

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT
AND
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC
ADMINISTRATION
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
+ + + + +
GULF OF MEXICO GEOLOGICAL & GEOPHYSICAL
(G&G) ACTIVITIES PROGRAMMATIC
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS)

+ + + + +

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

+ + + + +

TUESDAY

JUNE 11th, 2013

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RAMADA PLAZA BEACH RESORT

1500 MIRACLE STRIP PARKWAY SE

FORT WALTON BEACH, FLORIDA

6:30 P.M.

APPEARANCES:

BOEM STAFF PRESENT:

Gary Goeke

Beth Nord

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Adjourn

P R O C E E D I N G S

(6:30 p.m.)

1
2
3 MR. GOEKE: Good evening, Ladies
4 and Gentlemen. Let's go ahead and go on the
5 record. My name is Gary Goeke. I am the
6 Chief of the Environment Assessment Section
7 with Bureau of Ocean Energy Management over in
8 New Orleans. I'm struggling with a cold, so
9 if you can bear with me I would appreciate it.

10 Sitting beside me this evening is
11 Ms. Beth Nord. Beth is one of our senior
12 staff over in New Orleans and Beth is one of
13 the coordinators on the geological and
14 geophysical EIS that we're going to be
15 preparing and that we're here to talk about
16 this evening. So if everybody is ready, let's
17 go ahead and get started.

18 What we have on the screen here is
19 a series of presentations, a series of
20 locations where we're going to be meeting and
21 talking with federal, state, local officials
22 and the general public to try and gather

1 information for the EIS that we're going to be
2 preparing.

3 As some of you may or may not
4 know, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
5 has been around for a while, but we used to go
6 under another name. We used to be called the
7 Minerals Management Service. But the Bureau
8 of Ocean Energy Management is one of the
9 agencies with a lead role in regulating
10 offshore oil and gas activities and in concert
11 with the National Marine Fisheries Service we
12 are putting together an EIS that will look at
13 the geological and geophysical activities in
14 the Gulf of Mexico for the next -- it's a
15 ten-year period, I believe, the EIS is going
16 to look at. So this is why we're here.

17 Under the congressional mandate
18 that our agency has been given, our agency is
19 the one that deals with the Outer Continental
20 Shelf. We deal with alternative energies. We
21 deal with oil and gas. We deal with marine
22 minerals and the use in the coastal zones of

1 marine minerals and things like that. So we
2 have a fairly diverse set of responsibilities
3 at our agencies and one of the things we need
4 to make sure is that we do address all the
5 issues we need to cover.

6 One way we do this is by writing
7 Environmental Impact Statements under the
8 grandfather law called NEPA, the National
9 Environmental Policy Act. NEPA is a law that
10 was put together many years ago now and tells
11 federal agencies that if they have actions
12 that the potential to have significant
13 impacts, they need to write about it, they
14 need to put the information down. The
15 analysis that's done for the EIS does not need
16 to be encyclopedic. It only needs to address
17 the things that bear the potential for
18 impacts, but it also allows a public process
19 to build into the EIS and is accomplished in
20 several ways.

21 One is at the very beginning of
22 the process doing what we call a scoping

1 meetings and that's where we are at this
2 point. We're looking for folks who can talk
3 to us and explain to us and give us their
4 thoughts on the EIS that we're starting to
5 prepare. The EIS on geological and
6 geophysical activities in the Gulf of Mexico
7 is going to be a process that's going to take
8 about two-and-a-half years. We have
9 opportunities at the front end and once the
10 draft EIS gets published, we have
11 opportunities for the general public to
12 comment and to give us their thoughts.

