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PART III:

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

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OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES IN TERRITORIAL AND INLAND NAVIGABLE WATERS AND WETLANDS

Adoption of Guidelines

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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Adoption of Guidelines

On July 16, 1975, the Department of the Interior, acting through the Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, published proposed guidelines for interim use by Service employees. These proposed guidelines prescribed the objectives, policies, and procedures to be followed in the review of Federal and federally permitted or assisted work and activities for oil and gas exploration and development activities to be conducted in territorial and inland navigable waters and wetlands.

These review functions delegated to the Service by the Secretary of the Interior are prescribed by the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661-667e; 48 Stat. 401, as amended), the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321-4347; 83 Stat. 852), the Estuary Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1224; 82 Stat. 627), the Department of Transportation Act (49 U.S.C. 1653(f); 82 Stat. 825), and the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536; 87 Stat. 892). The Service also has advisory and consulting roles under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451) and the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1401), as well as basic and other authorities.

The Department of the Interior, acting through the Fish and Wildlife Service, is publishing herewith the final guidelines which prescribe the objectives, policies, and procedures to be followed in the review of proposals for oil and gas exploration and development activities in or affecting navigable waters that are sanctioned, permitted, assisted, or conducted by the Federal Government.

The public comment period for these guidelines expired on August 15, 1975. These guidelines have been revised, based on comments received from the general public, State agencies, and other Federal agencies as well as interpretative guidance received from recent judicial decisions. We wish to take this opportunity to express appreciation for these comments and suggestions.

The following analysis summarizes comments of particular significance which were received on the cited sections of the proposed guidelines and discusses the basis for the decisions which were made.

These guidelines are effective on December 1, 1975.

Section 4.2B.(2). Several comments were received concerning the necessity for this section since the guidelines are applicable to all activities, works, or structures for which Federal permits are required. We agree that any expansion of contraction in the area of Federal regulatory authority will automatically be subject to any consideration stipulated in the guidelines. Therefore, this

section, which appeared in the July 16, 1975, FEDERAL REGISTER, has been deleted.

Section 5.1A. A number of comments pointed out that the guidelines provide for the Service to solicit directly from each permit applicant rather than the regulatory agency, certain information which, if not furnished, may result in the recommendation that a permit be denied. It was further pointed out that in conformity with other time frames for energy related items, the Service should notify the regulatory agency and the applicant of informational needs within 15 days following receipt of an application.

It is agreed that the proper method to seek items of relevant project information is through the regulatory agency. It also is agreed that the regulatory agency and the applicant should be notified of project related informational needs within 15 days of receipt of an application. Accordingly, this section of the guidelines has been modified to conform with established Federal permitting procedures.

Section 6.1A.(2). Concerns were raised that this section, as presented in the July 16, 1975, FEDERAL REGISTER, required the applicant to develop detailed information concerning threatened and/or endangered species which is properly the function of the Fish and Wildlife Service. In response, this was not the intent of this provision of the guidelines. The intent was to have an applicant, at the time of application, provide any known information concerning threatened and/or endangered species in the area of project influence. This is consistent with provisions of the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

Section 6.1A.(4)(b). Several comments raised concerns that the provisions of this section of the July 16, 1975, FEDERAL REGISTER publication are clearly outside the purview of the guidelines. We agree that these provisions are adequately covered in regulations that have been promulgated by Federal Regulatory agencies. Accordingly, this section has been deleted.

Dated: November 21, 1975.

LYNN A. GREENWALT,
Director,
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

1. Introduction. 1.1 The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recognizes that an adequate and dependable supply of petroleum products is essential to meet the economic and standard of living needs of this Nation. The Service also recognizes the need for a strong, uniform policy for planning, evaluating, and reporting on oil and gas exploration and production activities affecting navigable waters and related natural resources. This pamphlet is directed toward meeting and satisfying the Nation's environmental and energy needs by presenting the Service's guidelines for geophysical, drilling and completion operations, pipeline construction, onshore facilities, and other associated exploration and development activities. These guidelines discourage the exploitation of one resource at the expense of another and encourage the use

of environmentally sound planning criteria. Basically, these guidelines focus on the conservation, development, and improvement of fish and wildlife, their habitats, naturally functioning ecosystems, other environmental values, and related human uses of the Nation's waters and wetlands.

