105422

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 1, 2011

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

In light of continuing instability in the Middle East and in North Africa, we write today to urge your Administration's immediate action to ensure America's energy security by expediting the permitting process for safe offshore energy exploration and development without further delay.

The ongoing unrest and rising volatility throughout the Middle East underscores the urgency to put our country on a path toward energy independence. U.S. oil prices recently jumped above the $100 per barrel mark for the first time since 2008, and as prices continue to rise, American families and businesses are already feeling the impact in their pocketbooks and at the pump. Our country is home to vast energy resources, and your Administration has forced American exploration and drilling to a halt in the most critical region of the U.S. that provides our domestic energy supplies.

The Gulf of Mexico produces nearly one-third of our domestically produced oil, and offshore natural gas production in the Gulf accounts for 13 percent of total U.S. production. While your Administration's official moratoria on drilling permits were lifted on May 28, 2010 and October 12, 2010 for shallow and deepwater drilling permits respectively, a de facto moratorium ("permitorium") still exists and must be lifted without delay. The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) has issued only one deepwater drilling permit and only 32 permits for new shallow water wells since the official moratoria were lifted, which is far below the 10 permits per week that were averaged before the Macondo well spill.

Not only is American energy security at risk, so too are thousands of American jobs. In addition, these policies by your Administration are a contributing factor to the increase we're seeing in gasoline prices at the pump. As a result of the uncertainty by the federal government, seven floating rigs and five jackup rigs have departed the Gulf of Mexico since the Macondo spill. There are currently an additional four rigs that are considering leaving the Gulf of Mexico. With one rig equaling 500 jobs (100 workers on the rig, plus 400 workers supporting drilling operations onshore), thousands of jobs across the Gulf Coast both upstream and downstream remain at risk. This industry in the Gulf of Mexico comprises not only oil and gas companies, but also a network of suppliers and contractors that purchase goods as diverse as forgings, valves, computers, chemicals and helicopters from suppliers in all 50 states.

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As the executive in chief, you have the ability, and more importantly the duty, to direct your Administration to act in a manner that protects our national energy security and American jobs and ensures that we do not remain hostage to the political tensions of Middle Eastern nations. We respectfully ask that you direct DOI and BOEM to remove the barriers to the safe exploration and production of our domestic energy resources that are vital to all Americans and to our energy security by bringing immediate and very concrete clarity for offshore permitting and require DOI and BOEM to immediately hasten the approval of permits for safe offshore drilling.

There is no time more urgent than now to require this action. We need to safely and responsibly produce our domestic resources offshore in order to reduce this reliance on Middle Eastern imports and in turn, increase our economic growth. The Gulf of Mexico holds the largest and most productive oil resources in the United States, and further delays to safely producing these domestic resources will severely jeopardize our energy security and leave us more dependent on the volatile Middle East for our energy supplies.

Sincerely,

NY-29

IC-19

Sam Graves

Sonny Bishop

Ken Calvert

C.W. Bill Young

Bob Goodlatte

Mike Conaway

Jeff Fortenberry

Tim Griffin

Patrick J. Tiberi

Earl Pomeroy

Sue Myrick

Marsha Blackburn

Bill Shuster

Gregg Harper

Brett Guthrie

David B. McKinley

Peter DeFazio

Tim Murphy

Rodney Alexander

Bill Crisby

Rob Woodall

John J. Duncan

J. R. Wilson

Dan Burton

David P. Roe

Jim Kolbe

Martha Roby

Geoff Davis

Mary Bono Mack

Rick McKeon

John Fleming

Jim Wallace

Lou Barletta

Michael G. Fitzpatrick

Adrian Smith

Ron Paul

co-4

Anna G. Eshoo

Patrick T. McHenry

Bob Dold

Paul C. Broun

Bill Johnson

GT Thompson

Jim Hurt Kamp

Devin Nunes

Vicky Hartzler

Steve Chabot

Peter Roskam

Jim Cansecco

Randy Neugebauer

NY-3

1. Steve Scalise (LA-01)
2. Fred Upton (MI-06)
3. Doc Hastings (WA-04)
4. Tom Reed (NY-29)
5. Ed Whitfield (KY-01)
6. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (WA-05)
7. Greg Walden (OR-02)
8. Tom Price (GA-06)
9. John Carter (TX-31)
10. Pete Sessions (TX-32)
11. Jim Jordan (OH-04)
12. John Sullivan (OK-01)
13. Jo Bonner (AL-01)
14. John Kline (MN-02)
15. Jeff Miller (FL-01)
16. John Shimkus (IL-19)
17. Tom Cole (OK-04)
18. Denny Rehberg (MT-At Large)
19. Michael Conaway (TX-11)
20. John Culberson (TX-07)
21. Bob Goodlatte (VA-06)
22. Michael Burgess (TX-26)
23. Steve Womack (AR-03)
24. Jeff Fortenberry (NE-01)
25. Nan Hayworth (NY-19)
26. Tim Griffin (AR-02)
27. Tim Scott (SC-01)
28. Patrick Tiberi (OH-12)
29. Cynthia Lummis (WY-At Large)
30. Erik Paulsen (MN-03)
31. Sue Myrick (NC-09)
32. Marsha Blackburn (TN-07)
33. Bill Shuster (PA-09)
34. Gregg Harper (MS-03)
35. Brett Guthrie (KY-02)
36. David McKinley (WV-01)
37. Pete Olson (TX-22)
38. Tim Murphy (PA-18)
39. Rodney Alexander (LA-05)
40. John Fleming (LA-04)
41. John Carter (TX-31)
42. Tim Walberg (MI-07)
43. Lou Barletta (PA-11)
44. Michael Grimm (NY-13)
45. Adrian Smith (NE-03)
46. Ron Paul (TX-14)
47. Jeff Landry (LA-03)
48. Cory Gardner (CO-04)
49. Duncan Hunter (CA-52)
50. Patrick McHenry (NC-10)
51. Steven Palazzo (MS-04)
52. Bob Gibbs (OH-18)
53. Paul Broun (GA-10)
54. Bill Johnson (OH-06)
55. Glenn Thompson (PA-05)
56. Tim Huelskamp (KS-01)
57. Devin Nunes (CA-21)
58. Vicky Hartzler (MO-04)
59. Jason Chaffetz (UT-03)
60. David Schweikert (AZ-05)
61. Adam Kinzinger (IL-11)
62. Francisco Canseco (TX-23)
63. Randy Neugebauer (TX-19)
64. Charles Boustany (LA-07)
65. Bill Cassidy (LA-06)
66. Alan Nunnelee (MS-01)
67. Richard Nugent (FL-05)
68. Rob Woodall (GA-07)
69. Steve Stivers (OH-15)
70. John Duncan (TN-02)
71. Joe Wilson (SC-02)
72. Dan Burton (IN-05)
73. Dana Rohrabacher (CA-46)
74. Steven LaTourette (OH-14)
75. David Roe (TN-01)
76. Billy Long (MO-07)
77. Leonard Lance (NJ-07)
78. Doug Lamborn (CO-05)
79. Dean Heller (NV-02)
80. Martha Roby (AL-02)
81. Geoff Davis (KY-04)
82. Mary Bono Mack (CA-45)
83. Bob Latta (OH-5)
84. Todd Rokita (IN-04)
85. Buck McKeon (CA-25)
86. Lynn Westmorland (GA-03)
87. Stephen Fincher (TN-08)
88. Robert Wittman (VA-01)
89. Candace Miller (MI-10)
90. Tom McClintock (CA-04)
91. Kevin Brady (TX-08)
92. Ben Quayle (AZ-03)
93. Michael McCaul (TX-10)
94. Ted Poe (TX-02)
95. Spencer Bachus (AL-06)
96. Joe Barton (TX-06)
97. Blake Farenthold (TX-27)
98. Todd Akin (MO-02)
99. Robert Dold (IL-10)
100. Peter King (NY-03)
101. Joseph Heck (NV-03)

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY
MANAGEMENT, REGULATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Washington, DC 20240

APR 19 2011

The Honorable Bill Cassidy
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Cassidy:

Thank you for your letter dated March 1, 2011, to President Obama regarding the permitting of both shallow water and deepwater drilling operations and requesting that the Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE) bring immediate and concrete clarity for offshore permitting and to hasten the approval of such permits. I have been asked to respond on the President's behalf. A similar response will be sent to each signer of your letter.

In the wake of the Deepwater Horizon, BOEMRE has moved forward with the fundamental reforms and new regulatory measures necessary to improve the safety of offshore drilling, as well as enhance protection of the ocean and coastal environments. At the same time, we are working every day to allow safe drilling and production operations on the federal Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) to continue in order to keep production flowing and people working in an industry that is crucial to our nation's economy and energy independence. The major challenge facing us and the industry is to dramatically improve the safety of drilling in the Gulf of Mexico, particularly in deepwater, while continuing with operations, keeping production flowing and keeping people working. I believe we are meeting that challenge.

You requested clarity in the permitting process: Recently, BOEMRE issued additional guidance to provide clarifying information to assist the oil and gas industry in complying with existing deepwater drilling safety regulations and guidance. This new guidance document also highlights BOEMRE's process for reviewing subsea containment plans for deepwater operations. The information document is available at: http://www.boemre.gov/ooc/press/2011/press0328.htm. BOEMRE also issued guidance on December 13, 2010, regarding the steps required of operators to resume deepwater activity. That guidance is available at: http://www.boemre.gov/ooc/press/2010/press1213.htm. BOEMRE is committed to ensuring that companies know what is expected of them and will continue working with industry to provide additional guidance on these and other issues.

You requested a removal of barriers to exploration and production: On October 12, 2010, the deepwater drilling suspensions were lifted. Since then, the industry has submitted and BOEMRE has approved permits consistent with the heightened safety standards required by our new regulations.

As of April 19, 2011, we have received 37 deepwater applications for permit to drill for types of activities that were allowed under the moratorium, subject to applicable safety rules, such as water injection wells and drilling from a fixed rig with a surface blowout preventer. We have approved 34 of these permits, with two applications pending.

As of April 19, 2011 we have also received 58 deepwater drilling permit applications that are subject to BOEMRE's new safety and environmental requirements, including demonstration of subsea containment capability. These include applications to drill new wells, bypasses, and sidetracks. Twenty of these permits have been returned to the operator with requests for additional information, particularly concerning subsea containment. We have approved 19 of these permits (for 11 unique wells), with 17 applications pending.

