



Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council  
New Orleans, LA 70130

December 4, 2023

Mr. Christopher M. Blankenship  
Commissioner  
Alabama Department of Conservation  
and Natural Resources  
64 North Union Street, Suite 468  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130

Dear Mr. Blankenship:

As the chairperson of the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council, I am pleased to approve the Alabama State Expenditure Plan 2023 Amendment submitted pursuant to the Spill Impact Component of the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2012 (33 U.S.C. §1321(t) and note).

This approval is based on the finding from the council's executive director, Mary S. Walker, that the Amendment is complete and meets all requirements set forth in the RESTORE Act, the U.S. Department of the Treasury's implementing regulations (31 C.F.R. Part 34) and the council's SEP guidelines.

The council is committed to ensuring an efficient and effective process for funding the activities in the Alabama SEP as amended. Approval and disbursement of funding for specific activities in the SEP will be done through the grant process and federal standards established in 2 C.F.R. Part 200. Please note that funds for implementation activities in the Alabama SEP will be disbursed after grant approval and Alabama's verification of compliance with all applicable federal environmental and other laws. Augmenting the funding of SEP activities that currently have an approved grant will require amendment of the respective grant. Council staff are available to assist you with the grant process to help ensure that it proceeds as expeditiously as possible.

On behalf of the council, I applaud Alabama for developing a SEP amendment that addresses cost increases for approved SEP projects. Our collective efforts under the RESTORE Act will help to ensure the long-term health and resilience of the Gulf Coast ecosystem.

Sincerely,

Janet G. McCabe  
Chairperson  
Deputy Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency