review and approval process of major actions by Federal agencies which significantly affect the quality of the human environment. The action contemplated here is approval of the South Carolina Coastal Program under Section 306 of the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended.

Approval qualifies South Carolina for Federal matching funds for use in implementing and administering the coastal management program. In addition, the Coastal Zone Management Act stipulates that Federal activities affecting the coastal zone shall be consistent, to the maximum extent practicable, with the approved coastal management program.

It is the general policy of the Office of Coastal Zone Management (OCZM) to issue a combined final environmental impact statement (FEIS) and coastal management program document. Part I of this FEIS was prepared by OCZM and includes a summary of South Carolina's coastal management program, as well as a summary of all comments received on the DEIS and responses to those comments. Part II of the FEIS is a detailed description of the state's program, and was prepared by the South Carolina Coastal Council as were the appendices and attachments. Part II also fulfills, in part, the NEPA requirement for a description of the proposed action. Part III addresses the remainder of the NEPA requirements for a FEIS and was prepared jointly by OCZM and the South Carolina Coastal Council.

For purposes of reviewing the proposed action, the important Federal concerns are:

- whether the South Carolina program is consistent with the objectives and policies of the national legislation,
- whether the award of Federal funds under Section 306 of the CZMA will help South Carolina meet those objectives,
- whether the State's management authorities are adequate to implement the South Carolina Coastal Program, and
- whether there will be a net environmental benefit as a result of program approval and implementation.

OCZM has made a preliminary assessment that the answers to these questions are affirmative. OCZM wants the widest possible circulation of this document to all interested agencies and parties in order to receive the fullest expression of opinion on these questions, and wishes to thank those participating in the review of the South Carolina program and this final environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY

- Draft Environmental Impact Statement
 Final Environmental Impact Statement

This document was prepared by the Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office of Coastal Zone Management. For additional information about the proposed action or this document, contact:

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1. TYPE OF ACTION

Proposed Federal approval of the South Carolina Coastal Program

- Administrative Legislative

2. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

It is proposed that the Assistant Administrator approve the Coastal Management Program application of the State of South Carolina pursuant to P.L.92-583. Approval would permit implementation grants to be awarded to the State, and require that Federal actions be consistent with the program.

3. SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

Approval and implementation of the program will enhance governance of the State's coastal land and water areas and uses according to coastal policies and standards implemented by existing State and local authority. The effect of these policies and standards is to condition, restrict or prohibit some uses in parts of the coastal zone, while encouraging development and other uses in other parts. This program will improve decision-making processes for determining appropriate coastal land and water uses in light of resource considerations and will increase predictability of public and private coastal decisions. The program will result in some short-term economic impacts on coastal users but will lead to increased long-term protection of and benefit from the State's coastal resources.

4. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

- I. The Assistant Administrator could delay or deny program approval if the policies of the program are not specific enough to ensure a sufficient degree of predictability in decision-making.
- II. The Assistant Administrator could delay or deny program approval if the definition of Uses of Regional Benefit (URB's) is not sufficiently broad to meet the requirements and intent of the CZMA as amended.
- III. The Assistant Administrator could delay or deny program approval if the State has not clearly defined its §307 Federal Consistency procedures.

5. DISTRIBUTION*

Comments have been requested from the following Federal, State, and local agencies and other parties:

Federal Agencies

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Department of Agriculture
Department of Commerce
Department of Defense
Department of Energy
Department of Health, Education & Welfare
Department of Housing & Urban Development
Department of the Interior
Department of Justice
Department of Labor
Department of Transportation
Environmental Protection Agency
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
General Services Administration
Marine Mammal Commission
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
U.S. Coast Guard

*Upon request, copies were sent to all individuals and other interested parties not listed as receiving copies of the DEIS.

National Interest Groups

A.M.E.R.I.C.A.N.

AFL-CIO

American Association

of Port Authorities

American Bar Association

American Bureau of Shipping

American Farm Bureau Federation

American Fisheries Society

American Forest Institute

American Gas Association

American Hotel and Motel Association

American Industrial Development Council

American Institute of Architects

American Institute of Merchant Shipping

American Institute of Planners

American Littoral Society

American Mining Congress

American Oceanic Organization

American Petroleum Institute

American Shore and Beach Preservation Association

American Society of Civil Engineers

American Society of Landscape Architects, Inc.

American Society of Planning Officials

American Water Resources Association

American Waterways Operators

Amoco Production Company

Ashland Oil, Inc.

Associated General Contractors of America

Association of Oil Pipe Lines

Atlantic Richfield Company

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Atomic Industrial Forum

Barrier Islands Coalition

Boating Industry Association

Center for Law and Social Policy

Center for Natural Areas

Center for Urban Affairs

Center for Urban & Regional Resources

Chamber of Commerce of the United States

Chevron U.S.A., Inc.

Cities Service Company

City Service Oil Company

Coastal States Organization

Conservation Foundation

Continental Oil Company

Council of State Governments

Council of State Planning Agencies

The Cousteau Society

Earth Metabolic Design Laboratories, Inc.

Edison Electric Institute

El Paso Natural Gas Co.