13 The EIS itself is designed to
14 achieve a number of things. The issues that
15 we cover in the EIS, as I said, are going to
16 have to cover alternative energy for the Gulf
17 of Mexico, the siting of alternative energy
18 projects. It's going to look at marine
19 mineral projects, as well. Marine mineral is
20 where we borrow sand or other minerals from
21 the Outer Continental Shelf, as well as the
22 possible oil and gas. So we have a variety of

1 things, but one thing that we're doing in this
2 EIS that we need to make sure is clear, we're
3 addressing this at a programmatic stage, which
4 means this EIS will not have plans specific,
5 will not have project specific information in
6 it and no permits will be granted as a result
7 of this particular EIS. All of the things that
8 come in after this will be identified and will
9 be reviewed much more individually for site
10 specific information and to make sure that
11 everything is covered properly. So this EIS,
12 though it's going to be large, is going to
13 encompass a lot of things, will have
14 subsequent environmental documents tied to it.

15 The EIS process, as you can
16 imagine being with the federal government, is
17 a long and cumbersome process. It starts out
18 at the scoping process, scoping stage, where
19 we try to get everybody to give us their
20 thoughts. We as an agency have our thoughts on
21 what may need to be addressed. We have staffs
22 of 85 to 100 marine scientists in all various

1 disciplines and they are giving us their
2 advice and their thoughts on how we should do
3 things, but we want to make sure that we hear
4 from everybody. We want to make sure that we
5 hear from the commercial fishermen, from the
6 people who work on the oceans. We want to
7 make sure that we get everybody's thoughts in
8 our process and that's where we are right now.
9 We're at the very beginning of the process
10 called scoping.

11 The purpose of the scoping
12 meeting, as I said, is to gather input, to get
13 your thoughts and make sure that we are all on
14 the same page and whatever good ideas you have
15 as a result of your background and your
16 history dealing with the oceans, that we can
17 take advantage of that.

18 Now, the National Environmental
19 Policy Act, as I mentioned, is a grandfathered
20 act. It covers a lot of things. It ensures
21 that the federal agencies do a lot of
22 different types of consultations and the

1 federal agencies cover a lot of ground when
2 they're doing their Environmental Impact
3 Statement. On the Outer Continental Shelf
4 these are some, not all, these are some of the
5 consultations and some of the requirements
6 that our agency has to meet as we move forward
7 with the environmental impact statement. We
8 have everything from the Coastal Zone
9 Management Act, we have EPA Air Quality, EPA
10 Water Quality, National Marine Fisheries
11 consultations and things like that. So we
12 have a lot of other folks that will be
13 involved in this process. It's not just our
14 agency by itself.

15 So the question becomes what is
16 seismic? For those of us who don't spend a lot
17 of time dealing with this very specialized
18 niched topic, basically a seismic survey is
19 where you take energy, you put it into the
20 ocean, it bounces back, it reflects, you
21 capture that data and you can use that data to
22 interpret what the sea floor looks like.

1 Depending on the intensity of the source that
2 you use, depending on a wide variety of
3 factors, you can gather data from different
4 depths below the sea floor. That's what we're
5 writing our environmental impact on.

6 G&G activities in the Gulf of
7 Mexico are used for a variety of things.
8 They're used for oil and gas exploration and
9 development. They're used for biological
10 resources and submerged cultural resources.
11 One of the G&G techniques is how we find
12 submerged vehicles that are shipwrecks that
13 may be left over from 200 years ago.

14 The renewable energy in the Gulf
15 of Mexico, we do not have a lot of renewable
16 energy just yet, but there are people out
17 there who think that alternative energy in the
18 Gulf of Mexico may be a good way to move
19 forward. If this happens, then they would use
20 some of these techniques to find locations
21 that have suitable sea floor foundations for
22 them to set up wind farms and things like

1 that. So there's a lot involved in it other
2 than just oil and gas.

3 And, of course, the marine
4 minerals, when we have a storm, all of a
5 sudden we have a big demand for sand to
6 renourish beaches, to get things going again
7 and this all falls under some of the processes
8 used by the G&G surveys that are done in the
9 Gulf of Mexico.

10 We have a lot of information about
11 the different types of surveys and this is a
12 very brief summary of the information, but
13 basically there's 2D and 3D. There's high
14 resolution. There's a wide variety of
15 geophysical types of surveys and we're going
16 to look at all of these.

