



# HOW TO WRITE COMMENTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED SEA PORT OIL TERMINAL (SPOT) DEEPWATER PORT APPLICATION



**LONE STAR  
LEGAL AID**

DOCKET NO. MARAD-2019-0011

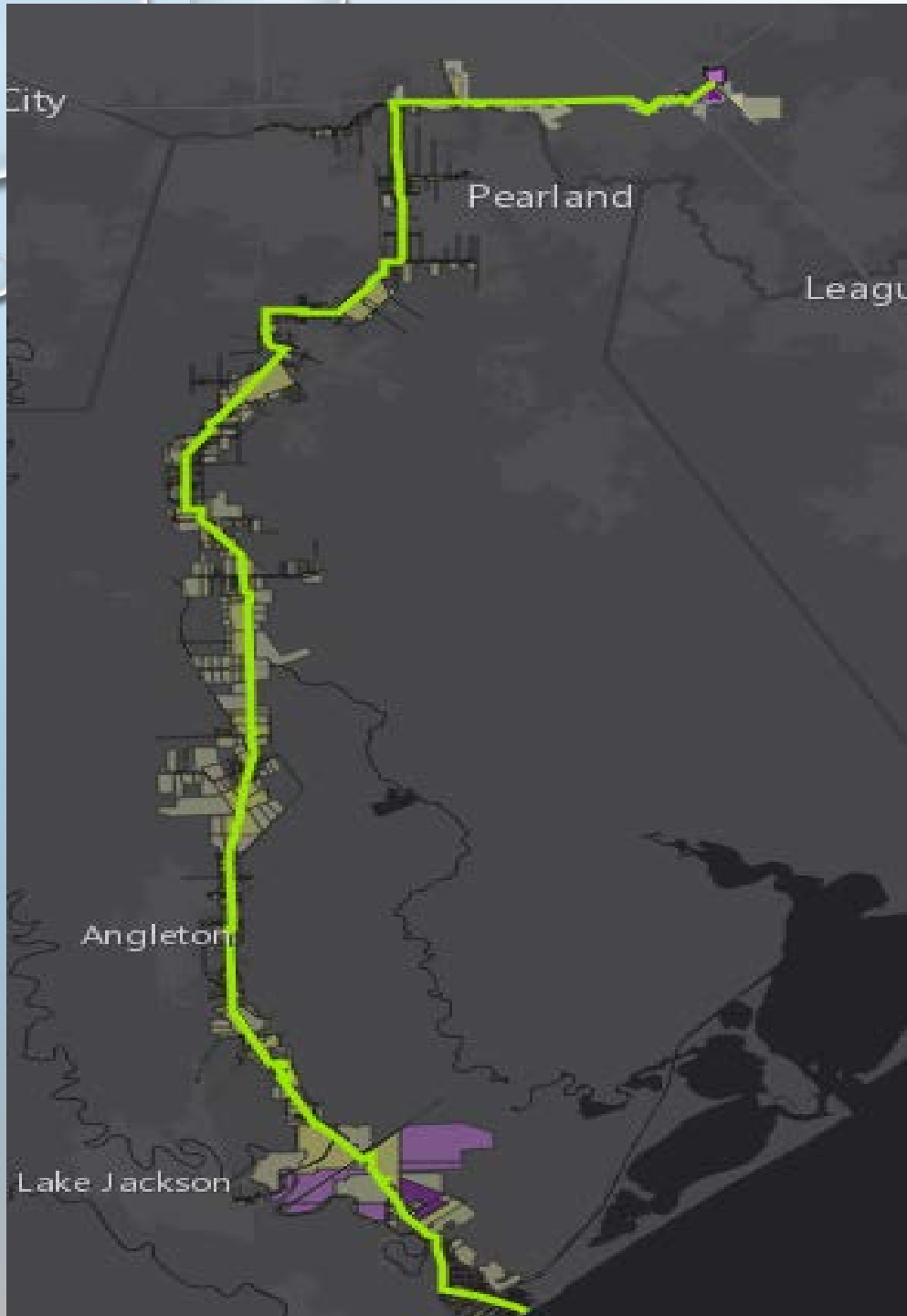
Deepwater Port License Application

SPOT Terminal Services, LLC

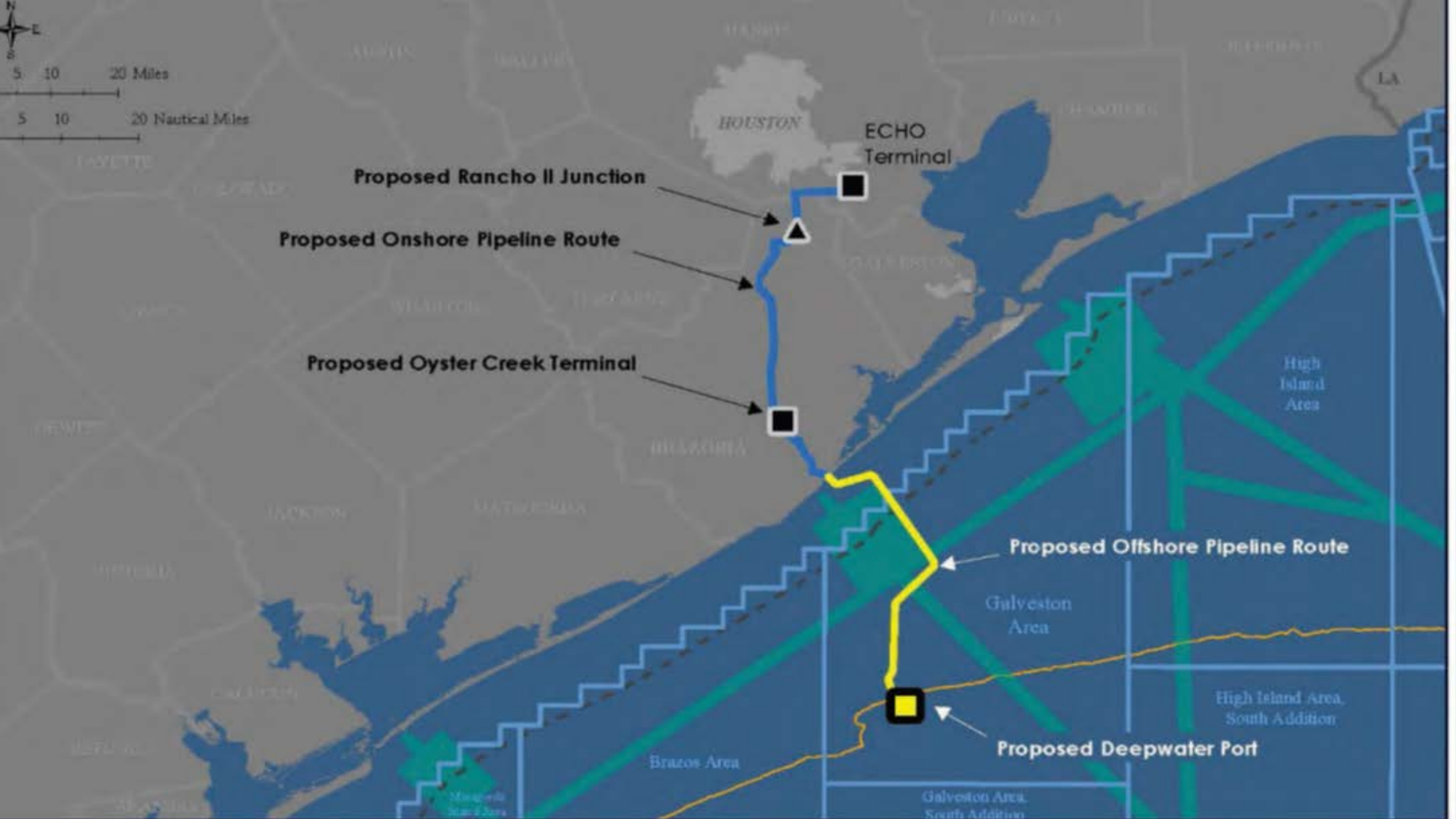
Submit comments electronically at:

<http://www.regulations.gov>

You must include docket number on comments.



## Proposed Pipeline Location



# WHO AM I SUBMITTING COMMENTS TO?

- Agency:  
Maritime Administration (MARAD)
- Parent Agency:  
Department of Transportation (DOT)



## Background

If MARAD approves the SPOT project:

- Enterprise will install 47 miles of 36” pipeline through coastal communities and out through gulf waters to an offshore platform.
- Very large crude carriers (VLCC) will be able to load as much as 2 million barrels of oil every day.