Environmental Policy Center

Environmental Defense Fund, Inc.
Environmental Law Institute
EXXON Company, U.S.A
Friends of the Earth
Getty Oil Company
Great Lakes Basin Commission
Gulf Energy and Minerals, U.S.
Gulf Oil Company
Gulf Refining Company
Gulf South Atlantic Fisheries Development
Foundation
Independent Petroleum Association of America
Industrial Union of Marine & Shipbuilding
Workers of America
Institute for the Human Environment
Institute for Marine Studies
Interstate Natural Gas Association of America
Izaak Walton League
Lake Michigan Federation
League of Conservation Voters
League of Women Voters Education Fund
Marathon Oil Company
Marine Technology Society
Mobil Oil Coporation
Mobil Exploration & Producing, Inc.
Murphy Oil Company
National Academy of Engineering
National Association of Conservation Districts
National Association of Counties
National Association of Dredging Contractors
National Association of Electric Companies
National Association of Engine & Boat Manufacturers
National Association of Home Builders
National Association of Realtors
National Association of Regional Councils
National Association of State Boating Law
Administrators
National Association of State Park Directors
National Audubon Society
National Boating Federation
National Canners Association
National Coalition for Marine Conservation, Inc.
National Commission on Marine Policy
National Conference of State Legislators
National Environmental Development Association
National Farmers Union
National Federation of Fisherman
National Fisheries Institute
National Forest Products Association
National Governor's Associaation
National League of Cities
National Ocean Industries Association
National Parks and Conservation Association

National Petroleum Council
National Petroleum Refineries Association
National Realty Committee
National Recreation and Park Association
National Research Council
National Science Foundation
National Science Teachers Association
National Shrimp Congress
National Society of Professional Engineers
National Wildlife Federation
National Waterways Conference
Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America
Natural Resources Defense Council
The Nature Conservancy
Nautilus Press
New England River Basin Commission
North Atlantic Ports Association
Outboard Marine Corporation
Resources for the Future
Rice University Center for Community Design
and Development
Shell Oil Company
Shellfish Institute of North America
Shipbuilders Council of America
Sierra Club
Skelly Oil Company
Society of Industrial Realtors
Society of Real Estate Appraisers
Soil Conservation Society of America
Southern California Gas Company
Sport Fishing Institute
Standard Oil Company of Ohio
Sun Company, Inc.
Tenneco Oil Company
Texaco, Inc.
Texas A & M University
United Brotherhood of Carpenters & Joiners
of America
Union Oil Company of California
Urban Research and Development Association, Inc.
U.S. Conference of Mayors
U.S. Power Squadrons
Virginia Marine Resources Commission
Water Pollution Control Federation
Water Transportation Association
Western Oil and Gas Association
Wildlife Management Institute
The Wildlife Society
World Dredging Association

State Distribution

Governor
Attorney General
Archeology Institute
Patriots Point Development Authority
South Carolina Department of Archives and History
South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
South Carolina Department of Highways and Public Transportation
South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism
South Carolina Forestry Commission
South Carolina Land Resources Conservation Commission
South Carolina Public Railways Commission
South Carolina Public Service Authority
South Carolina Public Service Commission
South Carolina State Budget & Control Board
South Carolina State Development Board
South Carolina State Ports Authority
South Carolina Water Resources Commission
South Carolina Wildlife & Marine Resources Department

Local Distribution

Beaufort County

Beaufort County Development Commission
Beaufort County Joint Planning Commission
County Administrator
Mayor, Port Royal

Berkeley County

County Administrator, Hanahan
County Supervisor
Development Board, Moncks Corner
Mayor, Goose Creek

Charleston County

Charleston County Mosquito Abatement Program
Charleston County Parks, Recreation & Tourism
Charleston County Planning Board
Charleston County Public Works Department
City Administrator, Folly Beach
City Administrator, Isle of Palms
City Hall, Isle of Palms
City Manager, Mt. Pleasant
Clerk, Ravenel
Clerk, Sullivans Island
Manager, Charleston County
Mayor, McClellanville
Mayor, North Charleston

Colleton

County Supervisor
Mayor, Edisto Beach
Walterboro-Colleton Recreation Commission

Dorchester

County Administrator
Mayor, St. George
Mayor, Summerville

Georgetown

Administrative Assistant, Georgetown
Georgetown County Health Department

Horry

Administrative Assistant, North Myrtle Beach
Horry County Planning Commission
Mayor, Myrtle Beach
Mayor, Surfside Beach
Planner, City of Myrtle Beach
Planning Zoning Commission, Surfside Beach

Jasper

Jasper County Council
Jasper County Joint Planning Commission
Mayor, Hardeeville
Town Administrator, Ridgeland

Regional Councils of Government

B-C-D Regional Planning Commission
Lowcounty Council of Governments
Waccamaw Regional Planning Council

South Carolina Special Interest Groups

Cooper River Water Users Association
Historic Charleston Association
The Jean-Michel Cousteau Institute
Junior League of Charleston
League of Women Voters
League of Women Voters, Local Chapters
Myrtle Beach Board of Realtors
Myrtle Beach Environmental Association, Inc.
National Audubon Society, Local Chapters
North Myrtle Beach Citizens Association, Inc.
Osceola
South Carolina Bankers Association
South Carolina Chamber of Commerce
South Carolina Environmental Coalition
South Carolina Petroleum Council
South Carolina Wildlife Federation
Save the Wando Association, Inc.
Savings and Loan Association of South Carolina

6. The appendices to the Draft EIS have not been reprinted in the Final EIS. Copies may be obtained from either OCZM or the South Carolina Coastal Council.