17 Now, one of the things that we're
18 finding is that a lot of these different
19 techniques, as you would not be surprised to
20 find out, have various levels of potential
21 impact. So right now we want to go through
22 and do a sorting process to make sure that

1 we're addressing the ones that have the
2 greatest potential for harm.

3 In the Gulf of Mexico the area of
4 interest, the area that we're going to look at
5 in this EIS is the entire Gulf of Mexico.
6 We're going to be looking at the entire
7 northern Gulf of Mexico. We're going to be
8 looking at everything in the Western Planning
9 Area, the Central Planning Area and the
10 Eastern Planning Area.

11 The way we do this -- the way we
12 do this, as I mentioned, is to create what we
13 call a programmatic EIS. The programmatic EIS
14 allows us to put down certain information. We
15 can put down descriptive information. We can
16 put down certain types of information. And
17 then as we move from programmatic to the site
18 specific evaluations later, we don't have to
19 repeat all of the information that was
20 published the first time. So that's part of
21 the purpose of the programmatic EIS is to help
22 give us little shortcuts so that we don't have

1 to repeat everything that's ever been said
2 previously.

3 One of the things that we do under
4 NEPA is that we define a purpose and a need.
5 This is the need statement that we're going to
6 be using and this is why we're doing what
7 we're doing. How we create an EIS is that we
8 start with a list. We start with a list of
9 resources. We start with a list of the
10 different -- excuse me. We start with a list
11 of the different animals and the different
12 types of communities and the different issues
13 in the Gulf of Mexico and we go through this
14 list, and we have experts in these various
15 fields, and up against these resources, such
16 as the coastal environments and things like
17 that, we look at the various impact producing
18 factors and we look at all of these individual
19 impact producing factors and weigh them up
20 against the coastal marine environment, the
21 sea birds, the benthic communities, the
22 whales, the dolphins, so that what you have is

1 you end up with a document that's a fairly
2 comprehensive document for each resource.
3 Let's say marine birds, you may have ten
4 different impacting factors that you've gone
5 through and discussed in great detail.

6 So the EISs are not simple to
7 read. They're very technical and they're very
8 detailed. So what we will do is we will
9 publish the draft document, put it out for
10 review and hold another set of meetings like
11 we're doing here to try and get your comments
12 and your thoughts.

13 One of the things that NEPA, the
14 National Environment National Policy Act
15 requires, is that we don't just consider a
16 single action. We have to look at a variety of
17 actions and a set of alternatives as we go
18 through. NEPA requires that we look at the no
19 action alternative, so one of the
20 considerations that we will have is what would
21 happen if we actually had no action.

22 Then we have the proposed action,

1 which is to move forward with activities in
2 the Gulf of Mexico similar to how they're
3 being done now.

4 Then there will be other
5 alternatives that will be developed, as well.
6 These other alternatives are some of the
7 things that we would like to hear from the
8 scoping process, come out of the scoping
9 process with a list of alternatives and a list
10 of different ways that things can be
11 accomplished. That's part of why we're here.

12 An example of the types of
13 mitigations, the types of alternatives that
14 we're looking at are listed up here. Some of
15 the mitigations have been used in the Gulf of
16 Mexico for a long time and some of the
17 mitigations are new. We're going through --
18 we've worked closely with the National Marine
19 Fisheries in the past to develop a set of
20 alternatives, to develop a set of mitigating
21 measures that helps minimize the impacts. So
22 these are some of the mitigations that will be

1 scrolled into the document as we move forward.

2 We have a tentative schedule. As
3 you can see, the dates in red indicate public
4 comment periods. These are where we solicit
5 and we ask the general public to give us their
6 thoughts, tell us what you think should be
7 happening, tell us what you think should be
8 included in our document for the sake of
9 completeness. So that's the purpose of the
10 EIS. It explains what we're trying to do.