As of April 19, 2011 we have approved 49 shallow water permits for new wells and have four pending. Information on the status of well permits and plans are available on our website, which we refer to often and update daily.

The webpage can be found at:
http://www.gomr.boemre/gov/homepg/offshore/safety/well_permits.html.

Together with Secretary Salazar, we have undertaken the most aggressive and comprehensive reform of offshore oil and gas regulation and oversight in U.S. history. This includes the reorganization of the former MMS to establish mission clarity and to strengthen oversight; and it also includes the development and implementation of heightened standards for drilling practices, safety equipment, and environmental safeguards.

These new rules set forth prescriptive standards that industry must meet. But they also establish, for the first time in the U.S. offshore regulatory system, performance-based standards focused on the identification and mitigation of specific risks associated with offshore operations. These changes are substantial, and more work is being done to ensure that these changes are both lasting and effective. The ultimate goal is to establish an industry-wide culture of safety, and to have well-equipped and professional regulators. Both elements are necessary to keep pace with the challenges and risks of offshore drilling, particularly as those operations push into new frontiers and face increased technical challenges.

We no longer accept the view that the appropriate response to a rapidly evolving, developing and changing industry, which employs increasingly sophisticated technologies, is for the regulatory framework and the applicable rules to remain frozen in time. Over time, the regulatory framework and the specific requirements must keep pace with advances in the industry – and with industry ambitions to drill in deeper water in geological formations that have greater pressures.

We will continue to analyze information that becomes available, and we will implement reforms necessary to make offshore oil and gas production safer, smarter and with stronger protections for workers and the environment. In developing these reforms, we will balance the need for regulatory certainty – whose importance we well recognize – against the need to act on new insights and adapt to changing technology. And importantly, the processing of drilling permit applications and proposed drilling plans will not be delayed while these additional reforms are developed.

I agree with you that a vital oil and gas industry is essential to our Nation's security and economy. However, I stand behind the increased safety measures that have been adopted. They will protect American lives and diminish the risk of oils spills and related environmental damage. And, I believe the men and women at BOEMRE can implement these measures without unduly or unnecessarily increasing the regulatory burden on industry.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Bromwich
Director

BILL CASSIDY, M.D.
6TH DISTRICT, LOUISIANA

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSERVATION, CREDIT, ENERGY, AND RESEARCH
SUBCOMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT, BIOTECHNOLOGY, SPECIALTY CROPS, AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURE

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR
SUBCOMMITTEE ON EARLY CHILDHOOD, ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION, LIFELONG LEARNING, AND COMPETITIVENESS

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INSULAR AFFAIRS, OCEANS AND WILDLIFE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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http://cassidy.house.gov

December 16, 2010

The Honorable Kenneth Salazar
Interior Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240-0002

Dear Secretary Salazar:

Please see the enclosed letter from my constituent. I would appreciate if you would respond directly to my constituent about the issue raised in this correspondence. Any information and/or assistance that you can provide will be gratefully received. Thanks in advance for your interest in this matter.

Sincerely,

Bill Cassidy

Bill Cassidy
Member of Congress

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Strategic
Consulting
Group, LLC

Louisiana
Economic
Foundation, Inc

12/10/2010

Sent via Congressional Correspondence directly to:

Vice President Biden: Vice President of the United States of America
Dept of Environmental Protection Agency: (Secretary Lisa. P. Jackson, Dana Tullis, Sam Coleman, Craig Carroll, Gregory J Wilson
Dept. of Defense: (Robert Gates)
Members of the Joint Chiefs: Secretary of the Navy / Secretary of the Army
(US Coast Guard) Incident Commander Ret. Admiral Thad Allen
Adm. James A Watson, Adm. Mary E Landry, Adm. Paul Zunkunft)
Dept of Justice: (Attorney General-Eric H. Holder, Jr.)
Dept of Interior: (Kenneth Salazar)
Dept. of Agriculture: (Thomas J. Villach)
Dept. of Commerce: (Gary F. Locke)
Dept of Health and Human Services: (Kathleen Sebelius)
Dept of Energy: (Steven Chu)
Dept of Homeland Security: (Janet Napolitano, Thad Allen)

Dear ***Sirs/Madame's***,

I am David Fa-Kouri with Strategic Consulting Group, LLC and La Economic Foundation Inc. of Louisiana. Respectfully, I request your direct attention and understanding regarding the contents of this letter to each of you regarding threats to public safety and ecological realities which has compelled me to write this letter to each of you requesting answers to my direct questions under the Freedom of Information Act. Where as, I respectfully require a formal written response back from you collectively as a group (with individual signatory of each department) representing the United States Governments role administering the response to the crises in the Gulf to answers to the questions posed in this letter.

Please tell me what is real and not real with respect to the information which is laid out below. I would like an answer to the following questions, so I and the public at large can understand exactly how oil from the recent spill affects humans exposed to it as well as the ecology of Gulf of Mexico's coastal environment. Current reported data is insufficient and conflicting with independent scientific findings

Independent scientists have reported the waters and our shores of the Gulf to be toxic. It has been reported that the toxins introduced into Gulf waters are partially derived from applied dispersants (Corexit 9500 and 9527A) applied and mixing with crude oil introduced this summer during the BP spill event have increased the actual toxicity to the environment. I realize that some say that that the deep-water blanket of oil on the bottom of the gulf which was initially discovered by Samantha Joye of the U of GA, in the northeastern Gulf cannot be tightly linked to BP oil. It is possible that testing will show that the carbon fingerprint of the dispersed oil is now different from the non-dispersed oil test sample that the USCG has on file, due to a dispersant effect. This is BP oil and it has not all evaporated (gassed off) and the remaining contamination needs to be cleaned up not hidden so that the toxins can be removed quickly from our Gulf ecology in order to keep safe human life , our Fisheries and allow what remaining species of fish to recover; if at all possible.

Immediately following the accident, I have spent a great deal of time researching this issue, along with numerous eminently qualified associates, with hopes to be able to save our coastal zone with the use of NCP products I delivered to all as the safe solution for both the ecology and humans alike after researching the realities following the Valdez Spill and our governments response which resulted in all the people involved in the clean up to die prematurely (data available from OSHA and CDC).

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Thus understanding the realities, I pushed for a safe solution. I failed; as you our Government was not interested in interacting or dialoging. Today, 7 months after the accident, realties exist and still no resolve by our Government to clean up the oil and toxins released. Thus I have asked some serious questions which I feel must be answered so that consequential collateral damage can be minimized (Plain talk) < innocent people do not need to die or realize they have contracted cancer due to misinformation and exposure to the toxins applied to and in our Gulf waters and Seafood>.

It is well known by all that earlier in this event, I delivered information on a bioremediation spill treatment product (non-living) called "OSE-II" to many Government, NGO's and local contacts, showing them that it was a proven, safe solution to the problem, as per US EPA NCP. Moreover it possessed unique properties such as hydraulic lift so that the sunken oil can be raised from the sediments and detoxified. Presently, games are being played at BP science labs where some are trying to intentionally not allow this proven technology be recognized, let alone allowed it to be used to clean up the oil and toxins. The same is true with efforts by the EPA folks facilitating the role of trustee to this incident. **Why?** This product can still be used to help restore Gulf waters to pre-spill conditions if our government and responsible parties wishes to actually clean up the toxins (was EPA an USCG approved for use in the Exxon Valdez spill in Alaska years ago and has even been used by BP in the Caribbean and in Africa).

The results of my research have allowed me to provide officials in Louisiana and other coastal states with this safe alternative to dispersants (Corexit 9500 and 9527A); however, all of my attempts at contact key persons were ignored or rebuffed and my efforts were fruitless. Still arriving today with greater frequency, are a number of independent scientific reports supporting my earlier concerns and need for an alternative treatment for the spill. Thus, I felt it was necessary to communicate my concerns to you.

I ask for some transparency in communications regarding this spill event and its impacts. I would like to feel confident in your leadership regarding this issue and know that you have a desire to clean up the toxins, keep our people and ecology safe. Please demonstrate a true resolve, a desire for openness as indicated by President Obama and stop playing games by attempting to hide the oil with continued use of toxic dispersants (Corexit 9500 still being applied as a mixture…what is this mixture?) in our coastal zones and start utilization of the safe solution (such as the OSEII), to be, used immediately so that our Gulf can be cleaned up.

Earlier my letters have reached the desk of the Vice President of the United States, Cabinet Secretaries, and each of you at one time or another, in the hope that you our Government understands the problem at hand and has the desire and the will to do what is right to restore the Gulf to pre-spill conditions in a timely manner. No direct response has been made from any of your offices to date, WHY NOT?

I have asked my Congressman Cassidy and staff to help me get these questions to each of you, as well as other coastal states congressional members whose districts are exposed to toxins to also seek answers to the direct questions I have set forth.

Coastal economies depend on a safe non toxic Gulf zone for their economic life. Detoxification must be timely so that the Gulf waters and ecology can continue to support our Seafood Industries, Recreation and Tourism industries an not expose American citizens to cancer causing toxins and pre mature death.

With respect to public safety, we need to know that our coastal residents are indeed safe and that they have not been exposed to hidden toxins; which have caused illnesses and death to some already. where as the reported illnesses have been classified as something other than toxins from the Gulf oil and dispersants (Corexit 9500 and 9527A) forming a toxic environment.

Reports are present that citizens have been exposed to these toxins by inhalation, absorption, or ingestion of food containing toxins from the Gulf accident and the apparent continued hiding of the oil with dispersants which is continuing to deliver toxins to the regions shore lines and Fisheries.

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Individually, I have had conversations with a number of your staff members many times. I have been careful to confirm information or data that has come to my attention and I have been responsible and open in my reporting of that information to you.
I would appreciate being treated with the same level of respect and transparency in your responses.

Answers to questions are needed! What is real, and what is not real with respect to public safety and the toxins?

Some may question my efforts. I no longer eat Gulf seafood. I do not fish or take part in recreational activities in the Gulf. I feel that I can no longer enjoy the Gulf's beaches and fear for my children's safety and as a father this concerns me and makes me angry.

