

1 The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) and the
2 Maritime Administration (MARAD) announce their intent to
3 prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the
4 Blue Marlin Offshore port license application. Blue
5 Marlin Offshore Port, LLC proposes the construction and
6 operation of a deepwater port that would be
7 Located approximately 99 statute miles off the coast of
8 Cameron Parish, Louisiana.

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7 THE VIDEOTAPED VIRTUAL PROCEEDINGS

8 DATE: December 3, 2020
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11 VIDEOTAPED PROCEEDINGS taken in the
12 above-styled and numbered cause on December 3, 2020,
13 from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m., before LATONIA C. LEWIS,
14 CSR in and for the State of Texas, reported by machine
15 shorthand, via Microsoft Teams, pursuant to the Texas
16 Rules of Civil Procedure and the First Emergency Order
17 regarding the COVID-19 State of Disaster, Paragraph 2.b
18 and 2.c.

1 A P P E A R A N C E S :

2 Anne Allan

3 Commander Stephen West

4 Dr. Efrain Lopez

5 Amanda Gregory

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1 MS. ALLEN: Good evening. It is 6:00 p.m.
2 on December 3, 2020. Good evening and welcome to the
3 Blue Marlin offshore port deepwater port project scoping
4 meeting. At this time we will get started.

5 Commander West, I will turn it over to you.
6 Commander West, you are on mute still.

7 COMMANDER WEST: And I thought that I had
8 it all together and I apologize. As I was saying, this
9 is our second time meeting tonight and we are reaching
10 you from Washington D.C., I looked up the weather just
11 before we came on right now and it's almost exactly the
12 same temperature, you guys are roughly 50 degrees, it's
13 the same thing here in D.C., not too cold, so it's not
14 that bad. I was jealous last night of you guys because
15 you were much warmer than here in D.C.

16 So if you're tuning in with us, you are
17 here for the Blue Marlin offshore port deepwater
18 project. This is the public scoping meeting. And my
19 name is Commander Stephen West. Good evening and
20 welcome. I am chief of the United States Coast Guard's
21 Vessel and Facility Operating Standards Division located
22 here in Washington D.C.

23 So, unfortunately, we are in the midst of a
24 national pandemic. And we normally would be on location
25 with you meeting in a public setting. That's not the

1 case, we're doing this virtually. This is the first
2 time we've done something like this. So we're still
3 working on some of the technical bugs so please bear
4 with us. Hopefully, it won't be too painful.

5 The intent of this virtual meeting is to
6 facilitate a public participation and engagement during
7 the National Environmental Policy Act or as we call it
8 NEPA process for the Blue Marlin offshore deepwater port
9 project or Blue Marlin project. Leading this meeting
10 along with me is Dr. Efrain Lopez with the Maritime
11 Administration Office of Deepwater Port Licenses and
12 Port Conveyance and Ms. Anne Allen from Environmental
13 Resource Management or ERM, the environmental contractor
14 assisting us on this project. Ms. Allen will also serve
15 as our meeting facilitator so you'll get a chance to
16 talk with her a little later tonight.

17 In a few minutes Dr. Lopez and Ms. Allen
18 will provide a short overview of the responsibilities
19 regarding the Blue Marlin deepwater port licensing
20 process. Ms. Allen will also describe her
21 responsibilities and provide ground rules for this
22 meeting as the meeting facilitator. Tonight we're
23 meeting to receive your comments on both the scope and
24 significant issues which you believe the Coast Guard and
25 Maritime Administration should address while processing

1 the Blue Marlin deepwater port application to own,
2 construct, and operate a deepwater port terminal to
3 export domestically, produce crude oil, that's about
4 99 miles from Cameron Parish, Louisiana in the Gulf of
5 Mexico.

6 This public process is required by the
7 National Environmental Policy Act and is known -- we
8 call it a scoping meeting. At the outset of the
9 meeting, please let me emphasize that neither the Coast
10 Guard nor the Maritime Administration is a proponent or
11 opponent to this project or any other deepwater port
12 project. I also emphasize this public scoping meeting
13 is only the first step; albeit a very important one. In
14 the process for the Blue Marlin application as it
15 signals the commencement of a detailed environmental
16 impact review required by the Deepwater Port Act and the
17 National Environmental Policy Act.

18 The Deepwater Port Act was enacted by
19 Congress in 1974. Its purpose is to authorize and
20 regulate the location, ownership, construction, and
21 operation of deepwater ports located in waters beyond
22 state seaward boundary. By locating deepwater ports and
23 large vessels transferring cargos to them, offshore and
24 outside more densely congested nearshore facilities and
25 waterways, Congress believes the ports would provide

1 enhanced protection of the marine and coastal
2 environment and help protect and minimize adverse
3 impacts which might occur as a consequence of such a
4 port.

5 In 2012 the Coast Guard and the Maritime
6 Transportation Act amended the Deepwater Port Act to
7 allow for export of oil and natural gas through
8 deepwater ports. The subject of this public scoping
9 meeting is Blue Marlin application to own, construct,
10 operate, and eventually decommission this crude export
11 deepwater port facility off of Cameron Parish,
12 Louisiana. Blue Marlin application was received by the
13 Coast Guard and Maritime Administration on October 1,
14 2020. On November 4, 2020, the Maritime Administration,
15 published a notice of application in the federal
16 register stating that Blue Marlin's application
17 contained the required information necessary to initiate
18 the process. In that notice pursuant to criteria
19 established in the Deepwater Port Act, the States of
20 Louisiana and Texas were designated as adjacent coastal
21 states.

