



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H36(2256)

DEC 11 2009

The Honorable George S. LeMieux  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator LeMieux:

Thank you for your letter of October 15, 2009, to Deputy Secretary of the Interior David Hayes, supporting the application of St. Anthony's Society for the Preservation of Sacred Music and Art for a Federal Save America's Treasures grant to preserve its historic E.M. Skinner Opus 819 pipe organ. I have been asked to reply.

The National Park Service (NPS) administers these grants in collaboration with the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Institute for Museum and Library Services. The application deadline for the 2009 Save America's Treasures grants was May 22, 2009. NPS received this proposal before the application deadline. Grants will be announced by the end of the year. A national selection panel, which is comprised of senior staff with expertise in the appropriate disciplines and representing noncompeting Federal agencies, evaluates applications and makes recommendations for funding to the Secretary of the Interior. By law, the Secretary must consult with the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations prior to the commitment of grant funds.

Thank you for your interest in the Save America's Treasures grant program.

Sincerely,

Janet Snyder Matthews, Ph.D.  
Associate Director, Cultural Resources

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0907

May 26, 2010

The Honorable Ken Salazar  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar:

The ongoing oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico and the inability of British Petroleum (BP) and the Unified Command to effectively and expediently shut off the leak at the source and contain the oil is threatening Florida's economy, the environment and ecosystems it depends on and the jobs of an untold number of Floridians. Potentially more distressing, is the possibility that this calamity could have been avoided altogether had proper oversight of the permitting and regulatory process been exercised by the Minerals Management Service (MMS) under the Department of the Interior (DOI).

This possibility is raised with the contents of the recently released DOI Inspector General Investigative Report, *Island Operating Company et al.* Specifically, the report suggests that three types of conflict of interest existed at MMS: conflicts of interest between MMS officials and the private sector they were charged with providing oversight, improper gifts being accepted by MMS officials from the private sector, and the intimacy of the relationships between MMS employees and employees from the oil industry.

While the inappropriate behavior and relationships described in this report predate your tenure as DOI Secretary, the culture of corruption and malfeasance must have been apparent at some point over the past 18 months. In light of the contents of this report, I would ask that you answer the below questions and provide any requested documents as soon as possible.

1. Do you agree that there is a conflict of interest problem in the MMS inspection regime? Why or why not? Can you give examples for your response?
2. Please explain any steps that have been taken to ensure that conflicts of interest are eliminated in the MMS inspection protocol.
3. How do you plan to address the inherent conflict of interest within the current MMS inspection regime and those MMS employees in employment negotiations with oil producers while "still performing inspections of platforms operated by the company?" (Report pg. 2) (One MMS employee claimed that "almost all of our inspectors have worked for oil companies out on these same platforms." Report pg. 3)
4. How do you plan to address the inherent conflict of interest within the current MMS inspection regime caused by the intimate relationships between inspectors and those they regulate? (One MMS

employee stated the employees of the oil companies and those of MMS "grew up in the same towns. Some of these people, they've been friends all their life. They've been with these people since they were kids." Report pg. 3)

5. How do you plan to address the inherent conflict of interest within the current MMS inspection regime caused by gifts and gratuities given to them by oil companies?

A) What steps have been taken to resolve the acceptance/solicitation of improper gifts from oil companies?

B) What steps have been taken to ensure that MMS employees will report all gifts or reimbursements for oil companies on their annual financial report? Should the acceptance of gifts be allowed to continue?

6. How do you plan to address reports of MMS employees soliciting and accepting jobs in the very industry they are charged with providing oversight?

A) What, if any, procedures are in place to ensure that there is not a revolving door of employment between oil producers and MMS? For example, is there a waiting period to prevent conflicts of interest? How long is the waiting period?

B) If no procedures are in place then, why not? If there are procedures in place, then how will they be enforced?

