

Background

The Final PDARP/PEIS provides for TIGs to propose phasing restoration projects across multiple restoration plans. A TIG may propose in a draft restoration plan conceptual projects to fund for an information-gathering planning phase, such as E&D (phase 1). This allows TIGs to develop information needed to fully consider a subsequent implementation phase in a later restoration plan (phase 2). In the final RP/EA #7, the LA TIG selected three conceptual projects for E&D, using funds from the “Wetlands, Coastal and Nearshore Habitats” and “Birds” restoration types, as provided for in the DWH Consent Decree. One of the projects selected for E&D in the Final RP/EA #7, the Terrebonne HNC Island project, reached a stage of design where proposed construction alternatives (phase 2) could be analyzed under the OPA NRDA regulations and NEPA.

The LA TIG made the Draft RP/EA #7.1 available for public review and comment via publication of a notice of availability in the **Federal Register** on August 25, 2022 (87 FR 52411). The public review and comment period ran through September 26, 2022. To facilitate public understanding of the document, the LA TIG held a public webinar on September 8, 2022, during which public comment was also solicited. The LA TIG received no comments during the public comment period. After public review, the LA TIG finalized the plan and selected design alternative 7A for construction.

Overview of the Final RP/EA #7.1

The Final RP/EA #7.1 and FONSI (Appendix C of the Final RP/EA #7.1) is being released in accordance with OPA NRDA regulations found in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 15 CFR part 990, NEPA and its implementing regulations found at 40 CFR parts 1500–1508, the Final PDARP/PEIS/ROD, and the Consent Decree. The Final RP/EA #7.1 provides the LA TIG’s OPA, NRDA, and NEPA analyses for a reasonable range of design alternatives for the HNC Island project and selects the LA TIG’s preferred design alternative, 7A, for implementation.

Alternative 7A would increase the acreage of the island from 27.6 acres (ac) to up to approximately 45 ac of shrub nesting, ground nesting, and marsh habitat. The approximate cost to complete E&D, construct, maintain, and monitor the selected alternative is \$34 million. A second design alternative, 7, is also evaluated in the restoration plan, as well as a No Action alternative. Both

HNC Island action alternatives would include a rock dike around the island perimeter, breakwaters, and a bird ramp. While the non-preferred alternative would create more total habitat acres (53.3 ac), the preferred alternative would provide a balance between constructability, feasibility, and creation of optimal habitat features for nesting birds, while minimizing environmental impacts during construction.

Administrative Record

The documents comprising the Administrative Record for the RP/EA #7.1 can be viewed electronically at <https://www.doi.gov/deepwaterhorizon/adminrecord>.

Authority

The authority for this action is the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2701 *et seq.*), its implementing Natural Resource Damage Assessment regulations found at 15 CFR part 990, and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and its implementing regulations found at 40 CFR parts 1500–1508.

Mary Josie Blanchard,

*Director of Gulf of Mexico Restoration,
Department of the Interior.*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement

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Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Oil and Gas Decommissioning Activities on the Pacific Outer Continental Shelf, Extending Comment Period

AGENCY: Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE), Interior.

ACTION: Notice of extension of the public comment period.

SUMMARY: BSEE is extending the public comment period for the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for Oil and Gas Decommissioning Activities on the Pacific Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) [EIS No. 20220156].

DATES: BSEE published the Notice of Availability (NOA) for the PEIS on October 12, 2022, and opened a public comment period through November 28, 2022. BSEE is extending this public comment period to January 10, 2023.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments in writing or through www.regulations.gov. Written comments may be delivered by hand or by mail, enclosed in an envelope labeled, “Pacific Decommissioning” and addressed to Richard Yarde, Regional Supervisor, Office of Environment, BOEM Pacific Region, 760 Paseo Camarillo, Suite 102, Camarillo, CA, 93010. Comments may also be submitted online through the [regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) web portal: Navigate to <http://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket No. BOEM–2021–0043. Click on the “Comment Now!” button to the right of the document link. Enter your information and comment, then click “Submit.”

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information on the PEIS, contact Richard Yarde, Regional Supervisor, Office of Environment, at richard.yarde@boem.gov or 805–384–6379.

Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 800–877–8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On October 12, 2022, BSEE published a notice in the **Federal Register** [87 FR 61628] that provided a 47-day public comment period on the Draft PEIS for Oil and Gas Decommissioning Activities on the Pacific OCS, which would close on November 28, 2022. On October 28, 2022, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published a notice in the **Federal Register** [87 FR 65202] that also provided a 45-day public comment period on the Draft PEIS for Oil and Gas Decommissioning Activities on the Pacific OCS, which will close on December 12, 2022. BSEE has received numerous requests from the public seeking longer extensions to the comment period. In consideration of the EPA’s public comment period, the numerous requests seeking extensions to the comment period, and to ensure robust public comments, BSEE is extending the public comment period by an additional twenty-nine days beyond December 12, 2022, to January 10, 2023.

Kevin Sligh,

Director, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement.

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