22 This designation gives the governor of
23 Louisiana and Texas specific authority during the
24 licensing review and approval process under the
25 Deepwater Port Act. To issue a deepwater port license,

1 there are a number of elements that must be considered
2 by the Maritime Administration; Dr. Lopez will describe
3 these in a moment. Ultimately, the decision on whether
4 to grant or deny a license rests with the Maritime
5 Administration, and to a significant extent with
6 Governor John Bel Edwards of Louisiana and Governor Greg
7 Abbott of Texas. Until such time as a decision is
8 rendered no activity related to the construction or
9 operation of the Blue Marlin deepwater port may occur.

10 An important part of the overall licensing
11 process required by the Deepwater Port Act and the
12 National Environmental Policy Act is the compliance of
13 Environmental Impact Analysis. On November 5, 2020, the
14 Maritime Administration published in the federal
15 register a notice of intent to prepare an Environmental
16 Impact Statement or as we call it an EIS. The notice
17 provided a summary of the application and the scope of
18 the process that we're currently in the midst of. The
19 intent of this public scoping meeting is to receive your
20 input on any issues you think should be considered as
21 part of the environmental impact review.

22 This meeting is not your only opportunity
23 you'll have to provide input on this application. There
24 will be further opportunities for you to make comments
25 on the record during followup meetings for the draft EIS

1 and eventual final EIS and by sending written comments
2 to the official docket during the specific comment
3 period. However, for purposes of scoping, written
4 copies must be received by December 5th, 2020. Written
5 comments that are sent to the docket management facility
6 instructions for filing those written comments are
7 available at our information website which is
8 ww.blumarlinnepaprocess.com. I'll spell that out for
9 you if you're just listening on the phone and don't have
10 access on the web. That is
11 W-W-B-L-U-E-M-A-R-L-I-N-N-E-P-A-P-R-O-C-E-S-S.com. If
12 you don't have access to the internet and you'd like to
13 register your comments over the phone, you can do that
14 as well. And that number is (833)201-3773. Again that
15 is (833)201-3773.

16 The EIS will describe the nature and extent
17 of the environmental impact of the proposed action,
18 which is an issue of -- which is the issuance of the
19 federal license permitting the construction and
20 operation of the Blue Marlin deepwater port and
21 associated on- and offshore facilities. The EIS will
22 include, among other topics, the purpose and need for
23 the proposed action and a description of alternatives, a
24 description of the affected environment, and an
25 evaluation of the impacts on the nature and human

1 environment by the proposed action or alternatives.
2 Information fact sheets about the process and actions as
3 described in the NEPA deepwater port licensing again can
4 be found at ww.blumarlinnepaprocess.com.

5 Additionally, there's an interactive map on
6 the project area that's also available on the website
7 and I welcome you to please check that out. The Coast
8 Guard and Maritime Administration work together in
9 processing deepwater port applications. In fulfilling
10 this responsibility, input we received from the public,
11 tribal nations, the federal, state and county, and
12 parish agency is an important consideration as we draft
13 the final EIS and preparing and prior to the Maritime
14 Administration making their final decision. The
15 Maritime Administration will ultimately decide whether
16 to approve, disapprove or approve with conditions the
17 license for Blue Marlin offshore port. And this
18 decision will include the final decree of the two
19 governors of the adjacent costal states. We encourage
20 your comments during this public scoping meeting on the
21 significant issues related to construction activities
22 and operations related to the deepwater port of any
23 offshore or onshore components.

24 The Coast Guard is responsible for the
25 evaluation of the proposed deepwater port engineering

1 design standards, review, and approval of the port
2 operations manual. Evaluation of the waterways
3 management, navigation safety, maritime security, and
4 risk management and mitigation measures, identification
5 of environmental protection and monitoring requirements
6 and compliance with various domestic and international
7 shipping rules for very large crude carriers and other
8 vessels that might call on the deepwater port. Should
9 the application be approved and the license prepared,
10 the Coast Guard will coordinate with other agencies and
11 have responsibilities over aspects of the port's design
12 or which they have requirement to issue permits,
13 approvals or authorizations for some aspects of the
14 port's operation.

15 As with any other approved deepwater port
16 license, currently in effect, if the Blue Marlin project
17 were to receive license to operate, that license would
18 include mandatory conditions that require compliance
19 with all necessary permits. It would also establish
20 environmental protection, mitigation, and monitoring
21 requirements. Comments received during this meeting and
22 throughout the scoping period will become part of the
23 public record and will be considered in preparing the
24 draft EIS. Again, there will be comment period and
25 public hearings following the publications of both the

1 draft and final EIS. At this time I think you've heard
2 enough of me talking. There will be a test at the end
3 and individuals who get the best score will get a free
4 trip to Washington D.C. paid for by Dr. Efrain Lopez who
5 is my next speaker.

6 Efrain, the floor is yours.

7 MR. LOPEZ: Thank you, Commander.

8 Good evening, my name is Dr. Efrain Lopez.
9 I'm representing the Maritime Administration office of
10 deepwater port licensing. On behalf of the Maritime
11 Administration, I would like to thank all of you for
12 attending this evening's scoping meeting for the Blue
13 Marlin offshore port deepwater port license application
14 for the Blue Marlin project.