I have invested a great deal of effort in attempting to inform and educate officials in Washington about Louisiana's need for mitigation efforts to restore our coastal zone, which is so important to our Hurricane protection. In addition, the people and industries of our coast help to fulfill our national needs, especially from a national security and independence from foreign oil importation. It is clear from the perspective as a businessman and local economist, that the economic damage of the spill is not being addressed and requires action.

My position is clear. I am not a tree-hugger but a problem-solver. I feel that Energy interests our region which supports the needs of the nation and our Ecology must to be able to co-exist in a sustainable manner. We have a great investment in Energy and vulnerable ecological assets sensitive to toxic exposures. Thus, the need for safe- non-toxic solutions must be utilized so that present and future accidents can be cleaned up without the deadly trade-off of sinking the oil and increasing its persistence through time. Our children will and are the recipients of failed policies and agency oversigbts with due diligence

Transparency and confidence in our government leadership must be restored. Please take the first steps in transparency by providing straight answers to the following in the form of timely written response to the below and not a canned reply:

My direct concerns:

1. Have acutely toxic chemical compounds been formed hy the mixing of Gulf crude with toxic dispersants (Corexit 9500 and 9527A) applied individually or in a mixed ratio? If so, please define them.

2. PAH's and other acutely toxic compounds have been found in the air, water, and sediments. Have they evaporated off with the aid of dispersants? **Have they come ashore, contaminating our coastal communities? Have they also been delivered via toxic rain, allowing these compounds to bioaccumulate in our coastal agriculture zones**? I realize that the "Astrid Reports" say that individual components of crude oil do not bioaccumulate. I have been informed, however, that the mixing of these compounds with certain compounds in the dispersant used results in highly toxic compounds which do exhibit bioaccumulation characteristics. If my literature research is correct, then the toxins can cause damage to our coastal zone inhabitants over time through prolonged exposure. No one can control Gulf breezes and Gulf rainfall patterns. We have the technology, however, to detoxify the Gulf waters quickly to help stop the spread of toxins.

Please provide me with answers to these questions and provide some real leadership regarding public safety. I mention public safety because the living organisms found in our Gulf sustain life for our coastal residents. We eat Gulf fish and work in these waters. Our economic future is intimately tied to the Gulf. If toxins are present, I ask you to come forward and confirm or dispel the myths and misinformation regarding the issues I raise. I hope that the apparent great divergence in scientific reports between government agencies and independent scientists will be ended and that our Gulf waters will be restored to pre-spill conditions in the very near future.

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Specific Questions:

- Is the oil spilled truly cleaned up, or has it been transformed through the evaporation and loss of lighter-chain hydrocarbons, leaving the heavier, longer-chain hydrocarbons in the water and sediments to continue delivering toxins to those exposed to them through time, which includes all the aquatic life within the Gulf waters?

- What levels of toxins can humans (particularly organs like the liver) safely tolerate if these toxins are taken in either by ingestion or by direct exposure from the air or water – via direct prolonged exposure and contact?

- Are the Gulf waters safe? If so, define "safe", and also please define the test methods used to determine water quality and safety, to assist independent scientists to verify these results.
- Is the Gulf seafood safe? If so, define "safe", and also please define the test methods used to determine safety, to assist independent scientists to verify these results. The independent smell test by the USDA has on occasions proven inaccurate, what test equipment is being employed; USDA Director Steve Wilson will not declare verbally.

- Were our Gulf waters safe prior the recent 4,200 square mile ban by NOAA? If so, when and please describe the testing methods and proof that it was safe. Where are the test data and a description of test methods that proved it was safe?

- Have our Gulf onshore breezes been safe, specifically from May/June, 2010 to present? Environmental monitoring by the federal government has surely occurred since the accident; thus, test results and a description of test methods and findings should be available by now; much is still missing in this area of data on numerous agency web sites. Please provide them. Independent scientists have reported the presence of PAH's, 2-butoxy-ethanol, and other toxic compounds in the air and in onshore rainfall. Please provide any data available on this issue, including their effects on humans, and confirm if the public should be concerned about bioaccumulation in commercial seafood or not. If indeed there is any risk of bioaccumulation, then know that it is possible to detoxify the soil and ground water, if necessary. Both NOAA and EPA data together with some of BP's data is contradictory within their own summations .We just need transparency regarding these issues.

- What is the impact of prolonged exposure to these chemicals on humans in terms of toxicity and illness? What are the symptoms associated with various exposures? I ask this because in the Exxon-Valdez accident, it is common knowledge that all who participated in the clean up activity died within 20+ years of the accident. Thus, understanding the chemical characteristics of these used and same dispersants mixing with oil is important - especially to humans and the ecology of this land lock Gulf region.

- With respect to water samples taken by EPA and NOAA, please provide the test data and a description of test methods regarding poly-propannol and PAH's in the water column - not just the surface waters. Reports of chemicals in the water melting the plastics or rubber products such as diving suits and gasket seals are a concern - just as fishermen discovering the bottoms of their crab traps dissolved or heavily coated with rubbery-tarry-oily masses..

Item 4: Is a thesis on the toxic effects of dispersant Corexit 9500, 9527A and light sweet crude; does it affirm that the toxicity is increased for living organisms with the use of this dispersant, as has been suggested by many and reaffirmed by the EPA NCP letters for the dispersants used as they are mixed with No 2 fuel oil; where it depicts increased toxicity when dispersants are mixed with oil.

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P.O Box 86255, Baton Rouge, La 70879

Understanding that bacteria are living organisms, I have yet to discover any definitive proof that natural bioremediation of the weathered oil is possible. Thus the claims by EPA officials and the Coast Guard personnel to the contrary has been only a myth which is now confirmed. This is critical because it is apparent that the response administered did nothing but hide the oil and allow for vast amounts of oil and toxins to be released into the waters, atmosphere or burned off. Further it is suggested that the toxicity may increase with time after a spill, note that we have definitive proof that existed prior to the spill event that natural bioremediation was a viable alternative for use at the time, and that it can still be used even once the natural crude has been dispersed. It is still possible to clean up the water and water column including the oil on the ocean floor. EPA NCP bioremediation product (one such product is OIL Spill Eater II) which has hydraulic lifting properties that can allow the sunken oil to float to the surface for capture, detoxify the water column and restore the Gulf waters and sediment to pre spill conditions when allowed to be used. It has been recommended for use in the clean up effort by USCG Testing lab on July 10, 2010 to the FOSC, however no action was taken. Ironically, EPA has blocked its use, and for unknown reasons they continue to deny its request for use by both BP's and La DEQ's request and permit for use, **WHY?**

Today, public safety, economic hurt and ecological realities exist; the time for games is over. Our Gulf zone must be cleaned up. I realize that there is much more data of equal importance available than is provided below. I have listed four links below that substantiate the desire for clean clear concise answers to the questions asked by whom whoever is in a position to respond back , please do so copying all those listed above, so that we may all be informed simultaneously. It is my hope that this request is answered directly and in a timely fashion. Thus, I am mailing this letter to each of you thru official congressional channels; due to the serious nature of the issues in addition, I will be emailing a copy of this letter to your respective offices to ensure you receive the letter and respond back to me.

While I await your response, I will be emailing this letter to others in the science community and public officials' in state and local government alike so they can have direct access to my questions and your answers so that the safety status of the Gulf zone is established and evidence of the governments resolve to clean up the toxins is realized. After receiving your responses I will be sending this email to both those responsible for science in the relevant government departments and members of the independent science community alike. My goal is to find a convergence point in science as it relates to public safety, clean-up in the Gulf, and detoxification of our waters and shoreline - to help restore the Gulf to pre-spill conditions; together with the restoration of the Gulf's economic life blood-Oil, Fishing, Tourism and industries supporting them.

In closing I appreciate your understanding and cooperation with respect to the direct response to my questions and my strong desire to have transparency regarding the safety of the Gulf zone and its inhabitants both Human and Aquatic.

Respectfully,

David Fa-Kouri,
Consultant
Strategic Consulting Group, LLC
La Economic Foundation, Inc.

Email: davidfakouri@gmail.com
dfakouri@scgllc.org
dfakouri@laeconomicfoundation.com

Cell: (225) 921 9735
Office: (800) 281 6441
Fax :(225) 927 6523

Physical and Mailing Addresses:
16956 S Harrell's Ferry Rd Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70816
P.O Box 86255, Baton Rouge, La 70879

Enclosures:

Key Sources:

1. Report regarding the toxicity of Gulf seafood by Dr. Wilma Subra, New Iberia, LA, from the Louisiana Environmental Action Network (LEAN).
2. Reuters news reports of toxins in gulf (PAH's) in concentrations 40 times higher than before the accident
3. Government report describing toxicity studies regarding humans and defining toxicity levels of various compounds.
4. Thesis by an LSU Student investigating Corexit 9500 dispersant when combined with Louisiana light crude and Alaska North Slope crude.

Links:

1

From Dr. Wilma Subra- Independent Testing Continues In Gulf

Report by: Wilma Subra, Results of sampling performed by Lower Mississippi River keeper in Plaquemines Parish, LA on August 26, 2010

The shoreline of Southern Breton Sound in Plaquemines Parish, LA, a soil/sediment sample was collected. The sediment sample contained

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Small Island at the mouth of "Baptiste Collette Bayou", Plaquemines Parish, LA had a large amount of coal like material littering the beach on the shoreline and in the near shore waters. There were a lot of birds associated with an inland tidal lagoon on the island. A soil/sediment sample collected from the shoreline contained 72.7 mg/kg Petroleum Hydrocarbons, Carbon Disulfide, and 89 Poly nuclear Aromatic Hydrocarbons (1.46 mg/kg).

Results of aquatic organism samples taken from waters open to fishing in St. Bernard Parish, LA on August 12, 2010

Shrimp tissue samples from St. Bernard Parish, LA contained 8.356 mg/kg Petroleum Hydrocarbons and one PAH (0.017 mg/kg). Flounder and Speckle Trout from St. Bernard Parish, LA contained 21.575 mg/kg (2.16%) of Petroleum Hydrocarbons. A sample of fish collected from St. Bernard Parish, LA contained 11.791 mg/kg (1.18%) of Petroleum Hydrocarbons and one PAH (0.013 mg/kg). Another fish sample contained 6.028 mg/kg Petroleum Hydrocarbons.

