In re:
Shell Offshore, Inc.

OCS Permit No. R10OCS-AK-07-01 (Revised)

Kulluk Drilling Unit

OCS Appeal Nos. 08-01, 08-02, & 08-03

# **ORDER REQUIRING CLARIFICATION**

By order dated August 18, 2008, this Board revised the briefing schedule in the above captioned matter. *See* Order Revising Briefing Schedule (Aug. 18, 2008) ("Order"). The Order sets the following deadlines: 1) Petitioners will have until September 4, 2008 to file any revisions to their respective petitions in light of documents contained in the Region's certified index to the administrative record that were not previously made available to petitioners; (2) U.S. EPA Region 10 (the "Region") and Shell Offshore Inc. ("SOI") will have until October 6, 2008 to respond to the petitions for review and any revisions thereto; and (3) Petitioners will have until October 20, 2008 to file any responses.

Upon examination of the permit in dispute in this matter, the Board has determined that additional clarification is necessary. In particular, Petitioners, the Region, and SOI (collectively, the "parties") are hereby ordered to provide clarification as to whether this matter is ripe for review. The Board notes that Condition 28 of the permit states as follows:

Effective Date. This permit shall not become effective until: 1) EPA has completed its consultation obligations required under the Endangered Species Act with respect to the polar bear and the Shell Kulluk Drilling Unit OCS Permit No. R10OCS-AK-07-01 (Revised) and 2) the Permittee has amended its application and/or the EPA has amended the OCS permit terms to address any alternatives, conservation measures,

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reasonable and prudent measures, or terms and conditions deemed by the EPA to be appropriate as a result of the consultation.

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Under this provision, it appears to this Board that, following consultation under the applicable provisions of the Endangered Species Act, the conditions of the permit, including the disputed conditions, could change. The Board therefore seeks clarification from the parties as to whether this matter is ripe for review at the present time. The parties may submit their clarifications in compliance

with the deadlines stated above, or at any time before these deadlines expire.

So ordered.

Dated: Angust 19,2008

**ENVIRONMENTAL APPEALS BOARD** 

Charles I Sheeha

Environmental Appeals Judge

#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the forgoing Requiring Clarification in the matter of Shell Offshore, Inc., OCS Appeal Nos. 08-01, 08-02, & 08-03, were sent to the following persons in the manner indicated:

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Dated:

AUG 2 0 2008

Annette Duncan Secretary