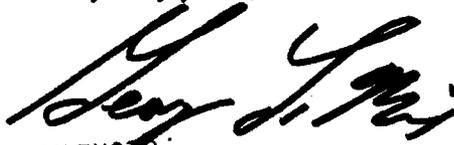
7. Please explain how other issues found by the Inspector General will be resolved. For example:

A) The Inspector General's report suggests that MMS employees may have engaged in illicit drug use while on the job. What steps have been taken to ensure that MMS tests their employees for the use of drugs?

B) What steps have been taken to ensure that employees are not using their government computers or email accounts for inappropriate purposes or to seek employment with non-governmental entities?

I look forward to your prompt and thorough response. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly should have any questions or require any clarifications.

Very truly yours,



George S. LeMieux  
United States Senator

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# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT, REGULATION, AND ENFORCEMENT

Washington, DC 20240

Honorable George S. LeMieux  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

OCT 28 2010

Dear Senator LeMieux:

Thank you for your letter dated May 26, 2010, to Interior Secretary Salazar, regarding reported conflicts of interest between Agency officials at the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE) (formerly the Minerals Management Service) and the private sector. As the Director of BOEMRE, I have been asked to respond on his behalf.

On July 14, 2010, Secretary Salazar initiated an implementation plan for restructuring the Department's offshore energy regulatory responsibilities and how the Agency conducts business, including moving to divide BOEMRE's three separate and conflicting missions into three separate entities. The reform and reorganization is based on the premise that the missions formerly carried out by BOEMRE need to be clearly defined and distinct from each other. The plan, assembled at the Secretary's request by Assistant Secretary for Policy Management and Budget, Rhea S. Suh, and Senior Advisor, Chris Henderson, with the review and input of BOEMRE, details a transition that began as early as October 1, 2010, and to be completed in 2011. The missions and roles of the new organizations are as follows:

**Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR)** will help ensure that every dollar due to the public (which owns the resources), is received, accounted for, and appropriately distributed. The means of collecting royalties, rents, and fees must be transparent and robust. The new office will report to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Natural Resources Revenue Management and Oversight within the Assistant Secretary of Policy, Management and Budget.

**Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)** will function as the resource manager for conventional and renewable energy on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). The BOEM will be the primary contact for the public (including coastal states) interested in energy uses of the Federal offshore estate, amounting to some 1.7 billion acres. The BOEM will be headed by a Director under the supervision of the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management.

**Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)** will possess independent regulation, oversight, and enforcement powers. BSEE will develop and enforce policy, rules, and regulations related to safe and environmentally sound development of OCS energy resources. Programs will include necessary engineering and safety reviews, inspecting operations for compliance, approving spill response plans, and overseeing NEPA activities. The BSEE will be headed by a Director under the supervision of the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management.

The reforms at BOEMRE will not be window dressing. We have a mandate to be far more aggressive in regulating the oil industry and far more forceful in applying sanctions when companies do not follow the rules. I take that mandate seriously, and I have been promised the resources necessary to accomplish this change. I plan to use those additional tools and resources to improve our regulatory and enforcement programs, and to enhance our capacity for exercising all of our important responsibilities in managing the OCS and revenues from Federal and Indian leases.

To assist in expediting the oversight, enforcement, and reorganization and to address issues of inappropriate behavior and relationships, misconduct and unethical behavior, I established an Investigations and Review Unit (IRU) within BOEMRE on June 22, 2010. The missions of the IRU, which will report directly to me are:

1. To promptly and credibly respond to allegations or evidence of misconduct and unethical behavior by BOEMRE employees as well as by industry.
2. Coordinate BOEMRE's regulatory oversight and enforcement systems and programs.
3. Assure BOEMRE's ability to respond swiftly to emerging issues and crises, including significant incidents such as spills and accidents. As appropriate, the IRU's functions and capabilities will continue in the new organizations.