2. Basis. 2.1A. Federal permits are required for works proposed in the Nation's navigable waters and associated wetlands. Placing of any structure in or over such waters and wetland areas or excavating from or depositing material in such areas is unlawful unless a permit has been issued by the Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers, under authority of Section 10 of the River and Harbor Act of March 3, 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403). The U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Transportation, has special authority to regulate the location and clearances of bridges and causeways over navigable waters of the United States under Section 9 of the 1899 Act (33 U.S.C. 401) and the Department of Transportation Act (49 U.S.C. 1653).

B. Permits issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or by a State agency under EPA overview also are required under Section 402 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1251) for pollutant discharges into navigable waters. This Act also provides for certification by EPA or the State, that activities otherwise federally permitted will not abridge water quality requirements (Section 401), for permitting by the Corps of Engineers (Corps) of the placement of dredged and fill materials in defined disposal areas (Section 404), and for regulation by EPA of the disposal of sewage sludge which would result in pollutants entering navigable waters (Section 405).

C. Applications for permits described in the preceding paragraphs are made, as appropriate, to the District Engineer, Corps of Engineers; the District Commander, U.S. Coast Guard; or the Regional Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency (or the State water quality agency) for the District or Region in which the work or activity is proposed. All persons or other entities, including Federal and other government agencies, are required to obtain the appropriate permits prior to commencing any construction or other activity in navigable waters.

D. All of the above described Federal regulatory programs are subject to the provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661) and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321) which mandate, respectively, full consideration of fish and wildlife and environmental values in weighing the balance of the public interest in deciding whether a permit should be issued for a proposed activity.

3. Authorities and responsibilities of the Department of the Interior. 3.1A. The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Geological Survey, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service,

and the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, has broad authority in the administration of public lands, reservations, and the mineral resources of such lands held in trust, and in providing consultation and advice on the protection of the Nation's fish, wildlife, scenic, natural, historic, recreational, and other environmental resources.

B. One such law administered for the Department of the Interior by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act. This Act specifically requires (16 U.S.C. 662): " * * * whenever the waters of any stream or body of water are proposed or authorized to be impounded, diverted, the channel deepened, or the stream or other body of water otherwise controlled or modified for any purpose whatever, including navigation and drainage, by any department or agency of the United States, or by any public or private agency under Federal permit or license, such department or agency first shall consult with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, and with the head of the agency exercising administration over the wildlife resources of the particular State * * * with a view to the conservation of wildlife resources by preventing loss of and damage to such resources as well as providing for the development and improvement thereof * * *." (Similar responsibilities under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act are administered by the National Marine Fisheries Service for the Department of Commerce.)

C. Additional authorities mandating the concern of the Department of the Interior for environmental values include the Migratory Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 701), the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 470), the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742a), the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131), the Anadromous Fish Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 757a), the Estuary Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1221), the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1271), the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1361), and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321).

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service also has advisory and consultative roles under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451) and the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1401), and shares the mandates of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act with the States.

4. *Objectives and policies of the Fish and Wildlife Service concerning the usage and development of the Nation's waters and wetlands.* 4.1 The following outline presents the overall objectives and policies of the Fish and Wildlife Service in its advisory, consultive, and review role regarding works and activ-

ities in the Nation's waters and associated wetlands.

4.2 *Objectives.* 4.2A. The objectives of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in relation to oil and gas exploration, development, and production activities are to prevent or minimize damages to fish and wildlife resources, their associated habitat, and other environmental resources, and to preserve public trust rights of use and enjoyment of such resources in and associated with navigable and other waters of the United States. The Service strives to meet these objectives by encouraging the industry to use every practical means, method, and alternative to prevent harmful environmental impacts and degradations.

B. More specifically the Service has the following long-range objectives respecting navigable waters, their tributaries, and related wetlands:

(1) Providing assistance to other Federal agencies in their enforcement of regulatory programs to prevent unauthorized activities from occurring, damaging, or posing a threat of damage to the naturally functioning aquatic and wetland ecosystems and other environmental resources, values, and uses.

(2) Ensuring that all authorized works, structures, and activities are (a) judged to be the least ecologically damaging alternative or combination of alternatives (e.g., all appropriate means have been adopted to minimize environmental losses and degradations) and (b) in the public's interest in safeguarding the environment from loss and degradation. Water dependency of a work, structure, or activity will be considered when criterion (a) above has not been met.