11 What we're going to do this
12 evening, when you came in we asked you if you
13 wanted to speak. When you came in we asked
14 you if there is something that you feel like
15 you need to say. We have a short list of
16 speakers. We have a short list of speakers
17 and after these folks have been called, what
18 we will do is we'll open the floor and ask
19 anyone else if they would like to talk. Then
20 what we'll do is we'll adjourn for about 15
21 minutes. We'll give anyone who is running
22 late, we'll give them a chance to come in, and

1 we'll reopen the session and I'll ask again if
2 there's anyone who cares to give some
3 presentations.

4 The first speaker we have tonight
5 is Eric Hamilton.

6 MR. HAMILTON: Good afternoon. My
7 name is Eric Hamilton and I'm the Associate
8 Director with the Florida Petroleum Council,
9 a division of the American Petroleum
10 Institute. Thank you for the opportunity to
11 speak to you today about the scoping of this
12 Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact
13 Statement, which will support the issuance of
14 permits to conduct geological and geophysical
15 study activities in the Gulf of Mexico.

16 The oil and natural industry has a
17 long history of working with the Department of
18 Interior to develop this country's natural
19 resources to the benefit of the U.S. economy
20 and all Americans. Our industry stands ready
21 to invest in additional exploration in the
22 Gulf of Mexico. This DPEIS is the needed

1 first step to begin the process of generating
2 the data that will allow for additional
3 production in the Central and Western Gulf and
4 the potential for discoveries in the Eastern
5 Gulf should that area be made available for
6 leasing and development in the future.

7 The scope and magnitude of the
8 economic activity in the Gulf of Mexico are
9 huge and largely attributable to energy
10 exploration and development. Currently the
11 Gulf accounts for over 25 percent of all U.S.
12 domestic oil production. The BOEM has
13 determined that over a 40-year period of
14 leasing, drilling, and production resulting
15 from the 2012 to 2017 five-year OCS leasing
16 plan will create an additional 20,000 to
17 52,000 jobs between \$1.1 and \$2.2 billion in
18 additional income annually.

19 To realize these benefits,
20 geological and geophysical surveys, mainly in
21 the form of seismic surveys, will be
22 necessary. Modern offshore oil and natural

1 gas exploration requires the use of seismic
2 surveys to feasibly and accurately prospect
3 for oil and natural gas reserves offshore.
4 This technology has been used for decades to
5 assess the location and size of potential oil
6 and natural gas deposits, which often lay
7 several miles beneath the ocean floor.
8 Seismic surveys also make offshore energy
9 production safer and more sufficient by
10 greatly reducing the drilling of dry holes
11 where no oil or gas is found to be present.

12 The offshore oil and natural gas
13 industry has demonstrated the ability to
14 conduct seismic exploration activities in a
15 manner that protects marine life. Four
16 decades of worldwide seismic surveying
17 activity and scientific research on marine
18 mammals have shown no evidence that sound from
19 seismic activities has resulted in injury to
20 any marine mammals species. Likewise, there
21 is no scientific evidence demonstrating
22 biologically significant adverse impacts on

1 marine mammal populations. Nevertheless, the
2 industry employs a number of robust mitigation
3 measures to further reduce the negligible risk
4 of harm to marine mammals.

5 Based on the absence of observed
6 effects and supporting scientific knowledge,
7 the alternatives studied in the PEIS should
8 not consider overly restrictive mitigation
9 measures that will inhibit industry from
10 performing seismic surveys and BOEM from
11 meeting its goals set out in the OCS Lands
12 Act. An agency's only NEPA obligation is to
13 evaluate reasonable alternatives, and a
14 proposed alternative is reasonable only if it
15 will bring about the ends of the federal
16 action measured by whether it achieves the
17 goals the agency sets out to achieve. A
18 federal agency may therefore eliminate
19 alternatives and mitigation measures that do
20 not meet the purposes and needs of the
21 project. In the face of no observable injury
22 or mortality data and no population level

1 behavioral effect, the DPEIS should resist the
2 imposition of more and more unreasonable
3 mitigation measures, especially the addition
4 of dolphins, which at times intentionally
5 approach seismic vessels to bow ride in a
6 seemingly normal behavior pattern, to the list
7 of animals that require operations to shut
8 down.