15 The Maritime Administration was delegated
16 the authority and responsibility by the Secretary of
17 Transportation to issue deepwater port licenses for the
18 import and export of oil and natural gas. With its long
19 history of concern for safety, security, and the
20 environment, Maritime Administration is pleased to
21 coordinate with the United States Coast Guard in
22 processing deepwater port license application for the
23 federal government.

24 I want to make it clear that the Maritime
25 Administration is neither a proponent of nor opponent to

1 any deepwater port project, therefore, any materials
2 presented at today's scoping meeting either endorsing or
3 opposing the proposed Blue Marlin deepwater port project
4 are not the opinions of the Maritime Administration. My
5 agency's final decision on the application will be
6 expressed in writing upon completion of the full
7 application and environmental review process, which I
8 will explain later in my remarks.

9 As the deepwater port licensing authority,
10 the Maritime Administration is keenly interested in a
11 thorough application review and environmental analysis
12 of the proposed project. At the end of the deepwater
13 port license application and environmental review
14 process, the Maritime Administrator will have a decision
15 to make to approve the deepwater port license
16 application, reject the deepwater port application or
17 approve the deepwater port license application subject
18 to certain conditions. This decision to approve or
19 disapprove the licensed application will be reflected in
20 the official record of decision document which is
21 required by law to be issued by the Maritime
22 Administrator upon completion of the application and
23 Environmental Review Process. The administrative
24 decision will be based upon the assurance that the
25 applicant is financially responsible, the applicant is

1 able to comply with applicable laws, regulations and
2 licensed conditions, the deepwater port will operate in
3 the national interest and consistent with national
4 security and efficiency and environmental policy goals.

5 The deepwater port will not unreasonably
6 interfere with international navigation. The deepwater
7 port will be constructed and operated to prevent or
8 minimize adverse impacts on the marine environment. The
9 deepwater port will comply with national environmental
10 laws. An approved coastal zone management is in place.
11 The Secretaries of Army, State, and Defense were
12 consulted and the effects on their programs were
13 considered. And finally, the governors of the adjacent
14 coastal state, in this case, the governors of Louisiana
15 and Texas approved or are presumed to approve the
16 deepwater port proposal.

17 We appreciate your interest and encourage
18 you to express your views and concerns to help shape the
19 application and environmental review of the proposed
20 Blue Marlin deepwater port project. Again, thank you
21 for attending this evening's session and we look forward
22 to receiving your comments and concerns before
23 December 5, 2020. Thank you very much.

24 COMMANDER WEST: Thank you, Dr. Lopez.

25 And I was just joking, you're not funding a

1 trip to Washington D.C.

2 MR. LOPEZ: Thank you.

3 COMMANDER WEST: It's difficult trying to
4 inject some humor here when you actually can't see the
5 audience. So I have no idea whether anyone is laughing
6 or thinks this is funny at all, so I would assume you
7 are enjoying yourself.

8 At this time, I would like to introduce Ms.
9 Anne Allen, with ERM. Ms. Allen will go through some of
10 the roles and responsibilities of her organization. And
11 as I stated before, Ms. Allen is also the facilitator
12 for tonight, so she'll be speaking with us quite a bit
13 on and off.

14 Anne, the floor is yours.

15 MS. ALLEN: Thank you, Commander West.

16 Let's also keep in mind, we actually have
17 the ability to keep everyone on mute, so we're not
18 letting you know if anybody is laughing or not. I
19 giggled, but I was also on mute. And I'm also glad that
20 I'm not paying for any trips. Although if anybody would
21 like to come to Houston, if you're not already in this
22 area, the weather got a little chilly, which is nice.

23 So good evening and thanks for joining
24 everybody. I'm Anne Allen, with ERM, Environmental
25 Resource Management. We're the Coast Guard's

1 third-party environmental consultant preparing the Coast
2 Guard's and Maritime Administration's Environmental
3 Impact Statement or EIS for the proposed Blue Marlin
4 deepwater port project. I am ERM project manager for
5 the EIS development. I will provide an overview of the
6 public participation process that is involved in
7 preparing the EIS. ERM is a science-based environmental
8 consulting firm experienced in preparing EISs and
9 related studies. My team includes specialist in main
10 resource areas including: Biologist, aero noise
11 engineers, chemist, geologist, archaeologist, social and
12 community impact specialist, planners and risk
13 specialist. We will be doing an independent evaluation,
14 of the environmental impacts of the proposed project and
15 we will assist the Coast Guard and the Maritime
16 Administration in preparing EIS and to explain what the
17 impacts would be.

18 The EIS is being conducted in accordance
19 with the National Environmental Policy Act or NEPA.
20 Public involvement is a fundamental aspect of NEPA and
21 is outlined in the Coast Guard's environmental policies.
22 As Commander West and Dr. Lopez noted, we're now in the
23 early stages of the EIS process called scoping in which
24 we seek early input from the public on potential
25 impacts, the sources of information relating to those

1 potential impacts as well. This period is also known,
2 as we stated previously, as scoping because we determine
3 the scope of the issues that should be included in the
4 EIS.

5 As noted previously, the Maritime
6 Administration began the process by publishing a notice
7 of intent to prepare an EIS in the federal register.
8 The notice of intent and Blue Marlin's offshore port
9 application was also distributed to state and federal
10 agencies. In addition, the Coast Guard and Maritime
11 Administration distributed the notice of application and
12 the notice of intent to a wide range of tribal, county,
13 and parish agencies and has made that application
14 available online to elected officials and to the public
15 via the website at blumarlinnepaprocess.com and on the
16 docket. A public notice concerning this meeting was
17 published in the local newspapers and on county and
18 parish social media channels. The application also
19 provided hardcopies -- excuse me the applicant also
20 provided hard copies of the application to two local
21 public libraries. Details on the projection and NEPA
22 and the Deepwater Port Act processes are also provided
23 in fact sheets that are also found on the informational
24 website that are noted above or previously.

25 Formal comments made today and written

1 comments submitted to the docket over the internet by
2 fax or by mail will be recorded and addressed in the
3 draft EIS. Please used only one of the methods to make
4 your comments. And note that written comments must be
5 received by December 5, 2020, which is this Saturday.
6 As part of the NEPA process and development of the EIS
7 for the project at a minimum, the environmental analysis
8 will be completed on the following topics: Geology,
9 sediments, water resources, fish reef, wildlife,
10 threatened and endangered species, social economics,
11 transportation, cultural resources, marine biology,
12 noise, recreation and aesthetics, and reliability of
13 safety. We will consider the environmental effects of
14 construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Blue
15 Marlin deepwater port. In addition, we will look at the
16 reasonably foreseeable environmental trends and planned
17 actions in the project area.

18 We will also consider possible alternatives
19 including alternative port locations and pipeline
20 routes. We will look at alternative deepwater concepts
21 and alternative technology as well as the no action
22 alternative or what is known as what would happen if the
23 license is not granted and the project is not built. In
24 the next step of the process, we will prepare the draft
25 EIS. To announce the availability of the draft EIS for

1 public review, the Maritime Administration will publish
2 a notice of availability in the federal register and a
3 schedule for public comment meetings on the draft EIS.
4 The draft EIS will also be available on the docket via
5 the internet and will be sent to federal, tribe, state,
6 county, and parish agencies and organizations, and
7 individuals who have requested copies. Copies will also
8 be placed in local public libraries. You can be asked
9 to be added to the mailing list or to receive a draft
10 copy of the EIS on the informational website,
11 ww.blumarlinnepaprocess.com or by calling our toll free
12 number (833)201-3773.

13 The public will have another opportunity to
14 enter comments and concerns and say a special record on
15 the draft EIS. As such the Maritime Administration will
16 hold public meetings to provide citizens an opportunity
17 to make formal oral comments concerning the draft EIS.
18 We will also notify the public agencies and other
19 interested parties of the virtual meetings or in person
20 meeting locations consistent with the status of COVID
21 and with state and local stay-at-home directives at that
22 time by mailing notifications to the project mailing
23 list and by placing ads in local newspapers and social
24 media platforms.

25 After the close of the public period on the

1 draft EIS, we will assist the Coast Guard and the
2 Maritime Administration in preparing the final EIS
3 including an explanation on how comments on the draft
4 EIS were considered. Upon completion of the final EIS,
5 we will hold at least one public meeting either
6 virtually or in person to solicit comments on the final
7 EIS and the Blue Marlin deepwater license application.
8 Dates, virtual or in person meetings, and times will be
9 announced in the federal register and local newspaper
10 and social media channels and via notifications to the
11 project mailing list.

12 As described by Dr. Lopez, the Deepwater
13 Port Act requires the Maritime Administrator to go
14 through the nine criterias deciding whether to issue the
15 license, not to issue the license or to issue it with
16 specific conditions. Although extremely important, the
17 environmental impact of the proposed action of the EIS
18 is only one of these nine criteria. Thank you for
19 taking the time for joining us tonight.

20 COMMANDER WEST: Thanks, Anne.

21 And I swear we're getting close to the main
22 event for tonight, hearing your comments; I'm really
23 looking forward to that. As you can tell, there is a
24 lot that goes into the evaluation in looking at the
25 components of the deepwater port application. So

1 getting a little bit closer to the main event, I'm going
2 to turn it back to Anne, who is now putting on her
3 facilitator hat, and she is going to explain how the
4 next step is going to work tonight.

5 MS. ALLEN: That just means I just missed
6 an opportunity to put a hat or something on, I could
7 have actually done something. I'm going to be a little
8 bit less formal tonight. I'm going to read everything,
9 lay all the ground rules out. I really want to start.
10 It's almost 6:30, we're going to go to 8 o'clock. We're
11 going to have multiple stops probably in between
12 because we are going to go all the way.

13 We only had --

14 Right before we started the meeting, we
15 only had two speakers officially lined up to speak. So
16 anybody that is on the call as I read through I just
17 want to go ahead and give a heads up. I'm going to give
18 you some guidance on how we're going to have the -- take
19 your comments tonight. But we want to encourage you
20 guys to think through having some comments. We are
21 accepting pretty much any comments you have. We really
22 want you guys to use this opportunity as much as
23 possible.

24 If you are not really familiar with Teams
25 if you look around your screen, everybody may have a

1 little different version of this platform. If you're
2 joining us from the link from an app or from your phone,
3 I encourage you to kind of look around your screen if
4 you're joining us that way, get a little familiar with
5 some of the buttons and the tools if you're not used to
6 that, so hopefully when I start reading some of these
7 things they make sense to you. If for some reason you
8 are not as familiar with the Teams account, we're
9 certainly going to give everybody an opportunity to come
10 off of mute. So I don't want to -- I want to make sure
11 we're encouraging people. Technology is a little
12 different.