In determining whether criteria (a) and (b) have been met, the Service will always consider: (1) The long-term effects of the proposed work, structure, or activity; (2) its cumulative effects, when viewed in the context of other already existing or foreseeable works, structures, or activities of the same kind; and/or (3) its cumulative effect, when viewed in the context of other already existing or foreseeable works, structures, or activities of different kinds.

4.3A. *Policies.* (1) The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service exercises and encourages all efforts to preserve, restore, and improve fish and wildlife resources and associated aquatic and wetland ecosystems, and supports State actions designed to protect areas of special biological significance.

(2) The Service opposes activities and developments in or affecting the Nation's waters and wetlands which would individually, or cumulatively with other developments on a waterway or group of related waterways, needlessly destroy, damage, or degrade fish and wildlife resources, associated aquatic and wetland ecosystems, and the human satisfactions dependent thereon.

(3) The Service places special emphasis on the protection of vegetated and other productive shallow waters and wetlands and on fish and wildlife species for which the Secretary of the Interior

has delegated and specifically mandated responsibilities. These include:

(a) Wetlands as described in Wetlands of the United States, Circular 39 of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, published in 1956, republished in 1971.

(b) Estuarine and Great Lakes area as defined in the Estuary Protection Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, and Sec. 104(n) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act.

(c) Migratory birds, anadromous and Great Lakes fishes, and endangered species as defined respectively in the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Anadromous Fish Conservation Act, and the Endangered Species Act of 1973, respectively.

5. *Procedures for review of permit applications.* 5.1A. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service considers that each notice of application should demonstrate that the proposed works are water-oriented or water-dependent, served a recognized public need, and minimize environmental damages as set forth in item 4.2B.(2). In instances where this is not demonstrated and/or additional items of information are needed to determine project impacts on fish and wildlife resources (ref. Sections 6.1A. (1)-(4)), the Service will immediately advise the applicant of informational needs or at least within 15 days following receipt of a notice of application (public notice or letter of permission). Such requests will be promptly confirmed by letter to the regulatory agency with a copy being provided the applicant.

However, if Service investigations and reviews indicate avoidable fish and wildlife losses, the Service will recommend to the Corps of Engineers, the Environmental Protection Agency, or the U.S. Coast Guard, as appropriate, that the permit be denied. In cases where denial is recommended to the Corps of Engineers, the July 13, 1967, Memorandum of Understanding between the Secretaries of the Departments of the Army and the Interior provides that the applicant will be notified, and an effort will be made to reach a solution at the District and Regional levels, respectively. If resolution at that level fails, the case will be forwarded for the consideration of the Chief of Engineers, Department of the Army, and Under Secretary, Department of the Interior. The final administrative decision in such cases rests with the Secretary of the Army. It must be emphasized that the Service does not have the responsibility, as do the regulatory agencies, of making the final determination of the overall acceptability of a proposal, all factors considered. These guidelines are not intended nor should they be interpreted to be addressed to such a final decision. They are intended to reflect the Service's responsibility to contend for the special public interest in fish and wildlife resources, their related and associated habitats and ecosystems, and the environmental values dependent thereon; and to be compatible and reasonably consistent with relevant provisions of Federal laws, decisions of Federal courts, and the rules, regulations, and administrative practices of Federal regulatory agencies.

¹ Wildlife and wildlife resources are defined by the Act to include: "birds, fishes, mammals, and all other classes of wild animals and all types of aquatic and land vegetation upon which wildlife is dependent."

B. The Department of the Interior has no similar agreements with the Environmental Protection Agency or the Department of Transportation (U.S. Coast Guard), but envisions that referral of unresolved issues from those agencies will be handled under procedures similar to those set forth in the agreement with the Department of the Army, with the final decision resting with the Secretary or the Administrator of the regulatory agency.

6. *Information necessary to assess fish and wildlife effects of proposed works and activities requiring Federal permit.* 6.1A. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service assists and promotes an orderly and expeditious review of Federal permit applications. Toward this goal, the following items of information may be requested, if applicable, in conjunction with an application.

