



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary  
Washington, D.C. 20250

MAR 14 2003

The Honorable Scott B. Gudes  
Acting Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere  
United States Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230-0001

Dear Mr. Gudes:

Thank you for your letter of January 31, 2003, regarding the Islander East Pipeline Company appeal before the Secretary of Commerce pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA). I apologize for the delay in responding.

You stated that the Department of Commerce's (DOC) regulations implementing CZMA require that interested Federal agencies be afforded an opportunity to comment on the appeal.

The Department of Agriculture (USDA) has reviewed the materials and related documents contained in the appeal record. Upon review of these materials, USDA does not wish to comment on the appeal.

Again, thank you for writing and for the opportunity to review the case in accordance with DOC's regulations on appeals involving the CZMA. If we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Rey".

MARK REY  
Under Secretary  
Natural Resources and Environment