13 So we're going to basically open up the
14 floor. If you're savvy, you can mute Teams, if you're
15 on your phone you can just mute or unmute by whatever
16 type of phone you have or the button or there's a star
17 six button that should be able to turn you on and off.
18 So I just want to say that before I get into that just
19 to give everybody the opportunity to look around their
20 screens and surroundings while I go through some of
21 these basics.

22 ERS' purpose as tonight's facilitator is to
23 ensure that you, the public, interested public have the
24 opportunity to be heard. And that the meeting is
25 conducted efficiently and in respect to all

1 participants. Specifically my team's role is to guide
2 the process by which are observations, comments,
3 concerns, and questions will be received and in a manner
4 that respects all participants. I assure you either
5 from your verbal comments made here tonight or through
6 your written comments via the avenues provided earlier,
7 your input will be received, recorded, and considered.
8 The intent of this meeting is to obtain your comment.
9 The agency representatives nor myself, will neither
10 entertain questions nor address your comments during the
11 course of the meeting except to clarify process or
12 administrative issues. Comments received tonight will
13 be addressed formally in the draft EIS as applicable to
14 environmental -- the NEPA process and to the Deepwater
15 Port Act.

16 Please be aware that a court reporter is
17 here to enter your comments into the public record. If
18 you have a written copy of your comment -- of a comment
19 -- if you also have a written comment that you are
20 choosing not to actually verbally talk through today, we
21 would appreciate that you would submit that comment on
22 the docket. I will also encourage you, if you join the
23 meeting today, you want a little information and maybe
24 you are not ready to comment at this time, we do
25 encourage you to go to the docket and provide a written

1 comment there.

2 To keep this meeting on track and on time,
3 it's essential that everybody understand and adhere to
4 some basic rules. These are deliberately positive
5 ground rules so we can all experience a positive
6 meeting. First, please respect the speaker and the
7 listener. This means that when it's your turn to speak,
8 members of the audience should respect you and listen
9 politely on mute. As you can see on the screen, we have
10 a few icons there, the top one is your mute and unmute
11 of your speaker.

12 The next one is your -- you can turn on or
13 off your video. We're asking you not to turn on video,
14 not because we don't want to see your lovely faces, but
15 just because of the bandwidth, not knowing where
16 different folks are. We don't want to slow down the
17 ability for people to see or hear.

18 And then the very last one we're showing
19 there is the basic -- that's where you can make a
20 comment when we say use the comment bubble or use the
21 side chat bar, that's the icon you would be looking for.
22 By the same token, the speaker should respect all the
23 listeners by being brief and to the point. Please defer
24 any judgment, including outburst and applause, by
25 keeping yourself on mute unless speaking. I ask you to

1 be mindful of the purpose of this meeting. Please
2 reserve all your comments and questions only to the Blue
3 Marlin deepwater port project; this is not a forum for
4 unrelated issues.

5 My next sentence is there may be many that
6 wish to speak, but I know there is not a lot of people
7 here to speak at least on our list. So we're actually
8 hoping and encouraging the folks that are on the phone
9 to speak. We will queue you up as the speaker. We're
10 going to run through the first couple of folks that we
11 had to have registered, but we're going to focus a lot
12 of the meeting on entertaining comments on people who
13 have not registered.

14 Again, look around your screen, if you
15 would like to speak and have not registered you can
16 enter in at this time using the comment icon there. You
17 can type your name and organization in that bottom right
18 corner so that we know that you would like to speak.
19 Please state your name and spelling of your name and the
20 organization you represent prior to your comment. Upon
21 completion, please state as such so we can move on to
22 the next speaker. Being ready to speak, respecting each
23 speaker, and being brief and to the point will help the
24 entire process.

25 To allow everyone an opportunity to speak,

1 all comments will be limited to three minutes. We will
2 signal one minute remaining and 30 seconds remaining on
3 the screen and via audio. When your time is up we will
4 say thank you for your comment. Please finish your
5 sentence and return to the mute status at that time.
6 Time permitting you will receive an additional one to
7 two minutes after everyone wishing to speak has had an
8 opportunity.

9 We will follow specific order of speakers
10 federal, state, and agency representatives will be
11 allowed to speak first followed by federal, state and
12 local elected officials or their representatives.
13 Individuals will then be called in the order they are
14 registered. After that if there are other individuals
15 that are not registered to speak, we will provide you an
16 opportunity to do so at that time. After all
17 individuals have had an opportunity to speak, those who
18 would like to speak a second time would be given that
19 opportunity.

20 Again, I will say now this is your
21 opportunity to place a comment in the sidebar chat there
22 either by the icon at the top of your screen or it could
23 be at the bottom. Please enter your name and
24 organization if you would like to speak. If you are on
25 the phone and have not registered, we would give you an

1 opportunity as soon as we go through roll call and you
2 can request to speak at that time. Again, either the
3 option to mute or unmute your phone by the type of phone
4 you have or star six, I assume it is possible, you could
5 possibly be from a house phone as well. I would assume
6 if you called into the number, the star six should also
7 work for mute and unmute on your personal house phone.
8 To be honest, I can't totally guarantee that. So if you
9 are on a house phone, you might be able just to speak.

10 At this time, we will start taking public
11 comments. Do we have any federal and state agencies
12 that would like to speak as we do not have any that are
13 actually registered at this time?

14 (No response.)