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21455

United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA

IN REPLY REFER TO:
7202.4-OS-2011-00136

January 14, 2011

Mr. David Fa-Kouri, Consultant
Strategic Consulting Group, LLC
La Economic Foundation, Inc.
16956 S Harrell's Ferry Road
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70816

Dear Mr. Fa-Kouri:

On December 10, 2010, you filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request with Vice President Biden, Department of Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Defense, Department of Justice, Department of Interior, Department of Agriculture, Department of Commerce, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Energy, and the Department of Homeland Security, stating:

> "My direct concerns:
>
> 1. Have acutely toxic chemical compounds been formed by the mixing of Gulf crude with toxic dispersants (Corexit 9500 and 9527A) applied individually or in a mixed ratio? If so, please define them.
>
> 2. PAH's and other acutely toxic compounds have been found in the air, water, and sediments. Have they evaporated off with the aid of dispersants? Have they come ashore, contaminating our coastal communities? Have they also been delivered via toxic rain, allowing these compounds to bioaccumulate in our coastal agriculture zones?"

Your request was received in the Office of the Secretary on July 16, 2009, and assigned control # **OS-2011-00136.** Please cite this number in any future communication with this office regarding your request.

With respect to your request:

1. Your request does not contain a request for agency documents. Instead, you have asked us several general questions with respect to how the Department of the Interior handles records and whether such methods are being investigated by the Office of the Inspector General.

2. Please be advised that the Freedom of Information Act generally provides that any person has a right, enforceable in court, to obtain access to federal agency records, except to the extent that such records (or portions of them) are protected from public disclosure by one of nine exemptions, or by one of three special law enforcement record exclusions. It does not, however, require agencies to answer questions posed as FOIA requests, nor does it require agencies to perform extensive research and construct new documents in order to answer FOIA requests (See 43 C.F.R. §§ 2.7(c) and (d)(1)). Therefore we cannot accept your request for processing under the FOIA.

This completes our response to your request.

If you have further questions about our response to your request, you may contact Sheree L. Price by phone at 202-565-1109, by fax at 202-219-2374, by email at osfoia@nbc.gov, or by mail at U.S. Department of the Interior, 1951 Constitution Ave, N.W., MS 120 SIB, Washington, D.C. 20240. Within the Office of the Secretary, we are committed to providing you, our customer, with the highest quality of service possible.

Sincerely,

Ray J. McInerney

Ray J. McInerney
Office of the Secretary
FOIA Officer

PRIVACY ACT notice: Before you choose to contact us, electronically, there are a few things you should know. The information you submit, including your electronic address, may be seen by various people. We will scan a copy of your request into our electronic OS FOIA administrative/image file. We will key the information that you provide to us into our electronic OS FOIA tracking file. We may share it with other individuals, both within and without the Department, involved in Freedom of Information Act administration. You may be contacted by any of these individuals. In other limited circumstances, including requests from Congress or private individuals, we may be required by law to disclose some of the information you submit. Also, e-mail is not necessarily secure against interception. If your communication is very sensitive, or includes personal information like your bank account, charge card, or social security number, you might want to send it by postal mail, instead.

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 31, 2010

The Honorable Kenneth L. Salazar
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We are writing to request your urgent attention to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement's (BOEM) pace of issuance of permits for new shallow water wells in the Gulf of Mexico. While the moratorium on shallow water drilling was lifted on May 28, 2010, since that time, BOEM has only issued 4 permits for new shallow water wells. Additionally, we continue to hear from companies that the BOEM has not provided adequate guidance and information for the shallow water drilling industry to comply with new drilling application requirements imposed by NTL-06.

As a result of this pace of issuance, 14 jackup rigs have now been idled in the Gulf of Mexico, representing 30% of the shallow water fleet. Should this situation continue, we are advised that by August 30th, another 11 shallow water rigs will be taken out of service, meaning that over half of the shallow water rigs will be idle. And, even worse, absent immediate action by your Department, by the end of September, this number will grow to 32 idled rigs, or 70% of the shallow water fleet. Hundreds of jobs have already been lost. If this situation is not addressed soon, we estimate that approximately 40,000 jobs across the Gulf South are at risk.

We believe the BOEM must take immediate and effective action to provide clear guidance to its employees and the shallow water drilling industry concerning NTL-06 requirements, and it must further expedite the review and appropriate approval of applications for shallow water drilling permits in the Gulf of Mexico. Until the BOEM does so, offshore oil and gas exploration support companies throughout the Gulf Coast engaged in shallow water drilling activities will continue to be severely affected by the continuing *de facto* moratorium on the issuance of new offshore shallow water drilling permits.

We appreciate your time and attention to this most urgent and dire situation and we look forward to working with you to resolve these issues.

Sincerely,

Gene Green
Member of Congress

Charles W. Boustany, Jr.
Member of Congress

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Charlie Melancon
Member of Congress

Jo Bonner
Member of Congress

Solomon Ortiz
Member of Congress

Anh "Joseph" Cao
Member of Congress

Charlie Gonzalez
Member of Congress

Kevin Brady
Member of Congress

Chet Edwards
Member of Congress

Steve Scalise
Member of Congress

Mike Ross
Member of Congress

Bill Cassidy
Member of Congress

Ciro Rodriguez
Member of Congress

Ron Paul
Member of Congress

Ruben Hinojosa
Member of Congress

Rodney Alexander
Member of Congress

Harry Teague
Member of Congress

Mike Rogers
Member of Congress

Dan Boren
Member of Congress

Spencer Bachus
Member of Congress

Pete Olson
Member of Congress

Ted Poe
Member of Congress

Parker Griffith
Member of Congress

Doc Hastings
Member of Congress

Howard Coble
Member of Congress

John Culberson
Member of Congress

Ralph Hall
Member of Congress

John Fleming
Member of Congress

Michael McCaul
Member of Congress

Gregg Harper
Member of Congress

Al Green
Member of Congress

Stephanie Herseth Sandlin
Member of Congress

Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress

Sam Johnson
Member of Congress

Mac Thornberry
Member of Congress

Michael Conaway
Member of Congress

Kay Granger
Member of Congress

John Shimkus
Member of Congress

Jeb Hensarling
Member of Congress

cc: Michael R. Bromwich

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

DEC 17 2010

The Honorable Bill Cassidy
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Cassidy:

Thank you for your letter dated October 13, 2010, cosigned by your colleagues, requesting that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE) designate Louisiana as the location for additional inspectors and related personnel to oversee oil and gas operations in the Gulf of Mexico. You also requested we ensure that new employees include additional BOEMRE permitting personnel.

The BOEMRE hopes to extend offers for approximately 60 full-time positions and 15-20 interns in the Gulf region in the coming months. I believe it is critical to recruit and retain the best and brightest individuals. On October 26, 2010, BOEMRE Director Michael Bromwich kicked off a five-campus tour as part of an ongoing Agency initiative to recruit students from the Nation's top colleges and universities for careers in public service. The recruitment tour informed student engineers and other potential candidates of opportunities for employment in BOEMRE. I hope the tour will spark an interest in becoming inspectors and petroleum engineers within BOEMRE and adds to the diversity of our workforce. To date, BOEMRE has received over 500 applications, including as many as 130 from students to fill the 60 positions and additional summer internships.

Additionally, I want to assure you that BOEMRE is committed to processing all oil and gas drilling permits as expeditiously as possible. The Bureau is working hard to ensure the proper safety and environmental safeguards are in place. BOEMRE has also taken a number of steps to facilitate its review of drilling permits and has already shifted staff resources to help with this critical effort.

I appreciate your interest in the Outer Continental Shelf drilling program and in the ongoing need for additional inspectors and related personnel to oversee oil and gas operations in the Gulf of Mexico. A similar response is being sent to each signer of your letter.

Sincerely,

Ken Salazar

Ken Salazar

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY
MANAGEMENT, REGULATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable Bill Cassidy
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Cassidy:

Thank you for your letter dated August 31, 2010, to Interior Secretary Salazar, requesting that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE) provide clarity on Notice to Lessees and Operators (NTL) No. 2010-N06 requirements to its employees and the shallow water drilling industry, and to expedite the review and approval of applications for shallow water drilling permits in the Gulf of Mexico. As the Director of BOEMRE, I have been asked to respond on the Secretary's behalf. A similar response will be sent to each cosigner of your letter.

We strive to be clear and straightforward as we implement regulatory changes. Therefore, to assist operators that are required to submit information under NTL No. 2010-N06, BOEMRE has frequently participated in teleconferences with groups of shallow water operators to discuss and receive input on the requirements of the NTL. BOEMRE also held two meetings in Washington to answer specific questions. The BOEMRE Web site contains Frequently Asked Questions and sample submittals pertaining to the NTL that are updated as appropriate. We have also developed the enclosed document that clarifies several rules and regulations, which was issued on December 13, 2010. As this document makes clear, BOEMRE encourages individual operators to meet with our staff regarding their worst case discharge calculations under NTL No. 2010-N06, and we have found a high level of compliance among operators who have done so.

I want to assure you that BOEMRE is committed to processing all oil and gas drilling permits as expeditiously as possible, after ensuring proper safety and environmental safeguards are in place. We have taken a number of steps to facilitate our review of drilling permits and are planning for more work ahead. We have already shifted staff resources to help with this critical effort, and we have sought funding to hire more staff. Since mid-July, BOEMRE has approved 25 permits to drill new shallow water wells in the Gulf of Mexico.

Thank you for your interest in the Bureau's permitting process and the proposals you have put forward for review and consideration. 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

Enclosure

Approval Requirements for Activities That Involve the Use of a Subsea Blowout Preventer (BOP) or a Surface BOP On a Floating Facility

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to (a) summarize and clarify certain information relating to the regulations and guidance previously issued by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE), and (b) describe certain procedures being applied by BOEMRE's Gulf of Mexico OCS Region (GOMR), as they apply to previously-approved, pending, and newly-submitted Exploration Plans (EPs) and Development Operations Coordination Documents (DOCDs), Permits to Drill (APDs, RPDs, ASTs, RSTs, ABPs, RBPs, APMs, RPMs), and Regional Oil Spill Response Plans (OSRPs) regarding oil and gas activities in the Gulf of Mexico.