## WHY SUBMIT PUBLIC COMMENTS?

- Public comments are an opportunity for you to voice your concerns about the impacts of oil infrastructure in your community and environment.



Be unique, fact-based, and brief.

Form letters are not as effective.

As a community member, your ability to share information that is unique to your area and your knowledge of your community's interests is your greatest strength when writing a public comment.

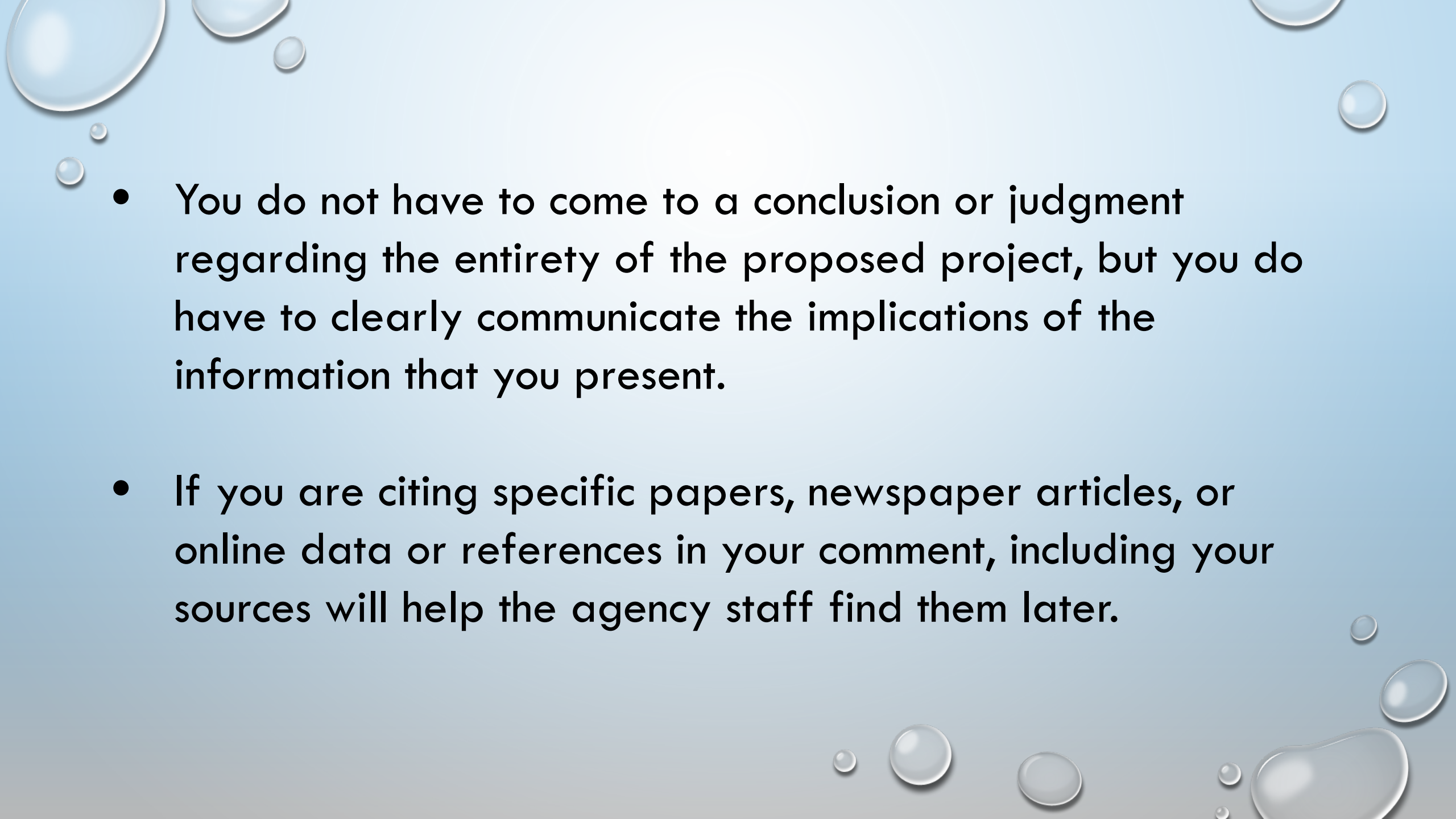


# General Guidelines

- Your comment can report on local information or knowledge of potential impacts of the project, scientific evidence, or other data that opposes or supports the purpose behind the proposed project.
- Include a heading that states the Name of the Project and the Docket Id Number (MARAD 2019-0011).