9 In the past, the methodology BOEM
10 has used to estimate numbers of incidental
11 takes has resulted in what we feel are highly
12 exaggerated estimates, especially considering
13 the lack of any observable injuries,
14 mortalities or population level behavioral
15 effects. BOEM has relied on models that have
16 not been validated against field data. This
17 has created unrealistic estimates of
18 incidental takes that could be expected to
19 occur during industry geological and
20 geophysical activities. Compounding this
21 problem are the agency's previous take number
22 estimates, which are only achievable by using

1 acoustic threshold criteria based on obsolete
2 data that does not meet the NEPA requirement
3 to use the best available science. Industry
4 has highlighted a variety of methodological
5 flaws where the agency's choices in acoustic
6 propagation models, the use of frequency
7 weighting, and acoustic thresholds can result
8 in differences in take estimates that vary by
9 several orders of magnitude.

10 In addition, the primary emphasis
11 in the DPEIS when considering any projected
12 disturbance or impact should be its
13 environment context, the acoustic and physical
14 attributes of the specific surrounding
15 environment and affected species. Therefore,
16 we strongly believe that the DPEIS must be
17 best on the best available science, make
18 appropriate use of models to estimate
19 incidental takes, and fully consider the
20 environmental context when making any
21 determination of environmental consequences.

22 Finally, we feel that the DPEIS

1 must explicitly address the OCS Lands Act's
2 programmatic goal of ensuring the expedited
3 exploration and development of the Outer
4 Continental Shelf, and that the DPEIS fully
5 address and quantify the potential
6 interference with the achievement of that goal
7 posed by any alternative or mitigation measure
8 being considered. For example, if the DPEIS
9 addresses the potential for extending shut
10 down requirements to mammals other than whales
11 and manatees, or expanding the shutdown zone
12 from the current 500 meters, BOEM needs to
13 quantify the number of hours or shutdown that
14 would result and the implications for the
15 efficacy and timeliness of the seismic survey.

16 We appreciate the opportunity to
17 provide this public statement and will be
18 submitting additional written comments prior
19 to the comment deadline. Thank you.

20 MR. GOEKE: Thank you. We
21 appreciate your thoughts.

22 Our next speaker is Matt Bodnar.

1 I'll try to get up here. Can I use that
2 microphone?

3 MR. GOEKE: That one is fine.

4 MR. BODNAR: My name is Matt
5 Bodnar and I'm here on behalf of the IAGC --

6 MR. GOEKE: Excuse me. Would you
7 face this direction, please? You're not
8 addressing the crowd, you're addressing us.
9 Thank you.

10 MR. BODNAR: I'm trying to get
11 away from that feedback. So okay. I am here
12 representing the International Association of
13 Geophysical Contractors, the IAGC. On behalf
14 of the IAGC and the geophysical industry at
15 large, I wish to express our appreciation for
16 this opportunity to make comments into the
17 public record. We will also submit and we
18 have submitted a written copy of these
19 comments.

20 The IAGC is an international trade
21 association that represents the industry that
22 provides geophysical acquisition, geophysical

1 processing and other services to the energy
2 industry, including both conventional and
3 renewable energy sectors. IAGC member
4 companies play an integral role in successful
5 exploration and development of offshore oil
6 and gas resources through the acquisition and
7 processing of geophysical data.

8 Geophysical surveys are key tools
9 used in oil and gas exploration and the siting
10 of renewable energy facilities.

11 Our surveys are critical to the
12 development of hydrocarbon resources and one
13 of the very first tools used in the
14 exploration process, aiding E&P companies in
15 their analysis and identification of the most
16 prospective areas for the future exploration.