15 MR. ALLEN: Do we have any federal, state
16 and local elected officials or their representatives
17 that would like to speak?

18 (No response.)

19 MS. ALLEN: Okay. Well, we will go to our
20 registered speakers.

21 Amanda, if you don't mind, can you tell us
22 who our first speaker is that is registered at this
23 time?

24 MS. GREGORY: Yes, our first registered
25 speaker is Naomi Yoder.

1 MS. ALLEN: Naomi, you may unmute yourself
2 and please start your comments at this time.

3 (No response.)

4 MS. ALLEN: I don't think I see her on our
5 list. We will come back to her in case she joins at a
6 later time.

7 Amanda, who is our next registered speaker?

8 MS. GREGORY: The next registered speaker
9 is Darryl Malek-Wiley.

10 MS. ALLEN: Darryl, we will allow you to
11 start your comments at this time if you would like to.
12 Unmute yourself, please move forward.

13 MR. MALEK-WILEY: My name is Darryl
14 Malek-Wiley, spelling, D-A-R-R-Y-L M-A-L-E-K-W-I-L-E-Y.
15 I'm representing the Sierra Club tonight and will have
16 additional comments by the December 5th deadline. First
17 comment, we do not feel that this permit is in "the
18 national interest" because it has not been shown --
19 proven that this project is good for America. There
20 must be a complete programmatic EIS considering all the
21 cumulative impacts of oil and gas projects existing in
22 the Gulf of Mexico and other deepwater ports along the
23 Gulf. We feel that the project is too near the flower
24 bank -- the Gulf flower bank, which is a national
25 refugee -- marine refuge. And that's all I have right

1 now, I will have more comments by the 5th.

2 MS. ALLEN: Thank you for your comment.

3 And we could hear you very well once you started
4 speaking. Thank you.

5 MR. MALEK-WILEY: Thank you.

6 MS. ALLEN: At this time, we do not have
7 any other registered speakers. I do not see in our chat
8 line up that anybody has requested to speak there, so I
9 will open it up to anybody on the phone at this time.
10 If you would like to come unmute and request to speak,
11 we just ask that as you unmute yourself if you would
12 announce who you are, spell your name and your
13 organization. So at this time, I will open it up for
14 anybody to come off mute to comment. I hear there's a
15 free trip to D.C. for somebody.

16 (No response.)

17 MS. ALLEN: Okay. Well, Commander West, at
18 this time, there is nobody interested in making a
19 comment regarding the proposed Blue Marlin deepwater
20 port project. We will remain available for comments
21 until 8 o'clock as advertised --

22 I'm sorry, Commander, I just read your
23 part, but that's okay. I will let you close us out for
24 this segment. I apologize. Thank you for attending.
25 We have no more comments at this time.

1 Commander West.

2 COMMANDER WEST: I think Anne might be on
3 the hook for a trip to D.C. now.

4 MS. ALLEN: You know, I think --
5 There wasn't anybody talking I got a little
6 more comfortable, I was just going to go off the cuff.
7 And I thought I got a script here, I apologize.

8 COMMANDER WEST: No worries, what we will
9 do is take a 15-minute break to account for maybe
10 somebody might be joining us a little bit later, might
11 be logging in or maybe someone just wants to test the
12 waters and wait before they're going to speak. So we
13 will go offline here for fifteen minutes and we will
14 reengage in a little bit. See you in a bit. Thank you.

15 (Whereupon, a short recess was taken.)

16 MS. ALLEN: It is now 6:55 p.m. central
17 standard time, we're going to reconvene. As we do, I
18 remind you the meeting remains focused on comments
19 specifically regarding the proposed Blue Marlin
20 deepwater port project and ground rules still remain in
21 effect. If you have not signed up to speak and would
22 like to comment, please, make a note in the chat
23 function in teams if you are joining via the link or the
24 app. The chat function may be used by clicking the
25 conversation icon on the top right or bottom of your

1 screen depending on which platform you are using.

2 Please type your first and last name and
3 organization as applicable. If you're joining us via
4 phone, we will open up the opportunity for you to
5 comment as well. You should be able to mute or unmute
6 yourself from either your phone's capability based on
7 whatever style you are using or by using star six.

8 Please respect the speaker and listener and
9 mute your speakers while somebody else is speaking until
10 you are called upon to speak or the floor is open.

11 Please also turn off your video near the top right video
12 icon as the bandwidth could be slowed by video speakers.

13 If you are looking at your screen now, you can see the
14 options there, the top is your mute and unmute icon, the
15 middle is your video where you can turn that on or off.
16 And the last one is the comment bubble should you want
17 to make a comment in the chat box on the side right of
18 your screen.

19 Each speaker should respect all listeners
20 by being brief and to the point. Please defer any
21 judgment, including verbal outburst and applause, by
22 keeping yourself on mute unless speaking. When you're
23 asked to speak, please be ready to start and you will
24 have three minutes to comment. Please start by saying
25 and spelling your name and your organization you

1 represent prior to your comment. Upon completion,
2 please state as such so we can move on to the next
3 speaker. We will signal one minute remaining and
4 thirty seconds remaining on the screen and via audio.
5 When your time is up we will then say thank you for your
6 comment. At this time, I do not see that we have
7 anybody that has typed in to be a speaker or a
8 commenter, so I will open the floor for anybody that is
9 on the phone. If you would like to unmute yourself at
10 this time and speak, you may do so at this time.