The investigations and rapid response functions of the IRU are designed to complement, not replace, the work of the Office of Inspector General (OIG), and will provide us internally with capabilities that I strongly believe are important in the functioning of successful agencies and institutions.

In response to the OIG's investigative report, *Island Operating Company, et al*, I have taken several actions to address conflicts of interest. These actions include a 2-year prohibition on performing official duties pertaining to a former employer, instituting a new recusal policy, developing a robust oversight system based on follow-up inspections, and situational ethics training to promote compliance with new ethics rules that I put in place. Together all of these actions will help to ensure proper stewardship of the OCS program. If you have further questions, please contact me at (202) 208-3500 or Ms. Lyn Herdt, Chief, BOEMRE, Office of Congressional Affairs, at (202) 208-3502.

Sincerely,



Michael R. Bromwich  
Director



**Office of Senator George LeMieux**  
8669 NW 36<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 110  
Doral, Florida 33166  
Phone: (305) 418-8553  
Fax: (305) 594-4014

**To:** Christopher Mansour,  
Director of Congressional and  
Legislative Affairs  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
**From:** Hiram L. Barroso

**Fax:** (202) 208-5533

**Pages:** 2 (Including cover)

**Phone:**  
non-responsive

**Date:** Tuesday, October 12, 2010

**Re:**

**cc:**

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● **Comments:**

I hope this fax finds you all doing well.

Enclosed you will find an inquiry from Senator LeMieux. Your assistance with this inquiry is greatly appreciated. If you need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

Hiram L. Barroso  
[Hiram\\_Barroso@LeMieux.senate.gov](mailto:Hiram_Barroso@LeMieux.senate.gov)

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September 3, 2010

The Honorable United States Senator George LeMieux  
356 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

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Dear Senator LeMieux

On August 10 I visited the Arch in St. Louis, Missouri.  
During the entrance search the authorities confiscated a small 2-inch knife which I had on my keychain, saying it was illegal in the state of Missouri. I am 77 years old, and inherited the keepsake heirloom knife from my dead brother who served in world war II. I feel that it was unjustly taken from me and respectfully request that you do anything you can to help me recover it. I used it mostly to open products which I buy that are sealed in plastic and that is about the only way to open them.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,  
non-responsive

cc: Senator Christopher Bond  
Senator Claire McCaskill  
Senator Bill Nelson

non-responsive



# United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

Midwest Region  
601 Riverfront Drive  
Omaha, Nebraska 68102-4226



10 NOV 2010

A3615(MWR-PCL/PAL)  
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Dear <sup>non-responsive</sup>

Thank you for your concerns regarding security checkpoint procedures at the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial in St. Louis, Missouri. As the Regional Director for the Midwest Region, I am responding to your letter because the Memorial is one of my areas of responsibility. We understand that during the screening process to enter the visitor center you had a pocket knife confiscated because it was considered illegal in the state of Missouri. Unfortunately, because items left at the checkpoints are considered abandoned property, we do not have your knife.

The park security staff screens all visitors for weapons and prohibited items, including some knives. Visitors are asked to either secure the item in their vehicle or dispose of the item at the checkpoint before entering the building. Since you state that your knife was two inches long it would appear to be within the legal limit and you should not have been asked to dispose of it.

While our employees receive training regularly to refresh their understanding of the articles prevented from entering the Federal facility, it is an unfortunate possibility that an error could have been made in determining the legality of the knife you describe. We have since reviewed with our staff the State of Missouri laws related to knives in order to prevent future occurrences of this type. We are also reviewing our procedures for handling property which has not been declared as evidence to identify deficiencies and further improve upon our accountability.

We apologize for the inconvenience and heartache this experience has caused you.

Sincerely,

for Ernest Quintana  
Regional Director

cc:  
The Honorable George LeMieux  
United States Senate  
Attn: Hiram L. Barroso  
8669 NW 36th Street, Suite 110  
Doral, Florida 33166

TAKE PRIDE  
IN AMERICA 