- Use an opening sentence to establish your credibility. State who you are and summarize any of your experiences that are relevant to the topic of the proposed project.
- Use the next few sentences to succinctly summarize the data or information that you have provided.

- 
- You do not have to come to a conclusion or judgment regarding the entirety of the proposed project, but you do have to clearly communicate the implications of the information that you present.
  - If you are citing specific papers, newspaper articles, or online data or references in your comment, including your sources will help the agency staff find them later.

# HOT TOPICS

- Revegetation
- Global spread of microorganisms
- Water Pollution
  - Oil Spill
  - Gulf ocean ecosystem being destroyed
  - Local drinking water prone to contamination
- Air pollution
  - Greenhouse gasses
  - Climate Change



**TAKE ACTION**

Biologicaldiversity.org



## HOT TOPICS CONT.



- Endangered species
  - Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtles
  - Reddish Egret
  - Piping Plover
  - Migratory birds
  - Noise exposure to wildlife
- Sacred Native Locations near pipeline
- Impact on families in the area
  - Sore sight
  - Erosion and damage to landscape (beaches and wetlands)
- Effects on property value
  - Views of rigs are a nuisance

## COMMENT EXAMPLES



“Please quit placing environmentally harmful structures and businesses in an[d] around Surfside, Texas!! You would not like to look or live next to such spaces, and we don't either. It drops the value of our homes, displaced and/or kills wildlife. Please consider placing your harmful pipeline in a[n] unpopulated area.....unpopulated of humans and wildlife. You continue to destroy our area, for instance LNG, complete eye sore, displaced thousands of birds, and now you want to do the same to our Turtle population, have a heart and quit [worrying] about lining you[r] pockets!!”

**- LISA ZAPOLI**

I am a resident of Surfside and opposed to this project. The pipeline presents a surface spill risk to a natural area and an underground breach risks contaminating the aquifers that freshwater is drawn from for freshwater supply. There will be noise pollution. I kayak fish in that little alcove where the pipeline comes ashore on Follett's Island. Guess I'll just have to listen to a buzzing pipeline. I cannot see where any consideration was given to an alternative route crossing Follett's Island. There are numerous houses on both sides of the tract that will be impacted. Meanwhile I have not seen any consideration of crossing about another 1/4 mile to east or going completely outside Surfside Village limits.

I expect this development will have nothing but a negative impact on this beach resort community. It will negatively impact property values, tourism revenues and our tax base. Between Port of Freeport expansions, the FLNG facility and now this pipeline, I guess you'd prefer we all sell out and preferably as cheaply as possible.  
I say no.

**-Gene Schwall**



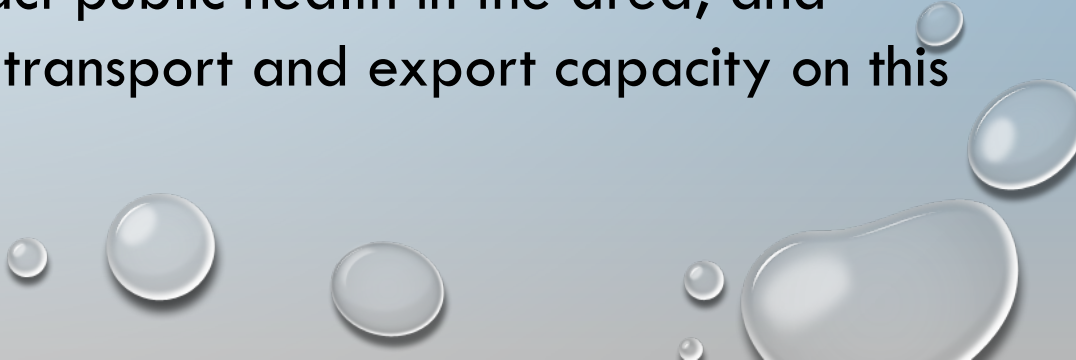
“Dear MARAD Officials,

I am writing to urge you to oppose the proposed Sea Port Oil Terminal.