This document is intended to provide helpful information regarding the applicable requirements and procedures to obtain approval to conduct activities that propose using a drilling rig equipped with a subsea blowout preventer (BOP) system, a floating drilling rig equipped with a surface BOP system, or a drilling rig on a floating platform. The information contained in this document does not constitute new or additional regulatory requirements. Rather, this document is intended to provide lessees, operators and other relevant parties with information and clarity about the application and implementation of BOEMRE's existing regulations and guidance.

Background

Effective June 18, 2010, BOEMRE issued Notice to Lessees and Operators (NTL) No. 2010-N06, Information Requirements for Exploration Plans, Development and Production Plans, and Development Operations Coordination Documents on the OCS. The purpose of this NTL was to rescind the limitations set forth in NTL No. 2008-G04 regarding a blowout scenario and worst case discharge (WCD) scenario, and to provide national guidance to lessees and operators regarding the content of the information BOEMRE requires in blowout scenario and worst case discharge scenario descriptions.

On August 16, 2010, the Director of BOEMRE instructed the agency not to routinely use categorical exclusions with respect to National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) reviews for EPs and DOCDs that propose to conduct an activity that requires approval of an APD and involves the use of a subsea BOP or a surface BOP on a floating facility. In light of this policy, BOEMRE describes in Appendix A of this document the information operators would need to supply to allow BOEMRE to prepare appropriate environmental assessments (EAs) for EPs and DOCDs for proposed operations that fall within these categories.

On October, 14, 2010, BOEMRE issued an interim final rule entitled "Increased Safety Measures for Energy Development on the Outer Continental Shelf" (75 FR 63346) (the Safety Interim Final Rule). The Safety Interim Final Rule implements certain safety measures recommended in the Department of the Interior's May 27, 2010, offshore energy safety report to the President. This rule amends drilling regulations related to well control, including regulations governing: subsea and surface BOP's, well casing and cementing, secondary intervention, unplanned

disconnects, well completion, and well plugging.

Effective November 8, 2010, BOEMRE issued NTL No. 2010-N10, Statement of Compliance with Applicable Regulations and Evaluation of Information Demonstrating Adequate Spill Response and Well Containment Resources. This NTL directs operators to submit a statement, signed by an authorized company official, that the operator will conduct all authorized activities in compliance with all applicable regulations, including the Safety Interim Final Rule. This NTL also informed operators that BOEMRE will be evaluating whether they have submitted adequate information to demonstrate their ability to access and deploy containment resources that would be adequate to properly respond to a blowout or other loss of well control, in accordance with BOEMRE's existing regulations.

1. Regarding EPs or DOCDs:

See **Appendix A, Requirements for EPs and DOCDs.**

Revised EPs and DOCDs and Environmental Assessments

The clarifying guidance in Appendix A regarding the submission of information to be used in connection with an EA does not apply to EPs and DOCDs that propose to conduct the following activities:

a. drilling a relief well or intervention well for emergency purposes;
b. drilling a waterflood, gas injection, or a disposal well; or
c. drilling a sidetrack into a formation previously penetrated as long as the operator has complied with the information requirements in NTL No. 2010-N06.

Worst Case Discharge Calculations

Under our regulations, BOEMRE is responsible for ensuring that operators submit WCD calculations that determine the daily volume potential resulting from an uncontrolled blowout (*see* 30 CFR 254. 47(b)). BOEMRE has defined this as flow from all producible reservoirs into the open wellbore. The set of reservoirs exposed to an open borehole with the greatest discharge potential is considered the worst case discharge scenario.

BOEMRE has developed a consistent methodology for operators to use in calculating WCD and has provided guidance on the calculation of WCD in the form of responses to frequently asked questions regarding NTL No. 2010-N06 (http://www.gomr.boemre.gov/homepg/regulate/regs/ntls/2010NTLs/10-n06-FAQs.pdf). The purpose of this guidance has been to assist operators in complying with NTL No. 2010-N06 submission requirements. To ensure that operators understand the process and to provide transparency, BOEMRE staff is available to meet with individual operators to discuss their WCD calculations. These individual meetings allow for detailed discussion of specific projects and can include operator data that may be proprietary and, therefore, inappropriate to discuss in public documents or at meetings involving other companies. BOEMRE encourages operators to meet with our staff regarding WCD calculations, and we have found a high level of compliance among operators who have met with BOEMRE staff to discuss their WCD calculations.

BOEMRE's methodology for verifying operators' WCD calculations employs reservoir simulation and nodal analysis techniques routinely used in industry. BOEMRE does not require that operators use any prescribed methodology or software to calculate WCD. For example, operators have submitted and presented information on methodology and data used to calculate WCDs using various methodologies and software packages (including Merlin, Eclipse, WEB, Perform, Prosper, and Avalon), any of which is acceptable if done properly.

2. Regarding Well Permits:

To increase the safety of activities that require approval of an APD/RPD, an AST/RST, an ABP/RBP, or an APM/RPM operators must comply with the Safety Interim Final Rule.

See **Appendix B, Requirements under the Interim Final Rule**.

Operators must also provide the information set forth under NTL No. 2010-N10, Statement of Compliance with Applicable Regulations and Evaluation of Information Demonstrating Adequate Spill Response and Well Containment Resources, effective November 8, 2010.

If an operator's original APD, ABP, or AST has demonstrated that it has access to and can deploy containment resources that would be adequate to properly respond to a blowout or other loss of well control, then an RPD/RST/RBP for the same operation need not readdress the NTL No. 2010-N10 informational requirements, unless any of the elements of the operator's available containment resources has changed.

See **Appendix C, Requirements under NTL No. 2010-N10.**

3. Regarding OSRPs:

In accordance with 30 CFR 254.30 (e), BOEMRE's Regional Supervisor may require an operator to revise its OSRP if significant deficiencies in the OSRP are indicated by (1) periodic reviews of OSRO capabilities, (2) information obtained during drills or actual spill responses, or (3) other relevant information obtained by the Regional Supervisor, including, for example, changes in an operator's WCD calculation scenario as reflected in an operator's EP or DOCD submission. In the event that the BOEMRE Regional Supervisor requires an operator to revise its OSRP, the operator may continue to operate for up to two years while BOEMRE reviews the revised OSRP if the operator complies with 30 CFR 254.2(b), which requires that the operator certify that it has the capability to respond, to the maximum extent practicable, to a worst case discharge or substantial threat of such a discharge. This certification must establish that the operator has ensured by contract, or by other means approved by the Regional Supervisor, the availability of private personnel and equipment necessary to respond to the discharge. Confirmation from the organization(s) providing the personnel and equipment must accompany the certification.

During BOEMRE's review of revised OSRPs, BOEMRE will evaluate all available equipment, technologies, and practices addressing intervention and recovery, including, but not limited to, cap and collect, cap and contain, mechanical recovery, burning, dispersants (including subsea), and surveillance (including surveillance and operations at night, if equipment is available, e.g. X-

band radar). While BOEMRE currently accepts the use of subsea dispersant, the Environmental Protection Agency has informed the Regional Response Team for Region VI that the use of subsea dispersants will be approved and monitored only on an incident specific basis. BOEMRE will also consider natural weathering, natural dispersion, subsea dispersant application, surface dispersant application, and in-situ burn capacity in evaluating and determining the adequacy of an operator's planned response to a worst case discharge.

BOEMRE expects operators to specifically address their planned response to each WCD identified in their OSRP. Operator response plans should consider factors including location, proximity to sensitive resources, event, volume, and product and should address appropriate source control, containment, weathering and natural dispersion, surface and subsea dispersion, in-situ burn, skimming and booming strategies specific to the event and response being analyzed.

To date, the primary deficiency that BOEMRE has identified in its review of OSRPs is the lack of sufficient subsea containment equipment and other resources. To address this deficiency, NTL No. 2010-N10 provides that an operator should submit information demonstrating that it has access to and can deploy containment resources that would be adequate to properly respond to a blowout or other loss of well control while conducting activities that require approval of an APD/RPD, AST/RST, or ABP/RBP and involve the use of a subsea BOP system, a floating drilling rig equipped with a surface BOP system, or a drilling rig on a floating platform. Operators may make this demonstration by, for example, submitting information in the form of a Containment Plan as part of its Regional or Subregional OSRP. Appendix C to this document describes information that operators should include in such a plan, as appropriate.

Operators are not required, at this time, to amend their OSRPs to include additional subsea containment information, but may do so voluntarily. With respect to the sufficiency of subsea containment resources, the types of information and resources that BOEMRE evaluates include, but is not limited to, the following, as applicable:

a. Worst case discharge scenario flow rate estimates
b. Offshore surface oil containment and recovery
c. Nearshore surface oil containment and recovery
d. Shoreline booming and protection strategies
e. Source abatement thru direct intervention
f. Relief wells
g. Debris removal from the site of a blowout, if necessary
h. Subsea containment and capture equipment, including containment domes and capping stacks. In the event that an operator proposes a capping stack as the single containment option, the operator should explain the reasons that the well design is sufficient to allow shut-in without broach to the sea floor.
i. Subsea utility equipment, including hydraulic power, hydrate control, and dispersant injection equipment
j. Riser systems
k. Remotely operated vehicles
l. Capture vessels
m. Support vessels
n. Storage facilities

o. Night operations
p. In-situ burn
q. Spotter aircraft
r. Responder communications equipment compatibility
s. Area Contingency Plan consistency

Regarding BOP tests

Operators are expected to notify BOEMRE at least 72 hours prior to all BOP stump tests and initial BOP tests on the seafloor to facilitate having a BOEMRE representative present to witness at least one of these tests. If BOEMRE receives appropriate notice and is unable to, or elects not to, witness at least one of the tests due to factors beyond the operator's control (including, for example, weather conditions and transportation availability), the operator may proceed with the test. However, in cases in which BOEMRE does not witness a BOP stump test or initial seafloor test, the operator must provide the results of the test (in either electronic or paper format) to BOEMRE within 72 hours of the test.

Contact

If you have any questions regarding the information requirements for EP's and DOCD's, contact Michael Tolbert of the BOEMRE GOMR Plans Section by telephone at (504) 736-2867 or by email at michael.tolbert@boemre.gov.

