



W. Marshall Taylor Jr., Acting Director

Promoting and protecting the health of the public and the environment

May 1, 2015

Mr. Brian Cameron
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard GM 623E
New Orleans, LA 70123

Re: Spectrum Geo, Inc., 2D Seismic Survey, Atlantic Ocean, CZC project ID # CZC-15-0061

Dear Mr. Cameron:

This is in response to the Spectrum Geo Incorporated (Spectrum Geo) Geophysical and Geological (G&G) 2D seismic survey permit application submitted to the U. S. Department of Interior - Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and the Federal Consistency determination submitted on January 26, 2015, to the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (SCDHEC).

The G&G seismic survey is proposed to be conducted in the Atlantic Ocean offshore of the eastern seaboard states from Delaware to Florida, including South Carolina. This South Carolina Coastal Zone Consistency (CZC) Determination pertains only to those seismic survey transect areas located off the coast of South Carolina, as shown on Figure 1 of the permit application submitted to BOEM.

The project, as proposed, consists of Spectrum Geo conducting a seismic survey and collecting two-dimensional (2D) geophysical and geological data in areas of the Atlantic Ocean offshore the Mid and South Atlantic coast. The purpose of the survey is "to gather updated, state-of-the-practice data about the Atlantic Ocean seafloor and subsurface characteristics." Spectrum Geo states that "existing geological and geophysical survey data is more than 30 years old and data collection technology has advanced in both gathering and processing efficiency since that time." Spectrum Geo proposes to use the updated information to "make more informed business decisions regarding oil and gas reserves, ensure proper use and conservation of Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) energy resources and help establish fair market values for leasing of public lands." The data obtained during the survey will be analyzed by geologists and the resulting information will then be packaged and sold to the energy industry.

After reviewing Spectrum Geo's Consistency Determination and associated documents, SCDHEC concurs that the proposed seismic survey activity complies with the enforceable policies contained within the S. C. Coastal Zone Management Program (SCCZMP) pursuant to 15 CFR 930.55. In summary, this concurrence is based upon the review of the following enforceable policies: *Guidelines for Evaluation of All Projects* and *Wildlife and Fisheries*

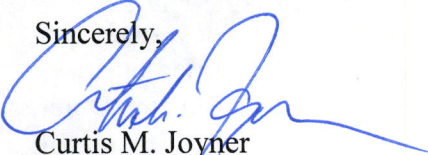
Management. DHEC also reviewed for potential effects to the “priority of uses” related to sea turtles as threatened and endangered species, which are also categorized as a Geographic Area of Particular Concern (GAPC) in the SCCZMP, based upon data provided to SCDHEC by the S. C. Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR). SCDNR’s data also equipped SCDHEC for the review of the Wildlife and Fisheries Management policies and the GAPC priority of uses.

SCDHEC concurs with Spectrum Geo’s Consistency Determination contingent upon the following recommendations/conditions:

1. A time area closure must be put in place off the entire South Carolina coast during the height of the most productive time of the sea turtle season, from April to early September. Additionally, Spectrum Geo will not conduct seismic survey activities within the 98 foot (30 meter) depth (approximately 40 nautical miles) of the South Carolina coast. Spectrum Geo will also shorten survey transects that initially bisected the following Marine Protected Areas: Edisto, Georgia, Northern South Carolina, and Charleston Deep and the Georgetown Hole Essential Fish Habitat that are located along the Charleston Bump (unique geological feature). Spectrum Geo agreed to these provisions in a E-mail from Richie Miller, President of Spectrum Geo, dated April 29, 2015. This correspondence also included a supporting Geographic Information System map referred to as “RevTransects SC” that depicts these areas of exclusion.
2. Spectrum Geo must coordinate and communicate closely with SCDHEC, SCDNR and the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC) fishery management specialists before and during seismic survey operations to avoid or minimize to the extent practicable effects to important fishery management areas and associated hard bottom habitat.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (843) 953-0205 or joynercm@dhec.sc.gov should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Curtis M. Joyner
Manager, Coastal Zone Consistency Section

Cc: Elizabeth A. Dieck, SCDHEC
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