(1) Overall map (based on a U.S. Coast and Geodetic navigation chart or Geological Survey quadrangle map) showing project location in relation to:

(a) Water depths at and in the vicinity of the proposed project.

(b) Direction of sheetflow in wetland areas and of water currents in river and coastline areas, and duration and amplitude of ebb and flood tides in estuarine and bay areas.

(c) Location of freshwater outflows, including surface drainageways, streams, aquifers, and springs where known or identified within the area of project influence.

(d) Location of shellfish lease areas within the area of project influence.

(2) Aerial photograph of project area, if available.

(3) Scale drawings and project area maps showing proposed works in relation to ordinary high water, mean high or mean of the higher high water, and ordinary low water, mean low or mean of the lower low water elevations and lines (as locally proper and where technologically possible), and the following detailed information:

(a) A description of methods and kinds of equipment to be used, means of access to activity sites, proposed geophysical operations, and duration and season of activities.

(b) Types, locations, and dimensions, including vertical cross sections of shallow water and wetland areas to be excavated and/or filled (e.g., canals, channels, roadways, fill and spoil areas, and dikes).

(c) Details of all planned facilities where construction or operation could alter or disturb shallow waters and wetlands.

(4) For purposes of environmental protection:

(a) Information known by an applicant concerning known threatened and/or endangered species, including their associated habitats in the area of project influence, should be provided.

(b) Plans for maintenance of natural drainage patterns and freshwater-saltwater exchanges in waters and wetlands (prevention of unnatural saltwater or freshwater intrusion and dewatering of wetlands).

(c) Plans for minimization of erosion, sedimentation, and turbidity, including stabilization of construction sites.

(d) Other plans or measures to prevent or minimize losses of fish and wildlife and public utilization, and other environmental values, including special construction and operation procedures.

(5) Names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the applicant's liaison.

7. *General guidelines.* 7.1A. Permits issued for oil and gas exploration and development operations in territorial waters and wetlands should be limited to a reasonable time period essential to the work proposed. These permits also should provide such explicit conditions as will minimize damages to fish and wildlife resources.

B. Proposals for other associated activities and works involved in mineral exploration and developments should meet the applicable general provisions to minimize environmental degradation particularly from: The spillage of oil; release of refuse including polluting substances and solid wastes; spoiling on productive wetlands; dredging of productive shallows; alteration of current patterns, tidal exchanges, and freshwater outflow, and erosion and sedimentation.

C. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will consider the following criteria to ascertain if works requiring a Federal permit in shallow waters and wetlands can be implemented without significant damages to fish, wildlife, and the environment:

(1) In instances where proposed structures, facilities, or activities will utilize land fill procedures which involve the adverse alteration or destruction of estuarine or wetland areas, the applicant should demonstrate that practicable alternate upland sites are not available for proposed works.

(2) Permit applications for an unauthorized existing excavation, fill, structure, facility, or building will be examined on an individual basis. The condition, present use, and future potential of a particular work, and alternatives to its continued existence will be considered in determining whether or not to recommend denial of the permit, removal of the unauthorized work, and possible restoration.

D. This Service will recommend denial of Federal permits for proposed projects as follows:

(1) Projects which needlessly degrade or destroy wetland types identified in the Fish and Wildlife Service's Circular 39, Wetlands of the United States, published 1956, republished 1971. The decision whether a project needlessly degrades or destroys wetland types will be made with reference to the three criteria set forth in item 4.2B.(2).

(2) Projects not designed to prevent or minimize significant fish, wildlife and environmental damages.

(3) Projects which do not utilize practicable, suitable, and available upland sites as alternatives to wetland areas.

(4) Projects located on upland which do not assure the protection of adjacent wetland areas.

8. *Specific project guidelines.* 8.1A. The Service will utilize the following specific project guidelines when reviewing permit applications:

(1) *Geophysical operations.* (a) Gas or airguns, sparkers, vibrators, and other electromechanical and mechanical transducers should be used where practicable.

(b) When explosive charges must be used, the smallest charge consistent with acceptable recording should be used.

(c) Use of explosives should be avoided in important fish and wildlife spawning, nesting, nursery, and rearing areas during periods of high concentration or intense activity by the fish and/or wildlife of concern.

(d) All explosive charges should be fired in compliance with applicable State and Federal regulations.

(2) *Docks and piers.* (a) The size and extension of a dock or pier should be limited to that required for the intended use.