As you know, the Surfside City Council voted unanimously to reject the project; and various experts in public health and environmental advocacy organizations have spoken out about the dangers it could pose.

The risk of spills/leaks contaminating the local drinking water supply and/or Gulf ocean ecosystems are a major concern; as is the risk to property values in the area.

An increase in air pollution could negatively impact public health in the area; and perhaps most disturbing of all - expansion of oil transport and export capacity on this level should not be occurring in 2020.





## Comment Continued

Current atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases and trends of emissions being what they are; we must take advantage of the short window for action that remains. Major projects of fossil fuel expansion such as this unconscionable.

This is a time for rapid development of renewable energy and energy efficiency capacity - we do not need to incentivize increased extraction in the Permian Basin for export.

Please oppose the Sea Port Oil Terminal. Thank you for your time.”

**–Alejandro de la Torre**



“Save our waters ..our enviro[n]ment...NOW..NO CRUDE EXPORTS..NO PIPELINES..  
EARTH IS TALKING TO US RIGHT NOW..CAN YOU HEAR HER..IF NOT..THEN WHAT  
WILL IT TAKE?...For you to hear her.....TOTAL ANNIHILATION OF THE HUMAN BEINGS  
AND CREATURES??

We as the Carrizo Comecrudo tribe ..Estok Gna Somi Se'k... HAVE inherit rights to be  
considered in all decisions of these consequent decisions to the Land ..federal land is  
being imposed upon by corporate Amerikkka...you do NOT own the land..the ....Land  
owns the People. As Originals of this land we are named to care for it..we will not stand  
quietly and watch the destruction.”