17 Geophysical data is also critical
18 for the development of renewable energy. High
19 resolution geophysical data, along with
20 geotechnical borings information, aids in
21 siting and designing renewable energy
22 facilities. Geophysical data is also valuable

1 to governments, state governments and federal
2 government. The BOEM utilizes our data to
3 assess the resource potential of the Outer
4 Continental Shelf and to ensure that the
5 federal government receives the fair market
6 value for the resources. Having modern
7 geophysical data before a lease sale allows
8 industry to make better informed decisions. We
9 believe these better informed decisions create
10 more competition, create higher bids, create
11 more bids and provide a better return to the
12 government.

13 Of interesting note here, besides
14 the IRS, the second leading producer of
15 revenue to the federal government is indeed
16 activity associated with G&G.

17 So our modern geophysical imaging,
18 which the technology is quite advanced now
19 from where it was, reduces economic risks
20 certainly around exploration and production,
21 but it also reduces risks that are associated
22 with operations from a safety and an

1 environmental risk standpoint. It reduces the
2 number of wells that need to be drilled in any
3 given area, and thus reducing the overall
4 exploration and development footprint.

5 Geophysical imaging is so far advanced today
6 that it's actually being used more and more to
7 predict other drilling risks.

8 The geophysical industry has over
9 50 years of experience in the Gulf of Mexico
10 Outer Continental Shelf with planning and
11 acquiring and processing geophysical data in
12 an environmentally responsible manner. During
13 that time there has been no scientific
14 evidence that our surveys have resulted in any
15 auditory or physical injury to any marine
16 mammal or have had adverse impact on marine
17 mammal populations. Nevertheless, we do
18 employ a number of robust mitigation measures
19 to further reduce the negligible risk of any
20 harm to marine mammals. It's important to
21 remember that seismic surveys are temporary,
22 they're transitory and they use a low

1 frequency short duration source signal.

2 Though additional information is
3 needed in some areas, there's a significant
4 amount of scientific information available,
5 much of it funded by government agencies, that
6 regard the potential effects of E&P activities
7 on the marine environment. This information
8 and data from the scientific literature, not
9 speculation, should be used when assessing
10 potential impacts of G&G activities on the
11 environment.

12 Based on the observed effects and
13 supporting scientific knowledge, the
14 alternatives studied in the PEIS should not
15 consider overly restrictive mitigation
16 measures such as a requirement to shut down
17 sources if a dolphin enters the exclusion
18 zone. Seasonal and other geographic closure
19 areas, and marked separation distances between
20 surveys are infeasible and impractical and
21 they're not necessary and they do not protect
22 marine mammals.

1 In the past BOEM has relied on
2 models and methodology that estimates the
3 number of marine mammal incidental takes in
4 highly exaggerated estimates, especially
5 considering the lack of any observed injuries,
6 mortalities or population level behavior
7 effects.

8 Compounding this problem, the
9 agency's previous take number estimates are
10 only achievable by using acoustic threshold
11 criteria based on obsolete data that does not
12 even meet the NEPA requirements to use the
13 best science available. We strongly believe
14 that the DPEIS must be based on the best
15 available science, make appropriate use of
16 models and methodologies to estimate
17 incidental takes, and further consider the
18 environmental context when making any
19 determination of environmental consequences.

20 The IAGC values the stakeholder
21 process and we're committed to participating
22 in a dialogue with all stakeholders to explain

1 what we do, why we do it, and the measures we
2 take to protect the environment.

3 I have with me today, if anyone is
4 interested, several examples. I have a CD
5 about the geophysical surveying method and
6 several papers that talk about acoustic noise
7 in the water, propagation, and things like
8 that. If anyone here is interested, please
9 see me and I'll be happy to hand a copy to
10 you.

11 In conclusion, the IAGC wishes to
12 express our thanks for this opportunity to
13 speak and we would like to voice our support
14 and commitment to work with the BOEM and all
15 the stakeholders to develop a smart PEIS for
16 the Gulf of Mexico. Thank you.