(b) Project proposals should include transfer facilities for the proper handling of litter, wastes, refuse, spoil drilling mud, and petroleum products.

(c) Piers and catwalks will be encouraged in preference to solid fills to provide needed access across biologically productive shallows and marshes to navigable water.

(3) *Bulkheads or seawalls.* Construction of bulkheads, seawalls, or the use of riprapping generally will be acceptable in areas having unstable shorelines. Except in special circumstances such as eroding shorelines, structures should be located no further waterward than the mean or normal high water line, and designated so that reflected wave energy does not destroy stable marine bottoms or constitute a safety hazard. In areas which have undergone extensive development, applications for bulkheads will be acceptable that esthetically and/or ecologically enhance the aquatic environment.

However, denial of permits for the construction of bulkheads on barrier and sand islands, where such will adversely affect the natural transport and deposition of sand materials, will normally be recommended.

(4) *Cables and transmission lines.* Installation of aerial or submerged cables and transmission lines located and designed to provide maximum compatibility with the environment will be acceptable. Particular emphasis will be placed on measures to protect fish and wildlife resources, esthetics, and unique natural areas. In operational areas, routes should make maximum use of existing rights-of-ways.

(5) *Access roads.* (a) Existing roadways should be utilized.

(b) Timber, other matting, or special low impact vehicles should be utilized where possible when temporary access is required in shallows and wetlands.

(c) When access roads to a drilling site must be constructed, the roads should be minimal in size and number.

(d) Selection of location and design of proposed roadways should be based on wet-season conditions to minimize dis-

ruption of normal sheetflow, waterflow, and drainage patterns or systems.

(e) Adequate culverts must be placed in all roadways to minimize disruption of natural sheetflow, waterflow, and drainage patterns or systems.

(f) Shoulder and slope surfaces should be stabilized with natural vegetation plantings or by seeding of native species, where possible, or by riprapping.

(g) Upon abandonment of a project site, temporary access roads will be evaluated for their wildlife potential and will be recommended for their retention or removal.

(6) *Bridges.* (a) Designs and alignments should minimize disruption of sheetflow, waterflow, and drainage patterns or systems.

(b) Approaches to permanent structures in wetland areas should be located, to the maximum extent possible, on pilings rather than solid fill causeways.

(7) *Jetties, groins, and breakwaters.* Jetties, groins, and breakwaters that do not create adverse sand transportation patterns or unduly disturb the aquatic ecosystem will be acceptable.

(8) *Levees and dikes.* (a) Designs and alignments should minimize disruption of natural sheetflow, waterflow, and drainage patterns or systems.

(b) Shoulder and slope surface should be stabilized following construction with natural vegetation plantings or by seeding of native species, where possible, or by riprapping.

(c) Upon abandonment of a project site, levees and dikes will be evaluated for their wildlife potential and will be recommended for their retention or removal.

(9) *Lagoons, impoundments, waste pits, and emergency pits.* (a) Construction should minimize disruption of natural sheetflow, waterflow, and drainage patterns or systems.

(b) Areas should be excavated to an impermeable soil formation at the time of construction, or lined or scaled.

(c) Operation and use must be in strict compliance with applicable local, State, and Federal regulations.

(10) *Navigation channels and access canals.* (a) Designs and alignments should minimize disruption or natural sheetflow, waterflow, and drainage patterns or systems.

(b) Designs should meet demonstrated navigational needs.

(c) Designs should prevent the creation of pockets or other hydraulic conditions which would cause stagnant water problems.

(d) Designs should minimize shoreline or other erosion problems and interference with natural sand and sediment transport processes.

(e) Designs, where recommended, should use temporary dams or plugs in the seaward ends of canals or waterways until excavation has been completed.

(f) Designs should minimize changes in tidal circulation patterns, salinity

regimes, or related nutrient and aquatic life distribution patterns.

(g) Alignments will be recommended by the Service that avoid or minimize damages to shellfish grounds, beds of productive aquatic vegetation, coral reefs, and other shallow water and wetland areas of value to fish and wildlife resources.

(h) Alignments should make maximum use of existing natural channels.

(i) Construction should be conducted in a manner that minimizes turbidity and dispersal of dredged material.