– Julia B

# HOW TO SUBMIT COMMENTS

*LETTER: REFERENCE THE PROPOSED PROJECT AND DOCKET NUMBER (MARAD 2019-2011)*

**RE: MARAD-2019-0011; SPOT TECHNICAL SERVICES, LLC DEEPWATER PORT LICENSE APPLICATION**

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,**

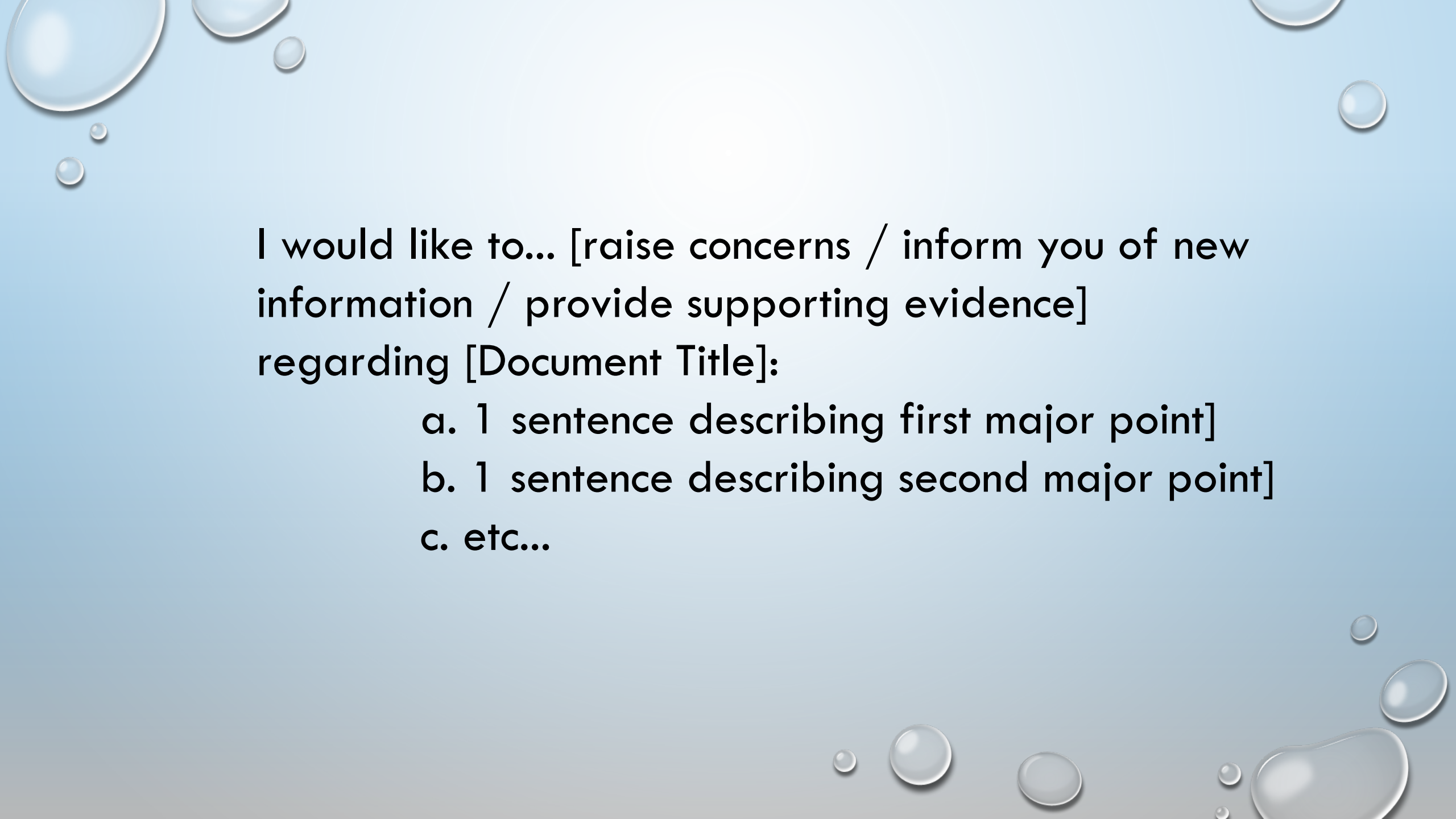
*START WITH AN INTRODUCTION:*

*INTRODUCE YOURSELF AND YOUR CREDENTIALS, RESIDENCE, OR OTHER EXPERIENCE, AS THEY RELATE TO THE COMMENT YOU ARE WRITING.*

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Deepwater Port License Application for SPOT Technical Services, LLC.



My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am from [your city], Texas. I believe that the proposed SPOT Terminal and associated oil pipelines and offshore export infrastructure will impact my community and our environment in the following ways:



I would like to... [raise concerns / inform you of new information / provide supporting evidence]  
regarding [Document Title]:

- a. 1 sentence describing first major point]
- b. 1 sentence describing second major point]
- c. etc...

## *MAKE IT PERSONAL*

- Use your comments to add a human face to this project. Your story matters. The lease for this project is 30 years.
- Express your personal concerns about how the proposed SPOT Export Terminal impacts your community, waterways, recreation opportunities, or the health risks to you and your family/friends from oil spills.



## *INCLUDING DATA AND REFERENCING EVIDENCE*



- Pick one or two statistics to frame your personal comments.
- Don't worry about highly technical information.

- You can include attachments to your comments, including pictures, news stories or reference articles.
- List your sources, online references, or other data so that the agency can locate them.





## Recent Articles of Interest

[COVID-19 causes major delay in volunteer sea turtle patrols on Texas beaches](#)

[COVID-19 is Buying Time for Gulf Coast Towns Fighting Oil and Gas Projects](#)

[Report: Wildlife Impacts Persist a Decade after Deepwater Horizon](#)

## INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION

- Be sure your comments include some form of contact information, but remember, it will become a public document available online.

**Sincerely,**

**[Name]**



## OTHER TIPS

- [HTTPS://WWW.REGULATIONS.GOV/DOCS/TIPS\\_FOR\\_SUBMITTING\\_EFFECTIVE\\_COMMENTS.PDF](https://www.regulations.gov/docs/tips_for_submitting_effective_comments.pdf)

The logo for regulations.gov features the text "regulations.gov" in a dark blue, sans-serif font. Above the "s" in "gov" is a stylized blue wave graphic that ends in a five-pointed star.

