

February 21, 2019

Ms. Jolie Harrison,  
Division Chief  
Permits and Conservation Division  
Office of Protected Resources  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
1315 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

**Subject: Request for an Extension to the Incidental Harassment Authorization Issued to Equinor Wind US (formerly Statoil US LLC)**

Dear Ms. Harrison,

Equinor Wind US LLC (formerly Statoil Wind US LLC; Equinor) was issued an Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) on April 24, 2018, pursuant to Section 101(a)(5) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act and 50 Code of Federal Regulations § 216 Subpart I to allow for the incidental harassment of small numbers of marine mammals resulting from the execution of marine site characterization surveys associated with BOEM Lease Area OCS-A-512.

Equinor was unable to complete the entire high resolution geophysical (HRG) survey program that was proposed in the 2018 IHA due to weather delays, which is set to expire on April 23, 2019. Equinor plans to contract with the same survey contractor to complete the proposed scope of work in 2019; therefore, **Equinor formally requests a renewal of the IHA** in accordance with the language in the Federal Register notice of the original IHA:

*On a case-by-case basis, NMFS may issue a one-year renewal IHA without additional notice when (1) another year of identical or nearly identical activities as described in the Specified Activities section is planned, or (2) the activities would not be completed by the time the IHA expires and renewal would allow completion of the activities beyond that described in the Dates and Duration section, provided all of the following conditions are met:*

- A request for renewal is received no later than 60 days prior to expiration of the current IHA.

**60 days prior to the IHA expiration would be February 23, 2019.**

- The request for renewal must include the following:
  - (1) An explanation that the activities to be conducted beyond the initial dates either are identical to the previously analyzed activities or include changes so minor (e.g., reduction in pile size) that the changes do not affect the previous analyses, take estimates, or mitigation and monitoring requirements.

**HRG activities to be conducted in 2019 are identical to what was proposed for 2018, including the marine mammal mitigation measures.**

- (2) A preliminary monitoring report showing the results of the required monitoring to date and an explanation showing that the monitoring results do not indicate impacts of a scale or nature not previously analyzed or authorized.

**Monitoring results from the 2018 survey campaign were submitted electronically to NMFS on February 19, 2019 (attention: Jordan Carduner)**

IHA Extension Request  
February 2019



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If you have any questions or concerns regarding the enclosed application please do not hesitate to contact Martin Goff at [MGOF@statoil.com](mailto:MGOF@statoil.com) (202-813 -7444) or Scott Lundin at [scott.lundin@tetrattech.com](mailto:scott.lundin@tetrattech.com) (617-443-7512)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Martin Goff".

Martin Goff  
Leader - Permitting, Equinor Wind US LLC

Equinor Wind US LLC  
Suite E301  
120 Long Ridge Road,  
Stamford CT 06902