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**VIA E-MAIL, FACSIMILE
AND FEDERAL EXPRESS**

Mr. Branden Blum
Senior Counselor
c/o Office of Assistant General Counsel for Ocean Services
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1305 East-West Highway
SSMC-4, Room 6111
Silver Spring, MD 20910

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SSM
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**RE: Appeal of Islander East Pipeline Company, L.L.C., From an Objection by the
State of Connecticut, Department of Environmental Protection to a Consistency
Certification for the Islander East Pipeline Project**

Dear Mr. Blum:

We are in receipt of the Reply Brief of the State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection ("Connecticut"), filed in this proceeding on January 26, 2004. We believe that all arguments made in that Reply Brief have been responded to by Islander East Pipeline Company, L.L.C. ("Islander East") in its prior filings. Accordingly, Islander East will not seek leave to file any additional materials. As the Secretary is aware, this appeal was initiated on November 14, 2002. The public record in this proceeding was opened for comment on January 24, 2003, and was officially closed on November 20, 2003. More than 15 months have elapsed since Connecticut first denied Islander East a consistency determination in October 2002. With the briefing now concluded in accordance with NOAA's briefing scheduled issued on October 27, 2003, we strongly urge the Secretary to close the Record in this proceeding as soon as possible, and proceed to a decision. Thank you for your cooperation.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank L. Amoroso

FLA:mm

cc: Connecticut Attorney General's office (via facsimile and Federal Express)
Attn: David Wrinn, Esq.
Thomas L. Stanton, Jr., Esq. (via facsimile and Federal Express)
Islander East Pipeline Company, LLC

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