



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
The Secretary of Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20230

November 16, 2015

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murkowski:

Thank you for your letter regarding exchanges of crude oil with Mexico. As you know, the Department of Commerce's Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) is responsible for administering the statutory controls on exports of crude oil.

In your letter, you request information on whether BIS has authorized any exchanges of U.S. origin crude oil for Mexican crude oil. In August 2015, BIS announced that it would act favorably on a small number of applications to conduct such exchanges, which are permitted under certain conditions by current regulations. BIS issued a license to one of these applicants on October 22, 2015, after delaying issuance of the license at the applicant's request. As has been publicly recorded, in accordance with the conditions of the license, Mexican crude oil of an equal quantity to that exported will be imported into the United States. The entire transaction—both the export and correlated import—must be completed within the one year validity period of the license.

As yet, the remaining applicants have not indicated their acceptance of the license conditions or submitted the requisite documentation. Once the required information is received, BIS will finalize the licenses.

Thank you for your continued interest. If you have any further questions, please have your staff contact Jim Stowers, Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 482-3663.

Sincerely,

Penny Pritzker