If you have any questions regarding the requirements for well permits, contact Jane Powers of the BOEMRE GOMR Office of Field Operations by telephone at (504) 736-2558 or by email at jane.powers@boemre.gov

If you have any questions regarding the requirements of NTL No. 2010-N10, contact Bryan Domangue of the BOEMRE GOMR Office of Field Operations by telephone at (985) 853-5885 or by email at bryan.domangue@boemre.gov

If you have any questions regarding the requirements for Regional and subregional OSRPs, contact Nick Wetzel of the BOEMRE GOMR Office of Field Operations by telephone at (504) 736-2419 or by email at nick.wetzel@boemre.gov

If you have any questions regarding BOP tests, contact Michael Saucier of the BOEMRE GOMR Office of Field Operations by telephone at (504) 736-2503 or by email at michael.saucier@boemre.gov.

APPENDIX A
Requirements for EPs and DOCDs

When an operator submits an initial EP or DOCD that involves activities that will require approval of an APD and involve the use of a drilling rig equipped with a subsea BOP system, a floating drilling rig equipped with a surface BOP system, or a drilling rig on a floating platform, the operator must include information specified in NTL No. 2008-G04, including the information described below for all EPs and DOCDs, and the information required by NTL No. 2010-N06.

When an operator submits a Supplemental EP or DOCD that involves activities that will require approval of an APD and involve the use of a drilling rig equipped with a subsea BOP system, a floating drilling rig equipped with a surface BOP system, or a drilling rig on a floating platform, the operator must include the following:

1. Information related to or affected by any proposed changes;
2. Any other pertinent information specified in NTL No. 2008-G04, including the information described below for EPs and DOCDs; and
3. Information required by NTL No. 2010-N06.

If an operator already has an approved EP or DOCD that involves activities that require approval of an APD and involve the use of a drilling rig equipped with a subsea BOP system, a floating drilling rig equipped with a surface BOP system, or a drilling rig on a floating platform, the operator must submit a revised EP or DOCD to BOEMRE for approval that includes the following before BOEMRE may approve any APDs under the previously-approved EP or DOCD:

1. Information related to or affected by proposed changes (if any);
2. Any other pertinent information specified in NTL No. 2008-G04, including the information described below for EPs and DOCDs; and
3. Information required by NTL No. 2010-N06.

In those cases where an operator is submitting a revised EP or DOCD only because an APD has been submitted for a well location previously approved under the plan, it is not necessary for the operator to submit a new or revised environmental impact analysis.

1. Plan Contents (30 CFR 250.211 and 250.241)

(a) Plan Information Form. Use Form MMS-137 to provide information concerning your proposed activities. For all Supplemental and Revised EP's and DOCD's, use Form MMS-137 to provide updated information on the description, objectives, and tentative schedule for all approved activities included in the EP or DOCD that have not yet been conducted. If applicable, indicate the approved activities that you have determined will never be conducted.

(b) Additional measures. Provide a discussion of the safety, pollution prevention, and early spill detection measures that you will take beyond those required by 30 CFR part 250.

2. General Information (30 CFR 250.213 and 250.243)

(a) Drilling fluids.

(1) Using the format below, provide information on the types (including chemical constituents) and amounts of the drilling fluids you plan to use to drill your proposed wells. Figures in the model tables below are included for illustrative purposes only.

Type of Drilling Fluid	Estimated Volume of Drilling Fluid to be Used per Well
Water-based (seawater, freshwater, barite)	35,000 bbls
Oil-based (diesel, mineral oil)	500 bbls
Synthetic-based (internal olefin, ester)	20,000 bbls

(2) For each oil-based drilling fluid you list in the table above,

(i) Use the format below to describe its major components:

Product Name	Amount to be Used	Reference Number
Bentonite	100 50-lb bags	CAS # 1302-78-9
PureDrill IA-35	500 bbls	CAS # 178603-63-9

(ii) Provide a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS), MSDS No., or Internet address for the MSDS (or equivalent information) for each product.

(b) Oils characteristics. For DOCDs only, use the format below to provide the chemical and physical characteristics of the oils (see definition under 30 CFR 254.6) that will be produced, handled, transported, or stored at the facilities you will use to conduct your proposed development and production activities.

Characteristic	Analytical Methodologies Should Be Consistent With:
(1) Gravity (API)	ASTM D4052
(2) Flash Point (°C)	ASTM D93/IP 34
(3) Pour Point (°C)	ASTM D97
(4) Viscosity (Centipoise at 25 °C)	ASTM D445
(5) Wax Content (wt %)	Precipitate with 2-butanon/dichloromethane (1 to 1 volume) at -10 °C
(6) Asphaltene Content (wt %)	IP-Method 143/84
(7) Resin Content (wt %)	Jokuty et al. (1996)
(8) Boiling point distribution including, for each fraction, the percent volume or weight and the boiling point range in degrees C	ASTM D2892 (TBP distillation), or ASTM D2887/5307
(9) Sulphur (wt %)	ASTM D4294

Note: For the distillation information in item no. 8 above, the BOEMRE GOMR may accept the following information in lieu

of items nos. 5, 6, 7, and 8: weight percent total of saturates, aromatics, waxes, asphaltenes, and resins; and total BTEX (ppm) using analytical methods compatible with the Hydrocarbon Groups methodology from Jokuty et al. (1996).

Provide information on the oil composition most likely to result in the largest volume spill (e.g., the oil from the expected largest reservoir, stored oil or pipeline oil combined from a number of wells).

Identify the oil you analyze using one of the following formats:

Oil from one well	Oil from more than one well sampled on a facility	Oil from a pipeline system
Area/Block. BOEMRE platform ID. API Well No. Completion perforation interval BOEMRE reservoir name. Sample date. Sample No. (if more than one is taken).	Area/Block. BOEMRE platform ID. Field/Unit. Sample date. Sample No. (if more than one is taken). Listing of API Well Nos. Storage tank ID No. (if sampled at a storage tank.	Pipeline segment number. For each pipeline that feeds into the system, the ID codes for the closest upstream LACT units and/or facility measurement points. Storage tank ID No. (if sampled at a storage tank).

3. Waste and Discharge Information (30 CFR 250.217 and 250.248)

(a) Projected generated wastes. Using the format below, provide information on the projected solid and liquid wastes likely to be generated by your proposed activities. Include both operational wastes permitted by the appropriate NPDES permit and any other identified wastes.

Type of Waste	Composition	Projected Amount
Spent drilling fluids	Water-based drilling muds	8,000 bbls/well
Cuttings containing Synthetic-based mud	Cuttings coated with ester-based Synthetic drilling muds	600 bbls/well
Chemical product waste	Ethylene glycol Methanol	100 bbls/month 25 bbls/month
Trash	Refuse generated during painting operations	50 bbls/month

Describe also your plans for treating, storing, or downhole disposal of these wastes at your facility location(s).

(b) Projected ocean discharges. If any of your solid and liquid wastes are to be discharged overboard, use the format below to provide the following information.

Type of Waste	Total Amount to be Discharged	Discharge Rate	Discharge Method
Spent drilling fluids and cuttings containing synthetic-based mud	5,000 bbls	200 bbls/day	Shunt through downpipe to 40 feet above the mudline.
Chemical product wastes	50 bbls	2 bbls/day	Add to produced water stream.

(c) Modeling report. If you model the trajectory or fate of discharges of the projected solid or liquid wastes generated by your proposed activities, provide two copies of the modeling report or the modeling results, or a reference to such report or results if it has already been submitted to the Regional Supervisor. Include the oceanographic data you used in the modeling in the report. If you plan to model, consult with the Regional Supervisor for further guidance on preparing the modeling report. Provide this report only when you propose activities for which the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requires an ***individual*** NPDES permit.

4. Oil Spills Information (30 CFR 250.219 and 250.250)

(a) Oil spill response discussion. Discuss your response to an oil spill resulting from the activities proposed in your EP or DOCD. Include all the information described in 30 CFR 254.26(b), (c), (d), and (e) that is applicable. As the source of the spill, use whichever of the following gives the greater volume of oil:

(i) The blow-out scenario you describe in the information you submit to comply with NTL No. 2010-N06; or

(ii) The volume of the largest oil/fuel storage tank on the drilling rig or facility.

(b) Modeling report. If you model a potential oil or hazardous substance spill, provide two copies of the modeling, or a reference to such a report if it has already been provided to the Regional Supervisor. Include the oceanographic data used in the modeling in the report. If you plan to model, contact the Regional Supervisor for guidance on preparing the report.

5. Support Vessels and Aircraft Information (30 CFR 250.224 and 250.257)

(a) Diesel oil supply vessels. Using the format below, provide additional information on the vessels you will use to supply diesel oil. Make sure you include any vessels that will transfer diesel oil you will use for purposes other than fuel (e.g., base for corrosion control fluids). If the specific fuel supply vessel has not yet been determined, use the maximum size, fuel capacity, and trip frequency for the type of vessel you will use.

Size of Fuel Supply Vessel	Capacity of Fuel Supply Vessel	Frequency of Fuel Transfers	Route Fuel Supply Vessel Will Take
180 feet	1,500 bbls	Weekly	From the shorebase in Fourchon, LA, to XYZ Field, then to WC Block 134.

(b) Solid and liquid wastes transportation. If you plan to transport any of your solid and liquid wastes from the site of your proposed activities to other offshore structures or to temporary or permanent onshore facilities for storage or disposal, use the format below to provide the following information:

Type of Waste Approx. Composition	Total Amount	Name/Location	Rate	Transport Method

Spent oil-based drilling fluids	1,000 bbls	XYZ Company, St. Mary, LA	200 bbls/day	Cuttings boxes on barges
Chemical product wastes	100 bbls	Mars Facility, Morgan City, LA	2 bbls/day 4 bbls/day	Drums on crew boat Drums on crew boat
Trash and debris	1,000 ft^3	Morgan City municipal landfill.	N/A	Storage bins on crew boat

6. Onshore Support Facilities Information (30 CFR 250.225 and 250.258)

(a) Support base construction or expansion timetable. If you plan to acquire land to construct or expand the onshore support base you will use, provide a timetable for land acquisition (including rights-of-way and easements) and construction or expansion.

7. Administrative Information (30 CFR 228 and 262)

Bibliography. If you refer to a previously submitted EP, DPP, or DOCD; study report; survey report; or other material in your EP or DOCD or its accompanying information, provide a list (with the BOEMRE GOMR control number, if known) of each referenced document. For Supplemental and Revised EPs and DOCDs, if the information has previously been submitted and provides all necessary and current information, refer to the plan control number of the EP or DOCD in which it was included for each section of the Supplemental or Revised plan (e.g., Plan Contents; General Information; Biological, Physical, and Socioeconomic Information; Air Emissions Information; etc.).