11 (No response.)

12 MS. ALLEN: At this time is there anybody
13 interested in making any additional comments that may
14 have spoken previously this evening?

15 (No response.)

16 MS. ALLEN: One last time, give everybody
17 an option to make a comment.

18 (No response.)

19 MS. ALLEN: Thank you very much for those
20 of you that are still on the line and attending we
21 appreciate your input that may have been provided
22 previously and also being respectful of the meeting and
23 the guidelines we presented.

24 Commander West, we have no more speakers at
25 this time.

1 COMMANDER WEST: Thanks, Anne.

2 We are just about the top of the hour at
3 7 o'clock, so we'll take another 15 minutes and we'll
4 open the floor back up at 7:15. So see everyone at
5 7:15. Thank you.

6 (Whereupon, a short recess was taken.)

7 MS. ALLEN: It is now 7:15 p.m., central
8 standard time, we are going to convene. As we do, I
9 remind you the meeting remains focused on comments
10 specifically regarding the Blue Marlin deepwater port
11 project and ground rules still remain in effect. If you
12 have not signed up to speak but would like to comment,
13 please make a note in the chat function in Teams if
14 you're joining via the link that we sent out or via your
15 app. The chat function may be viewed by clicking the
16 conversation icon bubble either on the top of the screen
17 or bottom of the screen depending on which platform, you
18 are using. If you are calling in from your cell phone
19 and are not using the Teams app directly, you can mute
20 or unmute yourself by either the choice of your specific
21 type of phone or you can press star six. We request
22 that you please respect the speaker and the listener and
23 mute yourself unless you are actually speaking and until
24 called upon.

25 Please also turn off your video via the top

1 -- again, either top or bottom icon depending on where
2 your platform lies. We are trying to keep other than
3 -- I know I'm on video at the moment. We are keeping
4 others off the video mainly for bandwidth not because we
5 don't want to see your faces, just because of the
6 bandwidth reasons. The three icons you see there on
7 our screen, the top one is mute and unmute, the one in
8 the middle is for your camera to turn on and off. And
9 the last one on the bottom is so you can put a comment
10 in the sidebar chat should you like to speak that way.
11 We'd ask that you say your name and organization, we'll
12 call upon you at that time or you can also ask a general
13 question to this side chat if you need to.

14 We ask that each speaker respect all the
15 listeners by being brief and to the point. Please defer
16 any judgment, including verbal outburst and applause, by
17 keeping yourself on mute unless speaking. When you're
18 asked to speak, please be ready to start and we'll give
19 you three minutes to comment. Please start by stating
20 and spelling your name and the organization you
21 represent prior to your comment. Upon completion,
22 please state as such, so we can move to the next
23 speaker. We will signal one minute remaining and
24 thirty seconds remaining on the screen and audio. When
25 your time is up, we will say thank you for your comment.

1 So at this time, I am looking. I do not
2 see that anybody has made a request to comment on the
3 side. I will now open it up for anybody on the phone
4 that you can unmute yourself and comment. We do ask
5 that you would say your name and spell your name as you
6 start.

7 (No response.)

8 MS. ALLEN: Do we have anybody still
9 joining us on the phone or via Teams that would like to
10 speak that has already spoken?

11 (No response.)

12 MS. ALLEN: I'll give it one last
13 opportunity during this -- before we go to another
14 break. Is there anybody on this meeting that would like
15 to speak at this time?

16 (No response.)

17 MS. ALLEN: Well, thank you very much,
18 again, for those of you who are still on the line for
19 attending and being respectful to our guidelines.

20 Commander West, we have no more speakers at
21 this time.

22 COMMANDER WEST: Thanks, Anne.

23 We will take another 15-minute break and we
24 will come back at 7:35. Thanks.

25 (Whereupon, a short recess was taken.)

1 MS. ALLEN: It is now 7:35 p.m. central
2 standard time, we are going to reconvene. As we do so,
3 I remind you the meeting remains focused on comments
4 specifically regarding the proposed Blue Marlin
5 deepwater port project. And ground rules still remain
6 in effect. If you have not registered to speak but
7 would like to comment, please make a note in the chat
8 function in Teams. If you are joining via the link or
9 the app, that button would be either at the top or
10 bottom of your screen. If you're joining us via phone,
11 please wait until the end of the meeting and we will
12 provide an option for unregistered speakers to comment
13 at that time. You can unmute yourself if you're joining
14 via phone either by the option on the individual cell
15 phone type or by using star six to mute or unmute
16 yourself.

17 We ask that you please respect the speaker
18 and the listener and mute yourself while others are
19 speaking until you are called upon. Please also turn
20 off your video via the top right or bottom icon as the
21 bandwidth could be slowed by video speakers. Each
22 speaker should respect all the listeners by being brief
23 and to the point. Please defer any comment, including
24 verbal outburst and applause, by keeping yourself on
25 mute and unless speaking. When you are asked to speak

1 please be ready to start and you will have three minutes
2 to comment. Please start by spelling and stating your
3 name and the organization you represent prior to your
4 comment. Upon completion, please state as such so we
5 can move to the next speaker. We will signal one minute
6 remaining and thirty seconds remaining on the screen and
7 we will say thank you when your time is up. At this
8 time, I am looking at our chat box and I do not see that
9 anybody has requested to speak there, so we will open up
10 the floor at this time. If you would like to unmute
11 yourself, we are going to open up the floor and you are
12 able to start your comments as soon as you unmute
13 yourself. And please state your name, spell, and you
14 may start.

