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Memorandum

To: Files: 1703-02a(1) Beta Unit Correspondence (Vault)

From: Regional Supervisor, Office of Leasing and Environment

Subject: Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

Project: Beta Operating Company, LLC's Proposal to Install a Power Cable between Platform Edith and Platform Elly

Area: Lease OCS-P 0296, OCS-P 0300, OCS-P 0301, and OCS-P 0306, Beta Unit, offshore Los Angeles County, California

**The Proposed Action.** The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement's (BOEMRE) proposed action is to concur with Beta Operating, LLC's (Beta Operating) proposal to install a submarine power cable between Platforms Edith and Elly, which are located offshore of Los Angeles County. The proposed activities involve installing a 34.5 kV alternating current (AC) submarine power cable approximately 2.4 km (7800 ft) long in 49 to 77 m (161 to 255 ft) water depths on Leases OCS-P 0296 and OCS-P 0300. This new power cable will supply electricity to offshore oil and gas facilities within the Beta Unit (Platforms Elly, Ellen, and Eureka), and reduce Beta Operating's reliance on diesel generators. It is estimated that offshore installation activities will take approximately 43 days. The work is expected to commence and be completed sometime during the first quarter of 2011.

**Summary of Impact Analyses and Conclusions.** The BOEMRE prepared the attached Environmental Assessment (EA) for Beta Operating's project, "Platform Edith to Platform Elly Power Cable Installation Project." In this analysis, BOEMRE determined that the following environmental resources could be potentially affected by the proposed project: air quality, water quality, benthic resources, fishes and Essential Fish Habitat, marine mammals and sea turtles, commercial fishing, cultural resources, and environmental justice. The BOEMRE assessed the project's potential effects on these resources and performed a cumulative analysis of the expected impacts from the proposed project when added incrementally to past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects. The BOEMRE concluded that potential impacts on all resources that could be affected during the project will be insignificant based on significance criteria used in the analyses and that the incremental increase of the proposed action to cumulative impacts is negligible for all resources.

**Finding Statement.** Based on the evaluation of Beta Operating's proposal and the potential impacts discussed in the attached EA, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement has determined that concurrence with Beta Operating's Platform Edith to Platform Elly Power Cable Installation Project (the Proposed Action) would not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act §102 (2)(C) and therefore no Environmental Impact Statement is required.



Lynnette L. Vesco  
Regional Supervisor,  
Office of Leasing and Environment  
Pacific OCS Region  
Minerals Management Service

7 OCTOBER 2010  
Date

Attachment