Appendix B
Requirements under the Safety Interim Final Rule

The requirements under this interim final rule are hereby clarified as follows:

A. Changes to API RP language (submitted under Subpart A)

1. **Documents incorporated by reference located at 30 CFR 250.198(a)(3)**, are clarified as follows:

   a. With respect to any incorporated document, the term "*should*", is to be interpreted as meaning "*must*" for purposes of these regulations. If this interpretation creates any contradictions or eliminates options available for addressing particular situations encountered by an operator, then an operator is to include, as part of its permit application, a discussion of the options that the operator considered and an explanation regarding the alternative chosen by the operator. Departures from the alternatives provided under the Safety Interim Final Rule will be evaluated on a case by case basis and granted where the situation warrants.

B. Applications for Permit to Drill (submitted under Subpart D)

1. **Casing and Cementing Requirements located at 30 CFR 250.420(a)(6)**, are clarified as follows:

   a. The registered professional engineer (PE) must certify that during the drilling/construction of the wellbore there will be two barriers in each annulus (for example, primary cement job and seal assembly) and that, upon running and cementing the final production casing/liner, there will be two barriers in the center of the wellbore (for example, dual mechanical floats). This certification may apply to a completion permit if you are running the production casing under the completion APM.
   b. The PE may not certify work that was previously performed. The PE must only certify the work to be performed under the permit submitted.
   c. When using less cement than approved in the original APD, an RPD will be required to include PE certification for the new cement volumes.
   d. If an increase in cement volume is needed because an additional hydrocarbon zone is identified, then an RPD will be required to include PE certification for the new cement volumes.
   e. As with other requests, requests for permit revisions outside normal business hours will require PE certification prior to approval. An email stating that the PE has certified the revisions will suffice, but the stamped revisions should be submitted within 72 hours of the e-mail to the appropriate District Office.
   f. The barriers must be tested or in the case where a barrier cannot be tested there must be a methodology in place to verify the placement of the barrier (operational parameters or direct measurement methods that will indicate successful placement or successful installation.)

2. **Casing and Cementing Requirements located at 30 CFR 250.415(f)**, are clarified as follows:

a. BOEMRE has developed an API RP 65 Part 2 compliance table for guidance. An operator may answer the questions in the table, along with the written descriptions where needed. If an operator supplies a written description in its own format, then the District Engineer will complete the table and answer the descriptions utilizing the information supplied by the operator. If the operator does not supply enough information to confirm compliance with standards of RP 65-Part 2 or any other provision under this subpart, then the permit application may be returned for clarification. (See attachment 1 for the table).

3. **Subsea BOP Verification Requirements located at 30 CFR 250.416(f),** are clarified as follows:

a. Regulations require that an independent third party verify that the subsea BOP stack has not been damaged or compromised from previous service. Because this verification cannot be performed until the BOP is pulled from the well where it is then-situtated, and then inspected and tested, this requirement may be addressed as a condition of approval. The condition will require an operator not to spud the well until it has submitted the independent third party verification stating that the BOP has been inspected and tested and that it has not been compromised or damaged from its previous service. This certification will be submitted in a RPD/RST prior to spudding the well.

4. **Pressure Testing Casing Requirements located at 30 CFR 250.423(c),** are clarified as follows:

a. For wells utilizing subsea stacks, a negative test is required for the intermediate and production casing strings. For wells utilizing surface stacks, all liner tops exposed in either the intermediate or production annulus will require a negative test. Any detection of flow or pressure build up will be considered a failed test.
b. In the event of a failed test, you must immediately investigate the cause, correct the problem, and notify the appropriate District Office. A procedure for the retest must be submitted and approved by the district.
c. For subsea wells, the negative test must be performed to the same degree of the expected pressure once the BOP is disconnected. For surface wells and liner tops, test to the highest differential pressure that is expected for the life of the well; at a minimum, the equivalent to 1 PPG less than pore pressure for that hole section.
d. The negative test must be performed prior to displacing the kill weight fluids with a lighter fluid.

5. **BOP Maintenance and Inspection Requirements located at 30 CFR 250.446(a)** are clarified as follows:

a. API RP 53, Section 17.10 states "After each well, the well control equipment should be cleaned, visually inspected, preventative maintenance performed, and pressure tested before installation on the next well." The pressure test may be performed after nippling up on the well for a surface stack.

6. **BOP Inspection Requirements located at 30 CFR 250.451(i)** is clarified as follows:

   a. If pipe is sheared, either in a well control event or accidentally, you must retrieve, physically inspect, and conduct a full pressure test of the BOP stack.

C. **Applications for Permit to Modify (submitted under Subparts E and F)**

1. **Well Completions, Re-completions and Workover Requirements located at 30 CFR 250.500 thru 30 CFR 250.618** are clarified as follows:

   a. PE certification is not required when changing zones, plugging back for immediate sidetrack, or recompletions. PE certification is only needed for drilling, TA and PA permits.

2. **BOP Maintenance and Inspection Requirements located at 30 CFR 250.516(g) and 30 CFR 250.617(l)** are interpreted as follows:

   a. API RP 53, Section 17.10 states "After each well, the well control equipment should be cleaned, visually inspected, preventative maintenance performed, and pressure tested before installation on the next well." The pressure test may be performed after nippling up on the well for a surface stack.

D. **Applications for Permit to Modify (submitted under Subpart Q)**

1. **Permanently Plugging Wells Requirements located at 30 CFR 250.1712(g)**, are clarified as follows:

   a. For wells being permanently abandoned (PA) and the wellhead removed, the PE needs to certify that there are two independent barriers in the center wellbore and the annuli are isolated per the regulations at 30 CFR 250.1715. However, if the wellhead is being left in place for the PA, the PE must certify two independent barriers in both the center wellbore and the annuli.
   b. The PE may not certify work that was previously performed, the PE must only certify the work to be performed under the permit submitted.
   c. PE certification is not required for an APM to conduct work that would convert a temporarily abandoned (TA) well to a PA well by cutting and pulling casings only (assuming that there are no additional plugs being set and there are no cementing operations taking place.)
   d. As with other requests, requests for permit revisions outside normal business hours will require PE certification prior to approval. An email stating that the PE has certified the revisions will suffice, but the stamped revisions should be submitted within 72 hours of the e-mail to the appropriate District Office.
   e. The barriers must be tested or in the case where a barrier cannot be tested, there must be a methodology in place to verify the placement of the barrier (operational parameters or direct measurement methods that will indicate successful placement or successful installation.)

2. **Temporary Plugging of Wells Requirements located at 30 CFR 250.1721 thru 30 CFR 250.1723** are clarified as follows:

   a. PE certification is required for a "partial" TA; these are conducted for "idle iron" wells when setting a downhole zonal isolation plug.
   b. The PE may not certify work that was previously performed. The PE must only certify the work to be performed under the permit submitted.
   c. Requests for permit revisions outside normal business hours will require PE certification prior to approval. An email stating that the PE has certified the revisions will suffice, however the stamped revisions must be submitted within 72 hours to the appropriate District Office.
   d. 30 CFR 250.1721(h) requires the PE to certify that the well will be left with two independent barriers in the center wellbore and the annuli.
   e. The barriers required by 30 CFR 250.1721(h) must be tested, or in the case where a barrier cannot be tested, there must be a methodology in place to verify the placement of the barrier (operational parameters or direct measurement methods that will indicate successful placement or successful installation.)

Regulatory Requirement: §250.415(f) A written description of how an operator evaluated the best practices included in API RP 65-Part 2, Isolating Potential Flow Zones During Well Construction (incorporated by reference as specified in §250.198). An operator's written description must identify the mechanical barriers and cementing practices it will use for each casing string (reference API RP 65-Part 2, Sections 3 and 4).

The following questions are listed to provide guidance on how to comply with the written description required in 30 CFR 250.415(f). An operator may answer the questions in the table, along with the written descriptions where needed. If an operator supplies a written description in its own format, then the BOEMRE District Engineer will use the table below and answer the questions utilizing the information the operator supplied. If the operator does not supply enough information to confirm compliance with the requirements of RP 65-Part 2 and any other provisions required under this subpart, the District Engineer may return the permit application for clarification.

	GENERAL QUESTIONS:	
1	Have you considered the following in your well planning and drilling plan determinations: evaluation for flow potential, site selection, shallow hazards, deeper hazard contingency planning, well control planning for fluid influxes, planning for lost circulation control, regulatory issues and communications plans, planning the well, pore pressure, fracture gradient, mud weight, casing plan, cementing plan, drilling plan, wellbore hydraulics, wellbore cleaning, barrier design, and contingency planning? [API 65-2 1.5]	Yes/No
2	Have you considered the general well practices while drilling, monitoring and maintaining wellbore stability, curing and preventing lost circulation, and planning and operational considerations? [API 65-2 1.6]	Yes/No
	FLOW POTENTIAL	
3	Will a pre-spud hazard assessment be conducted for the proposed well site?	Yes/No
4	List all potential flow zones within the well section to be cemented.	Describe below
5	Has the information concerning the type, location, and likelihood of potential flow zones been communicated to key parties (cementing service provider, rig contractor, or 3rd parties)?	Yes/No
	CRITICAL DRILLING FLUID PARAMETERS	

