

Subject: Att'n : Federal Consistency Energy Review Comments
Date: Thu, 3 Oct 2002 11:41:08 -0400
From: Ron Huber <coastwatch@acadia.net>
To: david.kaiser@noaa.gov

Ron Huber, Director
Coastal Waters Project
418 Main Street
Rockland,ME 04841

October 3, 2002

David Kaiser, Federal Consistency Coordinator
Coastal Programs Division
Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, NOAA,
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor,
Silver Spring, MD 20910,

RE: Federal Consistency Energy Review.

Dear Mr Kaiser.

The Coastal Waters Project is a citizens association dedicated to protecting and restoring the natural environment of the Gulf of Maine. I am writing to express our opposition to any modification of the Coastal Zone Management Act's regulations with respect to the Bush administration's proposal to limit coastal states' role in federally permitted projects such as offshore drilling, natural gas pipelines, offshore windfarms, ocean dumping, liquefied natural gas installations, and other industrial activities proposed for federal waters off their coasts.

At present the "consistency" provision of the Coastal Zone Management Act allows coastal states with a federally-approved Coastal Management Plan to issue their own determination as to whether or not a proposed federal or federally-permitted action is "consistent" with that state's Coastal Management Plan.

We understand that the White House National Energy Policy Development Group has requested that NOAA consider CZMA regulatory amendments that would significantly reduce coastal states' participation in offshore oil and gas-related decisions. These proposed changes are incorporated in an "Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking".

We ask NOAA to reject any and all proposed changes that would weaken state participation in this arena. There are numerous oil and gas projects under consideration around the coastal United States that are best served by requiring those projects to meet CZMA consistency provisions as determined by states affected by the projects.

Sincerely,

Ron Huber Director
Coastal Waters Project