(j) Construction should follow schedules, which may be recommended by the Service. These schedules will aim at minimizing interference with fish and wildlife migrations, spawning, and nesting or the public's enjoyment and utilization of these resources.

(11) *Excavation of fill material.* Excavation and dredging in shallow waters and wetlands will be discouraged and the Service will recommend that any permit issued contains conditions to minimize adverse effects and activities in important fish and wildlife spawning, nesting, nursery, and rearing areas, and prohibit construction during critical periods of migration, spawning, and nesting activity.

(12) *Disposal of spoil and refuse material.* In-bay, open-water, and deep-water disposal generally will be considered acceptable by the Service only after all upland and other alternative disposal sites have been explored and rejected for good cause. Deep-water disposal will be acceptable only at sites specifically selected, including those selected for deposit of suitable material for habitat improvement, where agreed upon by all concerned agencies.

(13) *Drilling and injection wells, and production facilities.* (a) Directional drilling techniques should be used where practicable.

(b) Drilling and production facilities should utilize equipment that prevents or controls, to the maximum extent practicable, the discharge of pollutants.

(c) All drilling muds should be stored in tanks or diked non-wetland areas.

(d) Upon abandonment of a project site, pertinent facilities will be evaluated for their wildlife potential and will be recommended for retention or removal.

(14) *Pipelines.* (a) Pipeline routes that avoid or minimize damages to im-

portant spawning, nesting, nursery, or rearing areas will be encouraged by the Service.

(b) In established operational areas, pipeline routes should make maximum use of existing rights-of-way.

(c) In all areas, pipelines should be confined to areas which will minimize environmental impact; special care should be taken in unaltered areas.

(d) Where recommended, pipeline access canals should be immediately plugged at the seaward end and subsequently maintained to prevent freshwater or saltwater intrusion.

(e) Where recommended, bulkheads, plugs, or dams should be installed and maintained at all stream, bay, lake, or other waterway or water body crossings.

(f) Pipeline placement should be designed with a wide margin of safety against breakage from mud slides, currents, earthquakes, or other causes. In areas of high natural seismic activity, pipelines should be designed and situated, to the maximum extent possible, to be "earthquake proof."

(g) Pipeline placement by the push method in marshlands will be encouraged.

9. *Assistance to applicants and prospective applicants.* 9.1A. All applications for works or activities subject to Federal jurisdiction over navigable waters will be considered within the framework of foregoing policies and guidelines. It is the position of the Service that these guidelines, if followed, will facilitate the orderly review of permit applications for oil and gas exploration and development activities. Protection is a national responsibility that cannot be shirked or comprised if future generations are to enjoy a satisfying and healthy environment. The Service considers that adherence to these guidelines is requisite to this national responsibility and the Nation's goal of environmental quality.

B. The Service stands ready at all times to assist permit applicants in formulating environmentally sound proposals and in avoiding unnecessary delays in developing environmentally compatible plans. Contacts should be made through the appropriate Regional Office of the Fish and Wildlife Service. The addresses and telephone numbers of the Service's Regional Offices and a map of the States each Region covers are contained, respectively, in Appendices 1 and 2 below.

Regional directors' addresses and phone numbers

| Region | Address | Phone No. |
|--------------|---|--------------|
| 1. | Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, P.O. Box 3737, Portland, Oreg. 97208. | 503-234-4050 |
| 2. | Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, P.O. Box 1306, Albuquerque, N. Mex. 87103. | 505-766-2321 |
| 3. | Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Federal Bldg., Fort Snelling, Twin Cities, Minn. 55111. | 612-725-2500 |
| 4. | Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Executive Park Dr. NE., Atlanta, Ga. 30329. | 404-526-4671 |
| 5. | Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, John W. McCormack Post Office and Courthouse, Boston, Mass. 02109. | 617-223-2961 |
| 6. | Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, P.O. Box 25486, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colo. 80225. | 303-234-2209 |
| Alaska. | Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, 813 D St., Anchorage, Alaska 99501. | 907-265-4864 |

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

REGIONAL BOUNDARIES



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE



APPENDIX 2

COMPILED IN THE DIVISION OF ENGINEERING (1078)
DATE BY U.S.G.S. JANUARY 1, 1970
WASHINGTON, D.C.



 REGIONAL BOUNDARIES
 REGIONAL OFFICE

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