

Subpart G—Environmental Review Criteria for Deepwater Ports

§ 148.700 How does the Deepwater Port Act interact with other Federal and State laws?

Nothing in this subpart supersedes any Federal, tribal, or State requirements for the protection of the environment. The applicant must prepare and submit applications to each respective agency that requires a permit or license to operate the port. A list of Federal and State agencies that require certification includes but is not limited to the Environmental Protection Agency (for clean air and clean water permits), the Research and Special Programs Administration (Office of Pipeline Safety) or the Mineral Management Service (or both) for pipeline approvals, and the appropriate state environmental agency.

§ 148.702 How were the environmental review criteria developed?

Under 33 U.S.C. 1505, the Commandant (G–M) must establish environmental review criteria for use in evaluating a proposed deepwater port. In developing these criteria, the Coast Guard considered the requirements for compliance with Federal and state mandates for the protection of the environment contained in, but not limited to, such guidance as published by:

- (a) The Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR parts 1500–1508);
- (b) Department of Transportation (DOT) Order 5610.10C (Procedures for Considering Environmental Impacts); and
- (c) U.S. Coast Guard Instruction M16475.1D (National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures and Policy for Considering Environmental Impacts).

§ 148.705 What is determined by the environmental evaluation?

(a) The environmental criteria to be used in evaluating a license application are established by general consensus of expertise, scientific opinion, public interest, and institutional requirements, such as laws and regulations established for the protection of the environment. Criteria that may be established in future environmental regula-

tions or other requirements to protect the environment will also be used.

(b) The environmental criteria to be used in evaluating a license application are applied to all relevant aspects of:

- (1) The fabrication, construction, operation, and decommissioning phases of a deepwater port;
- (2) The operations of the vessels that serve the port;
- (3) The port's servicing and support activities;
- (4) Shore based construction and fabrication sites;
- (5) Shore side supporting facilities (if appropriate) for the proposed location; and
- (6) The No Action alternative and other reasonable alternatives.

(c) The criteria are also applied in a manner that takes into account the cumulative effects of other reasonably foreseeable actions as outlined in § 148.708.

§ 148.707 What type of criteria will be used in an environmental review and how will they be applied?

The license application will be reviewed for the deepwater port's effects on the environment and for the environment's effects on the port and any of its shore side support facilities. The environmental evaluation will be applied to the phases of construction, operation, and decommissioning of the proposed location and at least one alternative site. The evaluation will determine:

(a) The effect on the environment including but not limited to impacts on endangered species; essential fish habitat; marine sanctuaries; archaeological, cultural and historic sites; water; air; coastal zone management; coastal barrier resources; wetlands; and floodplains;

(b) The effect on oceanographic currents and wave patterns;

(c) The potential risks to a deepwater port from waves, winds, weather, and geological conditions and the steps that can be taken to protect against or minimize these dangers; and

(d) The effect on human health and welfare, including socioeconomic impacts, environmental justice and protection of children from environmental health and safety risks.