**TIPS FOR SUBMITTING EFFECTIVE COMMENTS\***

# HOW TO FILE YOUR COMMENTS

[HTTP://WWW.REGULATIONS.GOV](http://www.regulations.gov)



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**Make a difference. Submit your comments and let your voice be heard.**

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MARAD-2019-0011

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### What's Trending

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Closing on Apr 22, 2020

### Comments Due Soon

Today (24)

Next 3 Days (55)

Next 7 Days (141)

Next 15 Days (295)

Next 30 Days (622)

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## SPOT Terminal Services Deepwater Port License Application

Agency: Maritime Administration (MARAD)

Summary: SPOT Terminal Services Deepwater Port License Application

[Spot Deepwater Port License Application](#)

Comment Period Closed

[Open Docket Folder](#)

Other by **MARAD** on 04/11/2019 ID: MARAD-2019-0011-0015

[SPOT - Letter from Comanche Nation \(Identification of prehistoric or historic archeological materials\) - 6-5-19](#)

Comment Period Closed

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# SEARCH FOR NOTICE OF APPLICATION



## Deepwater Port License Application: SPOT Terminal Services, LLC

[Comment Now!](#)

- Document Contents : ...Doc No: 2019-03803] ----- DEPARTMENT  
OF TRANSPORTATION Maritime Administration [Docket No. **MARAD-2019-0011**] Deepwater Port License  
Application: SPOT Terminal Services LLC (SPOT). AGENCY: Maritime...

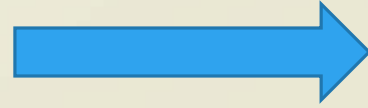
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Notice by **MARAD** on 03/04/2019

ID: MARAD-2019-0011-0002

Letter from FDA: Applicability of 40 CFR 8.62 Subpart Y for Marine Tank Vessel Loading Comment Period Closed

# CLICK ON COMMENT NOW!



MARAD 2019-0011



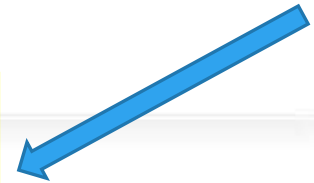
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## You are commenting on:

The **Maritime Administration (MARAD)** Notice: **Deepwater Port License Application: SPOT Terminal Services, LLC**

For related information, [Open Docket Folder](#)



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Upload file(s) (Optional) 

Choose files

Drop files here

First Name 

Last Name 

I want to provide my contact information

I am submitting on behalf of a third party

Category

Select a Category... 

- **UPLOAD FILES**
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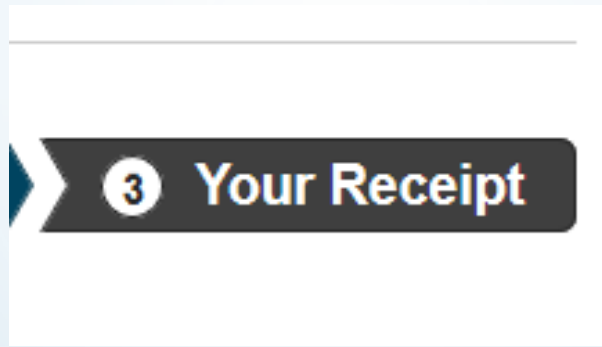
All information will be displayed on Regulations.gov

You are filing a document into an official docket. Any personal information included in your comment and/or uploaded attachment(s) may be publicly viewable on the web.

I read and understand the statement above.

Edit

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Keep a copy of your comment in a separate file.

This practice helps ensure that you will not lose your comment if you have a problem submitting it using the Regulations.gov web form.

You will receive a receipt once comments are submitted.

- EMAIL AGENCY CONTACTS FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE PROJECT OR TO SUBMIT NON-ELECTRONICALLY:
- WILLIAM A. NABACH, [WILLIAM.A.NABACH@USCG.MIL](mailto:WILLIAM.A.NABACH@USCG.MIL)
- YVETTE FIELDS, [YVETTE.FIELDS@DOT.COM](mailto:YVETTE.FIELDS@DOT.COM)



## QUESTION & ANSWER

- This webinar will be recorded and available for distribution.
- We will also share a PDF copy of this presentation, just email [adinn@lonestarlegal.org](mailto:adinn@lonestarlegal.org).
- We can also send you a link to the webinar recording.
- Additional background information/ facts to support public comments:  
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1576DGqa8VeHyZgzQDS2djlwuHNomcGEZ2kSI23jSe8M/edit?invite=COLI4MwF&ts=5e961e85>

## ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Request an official public meeting to discuss the project to allow public to express concerns
- Ask agency to consider impacts of COVID-19 orders on public participation/ engagement process