



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

30 April 2015

Ms. Jolie Harrison, Chief
Permits and Conservation Division
Office of Protected Resources
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3225

Dear Ms. Harrison:

The Marine Mammal Commission (the Commission) has reviewed the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) 13 April 2015 notice (80 Fed. Reg. 19639) announcing receipt of a joint request from Deepwater Wind Block Island Transmission, LLC (DWBIT) and the Narragansett Electric Company (TNEC), to transfer from DWBIT to TNEC an authorization issued under section 101(a)(5)(D) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act to take small numbers of marine mammals by harassment incidental to construction of the Block Island Transmission System (BITS).

The proposed authorization would involve a change in name from DWBIT to TNEC; no other changes are proposed. TNEC has agreed to comply with the terms, conditions, stipulations, and restrictions of the original authorization as issued to DWBIT on 28 August 2014 (79 Fed. Reg. 51314). As such, the Commission concurs with NMFS's proposed transfer of the BITS incidental harassment authorization from DWBIT to TNEC, subject to TNEC compliance with the original authorization.

Please let me know if you have questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rebecca J. Lent".

Rebecca J. Lent, Ph.D.
Executive Director