



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



Padre Island National Seashore
P.O. Box 181300
20301 Park Road 22
Corpus Christi, Texas 78418

IN REPLY REFER TO:

L3025 (PAIS)

July 25, 2002

Dear Park Friends:

Thank you for reviewing the Environmental Assessment (EA) and Statements of Findings (SOFs) covering BNP's proposed Plan of Operations for drilling and producing the Lemon and Lemon Seed Unit Wells within Padre Island National Seashore. The 30-day review period for these documents ended on May 6, 2002. Based on the comments received, the NPS has decided to revise and reissue the EA for a second 30-day public review.

We have incorporated most of the comments received in the enclosed EA. Substantive issues that have been addressed in the EA include:

- Federally-listed threatened and endangered species is carried through for analysis because the proposal could be implemented during the period April-September when sea turtles, particularly Kemp's ridley turtles, may be utilizing the Gulf beach. The NPS has revised the EA and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has concurred with the NPS Biological Assessment determination of "may affect but not likely to adversely affect."
- Potential impacts on visitor use and experience is analyzed in more detail to assess the impacts of heavy vehicle traffic utilizing the Gulf beach during the summer months, particularly "with July being the busiest visitation month" (Oil and Gas Management Plan, March 2003).

Please note that all revisions to the April 2002 EA are shown in a different "font" in the enclosed EA. If you wish to comment on this EA and SOFs covering the Plan of Operations, please mail comments to the name and address below. These documents are also available for review on the Padre Island National Seashore web page. The 30-day review period ends August 26, 2002. All written comments must be postmarked by August 26, 2002.

Superintendent
Padre Island National Seashore
P.O. Box 181300
Corpus Christi, Texas 78480

E-mail comments may be sent to: PAIS_public_comments@nps.gov and must be received by 4:00 p.m. on August 26, 2002.

Sincerely,

Jock Whitworth
Superintendent

Enclosures: EA and SOFs

NPS DOCUMENT # **612**