UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

April 12, 2012

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street NE, Room 1A
Washington, DC 20426

SUBJECT: Choctaw Hub Expansion Project Proposed by PetroLogistics Natural Gas Storage, LLC, near the City of Plaquemine, Louisiana

Dear Ms. Bose:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 has reviewed the Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) prepared by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in Washington, DC. In accordance with our responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act (CAA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 office in Dallas, Texas is providing the following comments.

B.2 Soils

This section states that there will be impacts to prime farmland soils from pipeline installation. However, it is not apparent if coordination with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has been initiated. Please provide information regarding coordination with the NRCS.

Section B.3.b Surface Water

Please define "frac-out" and how a "frac-out" would be contained or remediated/mitigated.

Please explain why conventional drilling, not horizontal directional drilling, will be completed at the 21+77 stream crossing.

In Table 5, streams may be better characterized by quantifying the ordinary high water mark[1], which is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' area of jurisdiction.

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[1] The term *ordinary high water mark* is that line on the shore established by the fluctuations of water and indicated by physical characteristics such as a clear, natural line impressed on the bank, shelving, changes in the character of soil, destruction of terrestrial vegetation, the presence of litter and debris, or other appropriate means that consider the characteristics of the surrounding areas.

B.4.a Vegetation

Vegetation should be characterized using the Natural Communities of Louisiana guide or another accepted vegetation classification system.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the DEA. Thank you for your coordination and don't hesitate to contact John MacFarlane, of my staff, at 214-665-7491 or macfarlane.john@epa.gov should you have any questions or concerns regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

Rhonda Smith
Chief, Office of Planning and Coordination