15 (No response.)

16 MS. ALLEN: Do we have anybody on the line
17 or on the computer that would like to comment that
18 previously spoke earlier?

19 (No response.)

20 MS. ALLEN: Well thank you very much for
21 anybody that still remains on the line at this time.

22 Commander West, we have no more speakers.

23 COMMANDER WEST: Thanks, Anne. We're going
24 to take another break. It will be our final break and
25 to just give everybody perspective, understanding of how

1 we're going to end the night, we'll do one more break
2 for roughly 15 minutes, we'll come back at maybe 55 and
3 that will be our final opportunity for anyone to speak
4 at that time. So 15-minute break and when we come back,
5 we will be back for our final opportunity for comments.
6 Thank you.

7 (Whereupon, a short recess was taken.)

8 MS. ALLEN: Okay. It is 7:55 p.m. central
9 standard time. We're going to reconvene one more time
10 before we end the scoping meeting this evening. As we
11 do so, I remind you the meeting remains focused on
12 comments specifically regarding the proposed Blue Marlin
13 deepwater port project and rules remain in effect. If
14 you have not signed up to speak this evening, but would
15 like to comment, you can use the tool in your Teams chat
16 on the sidebar either through the link that we sent on
17 your computer or via your app, you can type in your name
18 and organization you're with and we will call upon you.

19 If you were calling from your cell phone
20 and would like to speak, we will give you an opportunity
21 here in just a moment to unmute yourself and you may
22 speak. We ask that you also say your name and spell
23 your name and organization for our court reporter that
24 is on the line at this time. You can mute and unmute
25 yourself by using star six, it's on your phone or the

1 mute and unmute button based on the type of cell phone
2 you're using. The icons that we're showing right now on
3 our screen are the icons you can see through Teams. The
4 first one being the mute and unmute with the speaker,
5 the second being the video for on and off. We've asked
6 that people stay -- remain off of their video only for
7 bandwidth purposes only so that the meeting can continue
8 with no break. And the very last one there is the
9 comment bubble as we refer to so that you can actually
10 activate to be able to comment via the sidebar chat that
11 should come up on the right side of your screen.

12 Each speaker should respect all listeners
13 by being brief and to the point. Please defer any
14 judgment, including any verbal outburst and applause, by
15 keeping yourself on mute unless speaking. When you're
16 asked to speak, please, be ready to start as we will
17 give you three minutes to comment. Please start by
18 stating and spelling your name and the organization you
19 represent prior to comment. Upon completion, please
20 state as such so we can move on to the next speaker. We
21 will signal one minute remaining and thirty seconds
22 remaining on the screen and via audio. When your time
23 is up, we will say thank you for your comment.

24 At this time, I am -- do not see that we
25 have anybody that has typed into comment. I will now

1 open it up for anybody on the phone. You may now unmute
2 yourself and you may speak. As soon as you unmute
3 yourself, we ask that you say your name and spell it for
4 the court reporter. Thank you.

5 (No response.)

6 MS. ALLEN: Do we have anybody on the line
7 that previously spoke that would like to speak again
8 before we conclude the meeting this evening?

9 (No response.)

10 MS. ALLEN: One last time, I will open it
11 up, do we have any speakers on the call that wishes to
12 make a comment at this time?

13 (No response.)

14 MS. ALLEN: Well, thank you very much for
15 attending tonight, for being respectful, and for
16 following the guidelines we presented. Your input was
17 very appreciated.

18 Commander West, we have no more speakers at
19 this time.

20 COMMANDER WEST: Anne, thank you very much
21 for hosting this and for walking us through this event
22 tonight. I think it went well from a technology
23 standpoint and -- so thank you.

24 Dr. Lopez, thank you for your time as well
25 and all the other members of the Maritime Administration

1 and their support. And to the team here at Coast Guard
2 headquarters, I appreciate all your effort and your
3 research going into a new venue with this technology.
4 And for all the speakers that we had written and verbal
5 over the last two days thank you for your input. Again,
6 this is the not the last time you will have an
7 opportunity to put your comments on record. As we go
8 through the draft and final EIS, you will again have
9 final opportunities and I hope that as we get further
10 down the process maybe we will actually be able to do
11 some of this in person down in the Gulf. I look forward
12 to that opportunity. So that closes us out for tonight.
13 It is 9:00 p.m. here in Washington D.C., 8:00 p.m. in
14 the Gulf. So thank you for your time and that concludes
15 the meeting.

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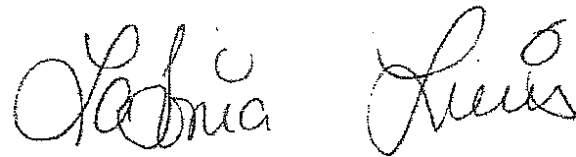
1 I, LATONIA C. LEWIS, Certified shorthand
2 Reporter in and for the State of Texas, hereby certify
3 to the following:

4 That I appeared at the virtual meeting on
5 December 3, 2020, to report the meeting.

6 I further certify that I am neither
7 employed nor related to any attorney or party in this
8 matter and have no interest, financial or otherwise, in
9 its outcome.

10 Given under my hand and seal office on
11 this the 22nd day of December, 2020.

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LaTonia Lewis, CSR, RPR, CRR

Texas CSR 9347

Expiration date: 7/5/2022

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