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Findlay, OH 45840-3295  
Telephone 419/422-2121

January 31, 1997



Mr. Roland Guidry  
Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator  
Office of the Governor  
1885 Wooddale Blvd., 12th Floor  
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

**RE: Response to Notice of Intent to Conduct Restoration Planning, Louisiana Register, Vol. 22, No. 11, November 20, 1996**

Dear Roland:

The Marathon Pipe Line Company (Marathon) is hereby submitting written confirmation of its acceptance of the invitation offered by the Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator to participate in restoration planning in connection with the Marathon Pipe Line Company pipeline release of unleaded gasoline discovered on May 24, 1996.

As you are aware, the trustees, including representatives from LOSCO, LDWF, LDNR, LDEQ, and USFWS, approached Marathon on May 26, 1996 with an offer to conduct cooperative sampling during the oil spill response and to enter into a full cooperative NRDA following the response, all in accordance with La. R.S. 30:2480 (C)(8)(a)(iii). Marathon gratefully accepted both invitations on the following day and the initial terms and conditions of these cooperative ventures were worked out verbally at a meeting at the St. James Boat Club.

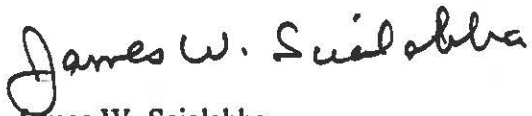
Even though formal written agreements were never completed, Marathon, in good faith and reliance on representation of the Trustee representatives, provided the Trustees with all validated field data collected for the purpose of the injury assessment. And, pursuant to the oral cooperative agreement, the Trustees' representatives were present or actually participated in the gathering of much of this data. Also, the actions of the Trustees, following the conclusion of response activities, have been consistent with the oral cooperative NRDA agreement. For example, the Trustees have directed contractors funded by Marathon (C-K and Terra) in the implementation of injury assessment studies designed by the Trustees, have negotiated the terms of cooperative sampling and analysis plans with Marathon, and have participated in a variety of joint field assessments.

Marathon is committed to concluding this NRDA cooperatively. We feel that this assessment will serve as a precedent in future accidental release situations for prompt, cooperative, and

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accurate assessment procedures which can only benefit the State of Louisiana and its natural resources.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "James W. Scialabba". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" and last name "Scialabba" clearly legible.

James W. Scialabba

JWS/nsw

cc: Marion Boulden  
William C. Beauchamp  
John P. Connor  
Gus Stacy III  
Andrew Wilson