

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY WASHINGTON, D.C.

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In re:)
Ocean Era, Inc. – Velella Epsilon Facility) NPDES Appeal Nos. 20-08 & 20-09
NPDES Permit No. FL0A00001)
)

ORDER CONSOLIDATING CASES FOR ORAL ARGUMENT AND DECISION AND SCHEDULING ORAL ARGUMENT

Pending before the Environmental Appeals Board ("Board") are two petitions for review challenging a Clean Water Act National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit that U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 4 issued to Ocean Era, Inc. to operate a pilot-scale offshore marine aquaculture facility, referred to as the Valella Epsilon Project. *See* Friends of Animals Petition for Review, NPDES Appeal No. 20-08, and Center for Food Safety Petition for Review, NPDES Appeal No. 20-09. The Environmental Appeals Board ("Board") is administratively consolidating these two petitions for the purposes of oral argument and decision.

Upon review of the administrative record and the briefs filed, the Board has concluded that oral argument will assist in its deliberation of these two petitions for review. For over a year, the Board has conducted oral arguments by videoconference. Accordingly, the Board will hold oral argument by videoconference on **Thursday**, **November 4**, **2021**, beginning at

1:30 p.m. Eastern Time. Closer to the date of the argument, the Board will, by order, provide the parties with additional information about participating in the oral argument.

So ordered.

ENVIRONMENTAL APPEALS BOARD

Dated: _August 10, 2021____

Kathie A. Stein

Environmental Appeals Judge

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that copies of the foregoing *Order Consolidating Cases for Oral Argument and Decision and Scheduling Oral Argument* in the matter of Ocean Era, Inc. – Velella Epsilon Facility, NPDES Appeal Nos. 20-08 and 20-09, were sent to the following persons in the manner indicated:

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Dated: Aug 10, 2021 Emilio Cortes

Emilio Cortes Clerk of the Board