**Louisiana Offshore Terminal Authority**

The Louisiana Offshore Terminal Authority, known as LOTA, was created by R.S. 34:3101 et seq. The legislature vested LOTA with the power to license and regulate the construction and operation of offshore terminal facilities. It further empowered the Authority to "take all necessary steps to protect Louisiana's unique coastal environment from any short-term or long-term damage or harm which might occur" from any such development. The current duties of LOTA include monitoring, promoting, licensing and regulating the Louisiana Offshore Oil Port (LOOP).

All funding for LOTA's budget is self-generated, with all administrative and environmental costs incurred by the agency reimbursed quarterly by LOOP. Aside from monitoring, licensing and regulating, various other duties are performed by LOTA, all dealing with the operations of LOOP's facilities.

LOTA's key function is the monitoring of not only LOOP's activities, but also any impacts those activities may have on the environment. An environmental consulting firm is contracted to perform scheduled surveys and monitoring relating to the operation of LOOP's pipelines and associated facilities. The contract currently includes a land loss and habitat change survey, a beach vegetation survey and a beach elevation survey. The contract also contains a provision for monitoring and analysis after catastrophic events (oil spill, hurricane, etc.…). The surveys provide environmental information relative to LOOP's pipelines, its pumping station and the platform facility. The main purpose of this monitoring is to ensure LOOP's operations are not disturbing wildlife or the surrounding habitat.

The Executive Director of LOTA acts as chairman of the Program Review Committee (PRC). In addition to LOTA's Executive Director, the PRC's membership includes representatives from LOOP, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Louisiana Transportation Research Center, a representative for the United States Coast Guard Captain of the Port of Morgan City and a representative from a Louisiana university. The PRC meets a minimum of annually, or as required based on ongoing environmental monitoring activity. The PRC serves as an advisory group, and in that capacity may make recommendations concerning the environmental monitoring program based upon information received from the monitoring contractor

LOOP is required to submit monthly activity reports to LOTA, which contain general information regarding its operations. Sections of this report are confidential for state and national security purposes.

All powers, functions and duties of LOTA are performed solely by LOTA and are not duplicated by any other statutory entity.