REGIONAL GENERAL PERMIT NO. 63
PRE-CONSTRUCTION NOTIFICATION

Application No.: SPL-2021-00617-ERS  
Project Name: San Pedro Bay Pipeline Repair  
Deadline to provide intent to comment: 12/16/21

Contact: Eric Sweeney  
Phone: (760) 602-4837  
Email: Eric.R.Sweeney@usace.army.mil

Location: Approximately five miles offshore of Huntington Beach, Orange County, California (33.649481, -118.110759)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Los Angeles District, Regulatory Division received an application for Regional General Permit #63 “Repair and Protection Activities in Emergency Situations” on December 13, 2021. Please review the attached materials and notify the Corps no later than 12pm on December 16, 2021 if you intend to provide substantive, site-specific comments on the proposed project. Please refer to file number SPL-2021-00617-ERS in your response.

AGENCY                      Attention                      E-mail
BSEE                        Theresa Bell                  theresa.bell@bsee.gov
CCC/CZMA                    Cassidy Teufel               cassidy.teufel@coastal.ca.gov
CDFW, Coastalmarine         Loni Adams                    loni.adams@wildlife.ca.gov
CDFW, Coastalmarine         Eric Wilkins                  eric.wilkins@wildlife.ca.gov
NMFS                        Bryant Chesney               bryant.chesney@noaa.gov
NMFS                        Jhenevieve Casabel          jhenevieve.cabasal@noaa.gov
PHMSA                       David Mulligan               david.mulligan@dot.gov
SARWQCB                     Maher Zaher                   Maher.Zaher@Waterboards.ca.gov
SHPO                        Elizabeth Hodges             Elizabeth.Hodges@parks.ca.gov
SWRCB                       Elizabeth Payne              Elizabeth.Payne@waterboards.ca.gov
U.S. EPA                    Sahrye Cohen                 cohen.sahrye@epa.gov
U.S. EPA                    Allan Ota                    ota.allan@epa.gov
USCG                        CMDR Stacey Crecy            stacey.l.crecy@uscg.mil
USCG                        Robert Willoughby            robert.m.willoughby@uscg.mil
USFWS                       Carol Roberts                carol_a_roberts@fws.gov

APPLICANT NAME: Amplify Energy; Attention: Jeff Ortloff

WATERWAY NAME: Pacific Ocean

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED WORK: On October 2, 2021, the San Pedro Bay Pipeline was reported to have ruptured and released approximately 24,696 gallons of oil into the Pacific
Ocean, impacting coastal resources throughout Orange and San Diego Counties. The pipeline was found to have incurred an approximately 21 3/8-inch crack (Figure 2) and was displaced along approximately 4,000 feet of its original alignment (Figure 3). The 16-inch steel, concrete-encased pipeline travels along the seabed for most of its length, including at the damage location.

The emergency repair would restore the integrity of the pipeline through the completion of the following regulated activities:

1. Installation of a 30-inch-long by 10-inch-wide steel patch over the pipeline crack (Figure 4). This patch would replace SynthoGlass wrap that the applicant had installed over the crack during an initial emergency response that was implemented immediately following discovery of the pipeline damage on October 2, 2021. The steel patch would be lowered to the pipeline and welded onto the damaged pipeline at the crack location. This patch would restore the integrity of the damaged pipeline sufficiently so that the pipeline can be cleaned (pigged and flushed) prior to permanent replacement of the damaged pipeline sections. This project component is anticipated to take approximately two to four weeks.

2. A 10-foot by 10-foot pollution dome would be maintained over the crack in the damaged pipeline to prevent the release of any inadvertent seepage during the repair work (Figure 5). The applicant originally installed this dome during the October 2, 2021 emergency response.

3. Removal of two sections of pipeline: a “northern site”, consisting of 206-feet of pipe, and a “southern site”, consisting of 76-feet of pipe. The damaged (cracked) section of pipeline would be removed with the section of pipe at the northern site. To remove the damaged sections of pipeline, the ends of the pipeline sections would be exposed using air-jetting techniques and cut and flanged on the seafloor. The damaged pipeline would be cut into predetermined lengths on the seafloor and lifted to the derrick barge Salta Verde for further processing and disposal.

4. Installation of new pipeline to replace the removed sections (Figures 6-8). Replacement 16-inch pipeline sections would be lowered to the existing 16-inch pipeline’s current location on the seafloor. Pipeline would be installed in spooled sections that range from 35 to 45 feet in length and welded underwater to the existing pipeline. Mechanical pipe connectors and a structural clamp would also be installed on the replacement pipeline.

5. For future protection from anchor strikes, approximately 1,200 square feet (282 linear feet) of concrete mats (each measuring 8 feet by 20 feet) would be installed along the length of the northern and southern replacement pipeline sections (Figures 6-8). To install the concrete mats, sand would first be air-jetted from immediately adjacent to the pipeline corridor to the base of the replacement pipeline sections and the concrete mats would be placed over top of the overburden sand and pipe. After placement over the pipe, the edges of each mat would be hand jetted below natural bottom such that each concrete mat would have a footprint of approximately 4-feet by 20-feet on the seafloor.

The proposed emergency repairs would occur approximately five miles offshore of Huntington Beach, California in approximately 160 feet of water. All underwater construction activities would be performed from the derrick barge Salta Verde. The applicant has proposed to commence work on December 17, 2021 and would complete repair activities over two to three months. Further details regarding proposed project activities are provided in Enclosure 1.
Note that pipeline replacement plans and procedures (3-5 above) are being implemented in consultation with the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) and are subject to change following PHMSA approval. The applicant will be required to coordinate any final revisions to the project description with the Corps prior to commencing those project components.

**JUSTIFICATION FOR RGP 63 AUTHORIZATION:** The proposed repair would address an imminent threat to life or property as it would secure the integrity of the pipeline and safeguard against further oil contamination of sensitive coastal resources.

**AREA OF WATERS (including wetlands) SUBJECT TO LOSS AS A RESULT OF PROPOSED WORK:** The proposed project would result in permanent impacts to approximately 1,200 square feet (282 linear feet) of navigable waters of the United States associated with installation of the concrete mats.

**ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT:** The Corps’ Action Area for the proposed project is composed of the entire project area at the repair location. Federally listed species potentially occurring within the Action Area include white abalone (*Haliotis sorenseni*), steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), olive ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), East Pacific green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*), Pacific leatherback sea turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*), California least tern (*Sternula antillarum*), marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*), short-tailed albatross (*Phoebastria albatrus*), blue whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*), humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), Northern Pacific right whale (*Eubalaena japonica*), sperm whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*), and Guadalupe fur seal (*Arctocephalus townsendi*). In particular, Guadalupe fur seals may use the project area for foraging and humpback whales may pass through the Action Area on its migratory routes. The project would not occur within mapped designated critical habitat for any federally listed species.

**Effects on federally listed species:** Effects on federally listed species that may result from the repair work include interactions with project vessels, general underwater construction noise, anchoring, and increases in turbidity.

Project-related vessel activity could result in collisions with marine wildlife or entanglement in vessels’ anchor lines. The applicant would minimize and avoid the possibility of such impacts by implementing marine wildlife avoidance measures. These measures would include transiting within designated vessel routes, a 1,000-foot marine wildlife avoidance buffer during vessel transit, implementing course and speed changes to avoid wildlife, and collision response notifications and protocols.

General underwater project activities such as pipe cutting, air-jetting, vessel transit and wet-welding as well as construction equipment on the surface, have the potential to temporarily increase ambient noise levels in the local marine environment. Although underwater equipment sound levels can have physiological and behavioral effects on fish and marine wildlife, it is anticipated that marine wildlife will avoid underwater work areas and equipment during construction and will not stay close enough to the equipment to experience injury or mortality.

Furthermore, project-related excavation associated with the use of air-jetting to install the concrete mats may suspend sand and silt within the work area, thereby increasing local turbidity. However, these potential turbidity and associated water quality issues are expected to be less severe than...
commonly occur with winter storms and at deeper water depths. As such, disturbances to water quality due to increased turbidity are expected to be minor and temporary.

**Effects determination:** Having evaluated the available species presence and habitat data for the proposed project area and considered the applicant's proposed minimization/avoidance measures, the Corps has made a "no effect" determination for federally listed species pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

**ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT:** The Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act (MSA), as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-267), requires Federal agencies to consult with the NMFS on activities that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). The objective of the EFH assessment is to describe potential adverse effects to designated EFH for federally managed fisheries species within the proposed action area. The proposed project would occur within EFH for various federally managed fish species within the Coastal Pelagic Species, Pacific Coast Groundfish, and Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plans.

The project would result in temporary effects to EFH due to temporary increases in noise associated with underwater construction activities as well as temporary increases in turbidity associated with air-jetting for installation of the concrete mats. However, these effects would be temporary and minimal, and conditions are anticipated to return to baseline following project completion. Additionally, the applicant has indicated that there are no Habitat Areas of Particular Concern within the project area. For further details, see the applicant's EFH assessment (Enclosure 1, Attachment 4).

In consideration of the information above, the Corps has determined the proposed project would result in adverse effects to EFH protected under the MSA. However, we believe these effects would be temporary and minimal. With this notification, the Corps requests initiation of abbreviated EFH consultation with NMFS pursuant to the requirements of the MSA.

**NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT:** The Corps' Permit Area is defined as the Corps' jurisdictional footprint within waters of the U.S. and does not include any nearshore/upland areas. Impacts within the Permit Area would not result in any disturbance to previously disturbed (native) soils. The proposed project would only disturb subtidal substrate that is regularly disturbed by natural wave and ocean currents. No sites previously known to be listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) would be affected by the proposed project. The pipeline itself is less than 50 years old and not considered potentially eligible for listing in the NRHP.

Application of Section 106 Criteria for Initiation of the Section 106 Process (36 CFR 800.3[a]) indicates a finding of "no potential to cause effects" for the undertaking on resources listed on or eligible to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

**Regulatory Program Goals:**
- To provide strong protection of the Nation's aquatic environment, including wetlands.
- To ensure that the Corps provides the regulated public with fair and reasonable decisions.
- To enhance the efficiency of the Corps administration of its regulatory program.
Figure 1: Location of the proposed San Pedro Bay Pipeline Emergency Repair and regional vicinity.
Figure 2: Photo showing the 21 3/8-inch crack in the San Pedro Bay Pipeline.
Figure 3: Alignment of San Pedro Bay Pipeline relative to original alignment before the damage occurred. An anchor plot for the derrick barge Salta Verde, from which construction activities will be staged, is also shown.
Figure 4: Proposed design and configuration for the 30-inch-long by 10-inch-wide steel patch to be installed over the pipeline crack.
Figure 5: Dimensions of the 10-foot by 10-foot pollution dome that would be maintained over the pipeline crack to prevent the release of any inadvertent seepage during the repair work.
Figure 6: Proposed pipeline reconstruction plans (1 of 3).
Figure 7: Proposed pipeline reconstruction plans, including cross-section for concrete mats (2 of 3).
Figure 8: Proposed pipeline reconstruction plans, including cross-sections for concrete mats (3 of 3).