17 MR. GOEKE: Thank you, Mr. Bodnar.
18 We appreciate it.

19 Susan Forsythe.

20 MS. FORYSYTHE: I'm Susan Forsythe
21 and I have been volunteering with about eight
22 organizations for 3500 hours since the Deep

1 Water Horizon incident in the Gulf three years
2 ago. First of all, I do want to thank all of
3 you for being here. That would be, of course,
4 the agency you're with, BOEM, and then with
5 the DOI, as well as NOAA. Sorry I left you
6 out in the beginning.

7 One of the things I'm concerned
8 with, though, is the fact that we're not
9 addressing what we have found out three years
10 ago, it's actually been two years ago, when
11 the President commissioned the BP DWH Oil
12 Spill and Offshore Drilling Report. He put
13 together that commission. So I think the
14 first thing we would need to do is to address
15 everything that was brought up in that
16 document because it talked about the dangers
17 in drilling and I would like to give you a few
18 points from that.

19 MR. GOEKE: Excuse me. The EIS
20 that we're writing is not about drilling.
21 It's about seismic activities.

22 MS. FORSCYTHE: Right, but I think

1 part of it has to do with the science that's
2 in it and I think it's just important that we
3 -- you know, the science is number one. And
4 I think, you know, they talk about the
5 environment affecting and impacting that.

6 Just briefly, though, I do want to
7 mention that we are ill prepared for a lot of
8 this. And I don't know how we're going to get
9 the funding to be able to go to the degree of
10 safety that we need. I know this is just a
11 portion of what you're doing, but I guess
12 that's probably the point I'm trying to make.
13 I won't go through the whole report, because
14 I did kind of review that, if you don't need
15 to hear it.

16 But Surfrider Foundation was
17 involved in some of the seismic activity that
18 was going on in California and so we have been
19 documenting that. I'm very happy to work with
20 all your agencies so that we can make sure
21 that we're keeping everyone safe in our
22 environment. I appreciate your time.

1 MR. GOEKE: Thank you. We
2 appreciate you getting up and talking.

3 Is there anyone else who wanted to
4 speak?

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I just
6 wanted to say, usually if you put the
7 microphone further away from the speaker you
8 lose the feedback.

9 MR. GOEKE: Thank you. Is there
10 anyone else who wanted to speak this
11 afternoon? Seeing none, we're going to adjourn
12 for 15 minutes and then we'll restart 15
13 minutes from now. Thank you.

14 (Break taken, after which the
15 proceedings continued.)

16 MR. GOEKE: Okay. Let's go ahead
17 and go back on the record, please. Before we
18 -- I did not see anyone new come in, but
19 before we close this out, I wanted to make
20 sure that we go through this one more time.
21 There are a number of ways that you can
22 comment on the proposed EIS that we've been

1 discussing. Throughout the presentation we've
2 had an E-mail address down in the bottom
3 left-hand corner. You can send an E-mail to
4 that address. You can send E-mails to our
5 physical address at 1201 Elmwood. You can go
6 to Regulations dot gov. There are a lot of
7 different ways that you could do this,
8 including call us and say, hey, I lost the
9 flyer that you gave us at the handout meeting,
10 how do I submit comments? So if you think of
11 something after you leave here, feel free to
12 give us a call. Comments must be received
13 before or on July 9, 2013.

14 We have put a lot of effort in
15 creating a Website that will give you a lot of
16 background information on geological and
17 geophysical processes in the Gulf of Mexico,
18 so it is worth your time to go there, to spend
19 a little while reading, spend a little time
20 researching and that may lead to some
21 questions that you can call us and ask us and
22 talk with us about.

1 Having said that, is there anyone
2 who did not speak before who wants to get up
3 and enter their thoughts and comments on the
4 record? No.

5 Okay. Is there anyone who has
6 spoken before who wants to speak and say
7 something else? No.

8 All right. I'm adjourning this
9 discussion. Thank you very much. We
10 appreciate all of you coming out and be
11 careful going home. Thank you.

12 (Whereupon, the meeting adjourned
13 at 7:22 p.m.)

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