



RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF LEWES IN OPPOSITION TO SEISMIC TESTING ALONG THE ATLANTIC COAST, NEAR THE DELAWARE BAY

WHEREAS, the City of Lewes and its citizens are deeply concerned about the U.S. Department of the Interior's plans to allow geological and geophysical surveys, including seismic testing, off the coast of Delaware and elsewhere in the Mid-Atlantic coastal region, and

WHEREAS, these activities are the precursors to actual oil and natural gas exploration, including drilling, and

WHEREAS, one need look no further than the disastrous BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico and countless other, less spectacular catastrophes to understand the danger posed to the beaches and marine life of the Atlantic Ocean and the Delaware Bay, both of which border the City of Lewes, by drilling and oil and natural gas production activities, and

WHEREAS, seismic testing also is potentially devastating to our coastal area's fish and marine life and that of the Mid-Atlantic coast region as the sounds emitted during testing are two (2) times louder than that of a jet engine which could prove to be devastating to marine animals who use sound as their primary means of finding food, navigating and staying connected to their groups and offspring, and

WHEREAS, the continued viability and health of the Mid-Atlantic ocean and coastal region, including the City of Lewes, require that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) continue its policy in the current 2012-2017 Five-Year Program **not to allow** lease sales in the Atlantic Ocean for oil and gas exploration and development, and

WHEREAS, the facts underlying BOEM's current policy are unchanged except that climate change and ocean acidification now are affecting the Atlantic environment and ecosystem, and sea level change and extreme weather events, exacerbated by warmer air and ocean temperatures, now threaten coastal communities, like the City of Lewes, which already experiences periodic flooding. The massive destruction caused by Hurricane Sandy – which barely missed directly hitting the City of Lewes -- demonstrates the fragility of the Mid-Atlantic coastal region, and

WHEREAS, neither our workers and businesses of, nor our hundreds of thousands of recreational visitors to, the City of Lewes should have to face the threat of an oil spill or the widespread industrial development that would be necessary for developing an oil and gas industry in the Atlantic Ocean and particularly off the shores of the Mid-Atlantic region.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Mayor and City Council of the City of Lewes oppose the Five-Year Program allowing oil and natural gas exploration activities, including seismic testing, along the Atlantic Ocean coast and near the Delaware Bay.

Theodore W. Becker, Mayor

Fred Beaufait, Deputy Mayor

Bonnie Osler, Councilperson

Dennis Reardon, Councilperson

Rob Morgan, Councilperson

November 9, 2015

Date