6	Are fluid densities sufficient to maintain well control without inducing lost circulation?	Yes/No
	CRITICAL WELL DESIGN PARAMETERS	
7	Will you use a cementing simulation model in the design of this well?	Yes/No
7a	If yes, how is the output of this simulation model used in your decision-making process?	Describe below
7b	If no, include discussion of why a model is not being used.	Describe below
7c	Either way, include the number and placement of centralizers being used.	Describe below
8	Will you ensure the planned top of cement will be 500 feet above the shallowest potential flow zone?	Yes/No
9	Have you confirmed that the hole diameter is sufficient to provide adequate centralization?	Yes/No
10	If there are any isolated annuli, how have you mitigated thermal casing pressure build-up?	NA or Describe below
11	Will you ensure the well will be stable (no volume gain or losses, drilling fluid density equal in vs. out) before commencing cementing operations?	Yes/No
12	List all annular mechanical barriers in your design.	Describe below
13	Has the rathole length been minimized or filled with drilling fluid with a density greater than the cement density?	Yes/No
14a	If you have any liner top packers exposed to the production or intermediate annulus, what is the rating for differential pressure across this packer?	NA or Describe below
14b	If you have any liner top packers exposed to the production or intermediate annulus, have you confirmed that your negative test will not exceed this rating?	Yes/No/NA
15	What type of casing hanger lock-down mechanisms will be used?	Describe below
16	For all intermediate and production casing hangers set in subsea, HP wellhead housing, will you immediately set/energize the lock-down ring prior to performing any negative test?	Yes/No
17	For all production casing hangers set in subsea, HP wellhead housing, will you set/energize the lock-down sleeve immediately after running the casing and prior to performing any negative test?	Yes/No
	CRITICAL OPERATIONAL PARAMETERS	
18	Will you have 2 mechanical barriers in addition to cement in your final casing string (or liner if it is your final string)?	Yes/No
19	Do you plan to nipple down BOP in accordance with the WOC requirements in 30 CFR 250.422 and API RP 65 Part 2 First Edition?	Yes/No
20	Do you plan on running a cement bond log on the production and intermediate casing/liner prior to conducting the negative test on that string?	Yes/No
	Are contingency plans in place for the following:	
21	Lost circulation?	Yes/No
22	Unplanned shut-down?	Yes/No
23	Unplanned rate change?	Yes/No
24	Float equipment does not hold differential pressures?	Yes/No
25	Surface Equipment issues?	Yes/No
26	Will you monitor the annulus during cementing and WOC time?	Yes/No
27	If using foam cement, is a risk assessment being conducted and incorporated into cementing plan?	Yes/No
28	If using foam cement, will the foamer, stabilizer, and nitrogen injection be controlled by an automated process system?	Yes/No
	CRITICAL MUD REMOVAL PARAMETERS	
28	Have you tested your drilling fluid and cementing fluid programs for compatibility to reduce possible contamination?	Yes/No
29	Have you considered actual well conditions when determining appropriate cement volumes?	Yes/No
30	Has the spacer been modeled or designed to achieve the best possible mud removal?	Yes/No
	CRITICAL CEMENT SLURRY PARAMETERS	
31	Have all appropriate cement slurry parameters been considered to ensure the highest probability of isolating all potential flow zones?	Yes/No
32	Do you plan on circulating bottom up prior to the start of the cement job?	Yes/No

If any question is answered "No," additional explanation will be needed as to why that

practice is not being followed; identify the question and provide that explanation below. The following questions always require a description (if not applicable, state "Not Applicable"): Nos. 4, 7a, 7b, 7c, 10a, 12, 14a, 15.

Appendix C
Requirements under NTL No. 2010-N10

A. In order to ensure that an operator can safely conduct activities that require approval of an APD/RPD, an AST/RST, or an ABP/RBP, and involve the use of a subsea BOP system, a floating drilling rig equipped with a surface BOP system, or a drilling rig on a floating platform, the operator must provide a statement of compliance in accordance with NTL No. 2010-N10. This statement of compliance must be provided with each APD/RPD, AST/RST, or ABP/RBP in the categories described above and must be signed by the company's authorized official that is on file with BOEMRE.

B. For activities that require approval of an APD/RPD, an AST/RST, or an ABP/RBP and involve the use of a subsea BOP system, a floating drilling rig equipped with a surface BOP system, or a drilling rig on a floating platform, BOEMRE will evaluate whether an operator has submitted adequate information demonstrating that it has access to and can deploy surface and subsea containment resources that would be adequate to promptly respond to a blowout or other loss of well control.

An operator may satisfy these informational requirements by, for example, submitting a Containment Plan as part of its regional or subregional OSRP. This Containment Plan should demonstrate that the operator has access to and can deploy containment resources that would be adequate to properly respond to a blowout or other loss of well control.

In evaluating the sufficiency of subsea containment information submitted by an operator, BOEMRE will consider an analysis of the Mudline Shut-In Pressure (MLSIP) for the proposed operation. This analysis will consist of an evaluation of the well design to determine MLSIP (that is, the pressure that the system at the mudline would have to contain.) BOEMRE will evaluate whether the operator has demonstrated the ability to shut in the well with a capping stack with full displacement of the mud while maintaining wellbore integrity (including, e.g., casing, shoe, and open hole) under MLSIP. In cases in which an operator proposes a capping stack as the primary containment option, BOEMRE will evaluate whether the well design is sufficient to allow shut-in without broach to the sea floor. If full containment is necessary, BOEMRE will evaluate the process flow for the entire containment system, including source to storage of captured oil. BOEMRE also will evaluate factors such as debris removal from the site of a blowout, if required. This analysis will not be performed with respect to proposed operations under APM's or RPM's.

GUIDELINES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF CONTAINMENT PLANS

Make the following assumptions:

1. An uncontrolled Blowout/Explosion/Fire scenario that requires evacuation of the rig/facility.
2. Full displacement of drilling fluid

Address the following:

1. **Debris Removal**
   Assuming that an evacuated facility or rig has suffered a blowout, explosion, and/or a fire causing it to topple, evaluate your ability to regain vertical access to the blowout well. Provide a description of all available equipment to perform debris removal specific to this scenario.
2. **Subsea containment and capture equipment, including containment domes and capping stacks**
3. **Subsea utility equipment, including hydraulic power, hydrate control, and dispersant injection equipment.**
4. **Riser systems.**
5. **Remotely Operated vehicles (ROVs)**
6. **Capture vessels.**
7. **Support vessels.**
8. **Storage facilities**

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 11, 2010

The Honorable Robert V. Abbey
Acting Director, Minerals Management Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Abbey:

We understand that members of the Shallow Water Energy Security Coalition will be meeting with you and your staff on Friday, June 11th, to discuss the need to clarify the Notice to Lessees focusing on new safety measures (Safety NTL) issued by the Department of the Interior (DOI) on June 8, 2010. We appreciate the opportunity you are providing to meet with the Coalition members, and we strongly urge that you work closely with shallow water drilling interests in the Gulf of Mexico to ensure that shallow water drilling operations may recommence immediately.

As you know, the Administration has stated that the moratorium on shallow water drilling in the Gulf of Mexico has been lifted. However, the subsequent issuance of the Safety NTL has caused great concern and uncertainty, and without further clarification by DOI, acts as a *de facto* continuing moratorium on future shallow water drilling operations. The Safety NTL imposes a number of additional inspections and certifications for operations on the OCS, but there are many questions as to how these measures will be implemented and applied by DOI/MMS, and once the new requirements are met, how quickly the MMS will resume issuance of new drilling permits. Furthermore, additional uncertainty exists in that DOI also has stated that it would issue "in the coming days" expanded requirements for exploration plans and development plans on the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf.

We attach for your review a list of Safety NTL clarifications required by the shallow water drilling industry in order to provide the certainty required to recommence drilling operations. Your agency must immediately resolve these and other uncertainties and immediately begin the appropriate issuance of new shallow water drilling permits.

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Please keep us apprised of your efforts in this matter. This issue is of vital importance to the people of Louisiana.

Sincerely,

Rep. Rodney Alexander

Rep. Charles Boustany

Rep. Charlie Melancon

Rep. Steve Salise

Rep. Bill Cassidy

Rep. John Fleming

Rep. Ahn Joseph Cao

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Shallow Water Energy Security Coalition
Request for Clarification

National Notice to Lessees and Operators of Federal Oil and Gas Leases
Outer Continental Shelf No. 2010-No5 ("NTL")

1. Confirmatory Requests

   1.1 Confirm that the BOP Configuration and Performance Information requirement only relates to operations utilizing a subsea BOP system or a surface BOP stack on a floating platform and does not apply to jackup rigs utilizing surface BOP stack.

   1.2 Confirm that the BOP Certification Requirements for Floating Drilling Operations only apply on operations on floating drilling rigs and do not apply to jackup rig operations.

   1.3 Confirm that a technical classification society or an American Petroleum Institute ("API") licensed manufacturing/inspection/certification firm or licensed professional engineering firm will qualify as an "independent third party" under the NTL capable of providing the verifications required for BOP compatibility and blind-shear ram capability.

   1.4 Confirm that once the BOP system has been inspected and verified by an independent third party for compatibility with the equipment on the rig and the shearing capacity of the blind-shear rams has been verified, no further third party verification will be required for subsequent wells drilled utilizing the same equipment and within the rated capacity of the BOP system.

   1.5 Confirm that the BOP Compatibility Verification requirements entail and require a review of documentation, maintenance records and planning documents rather than a physical or mechanical inspection of the BOP system.

2. Clarification Request

   2.1 How long does MMS expect it will take to review and approve the information required in the NTL and recommence the issuance of APD's and APM's and approve the recommencement of drilling operations?

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY
MANAGEMENT, REGULATION, AND ENFORCEMENT

Washington, DC 20240

SEP 03 2010

The Honorable Rodney Alexander
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Alexander:

Thank you for your letter dated June 11, 2010, cosigned by your colleagues, on the need to clarify the Department of the Interior's Notice to Lessees (NTL) focusing on new safety measures that was issued June 8, 2010. A similar response is being sent to each of your colleagues who signed your letter.

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation, and Enforcement (BOEMRE) met with the Shallow Water Energy Security Coalition on June 10, 2010, to discuss NTL No. 2010-N05, Increased Safety Measures for Energy Development on the Outer Continental Shelf, effective June 8, 2010. BOEMRE sent a June 17, 2010, letter to Mr. James W. Noe, Senior Vice President, Hercules Offshore, Inc., addressing the concerns raised by the Coalition. A copy of that letter is enclosed. Additionally, the BOEMRE met with the Shallow Water Energy Security Coalition on both Friday, July 16, 2010, and Monday, July 19, 2010, to clarify the requirements of NTL No. 2010-N05 and NTL No. 2010-N06, Information Requirements for Exploration Plans, Development and Production Plans and Development Operations Coordination Documents on the OCS.

BOEMRE has established Web pages that contain the answers to Frequently Asked Questions regarding NTL No. 2010-N05 and NTL No. 2010-N06. Those Web addresses are http://www.gomr.mms.gov/homepg/regulate/regs/ntls/2010NTLs/10-n05-FAQs.pdf. and http://www.gomr.mms.gov/homepg/regulate/regs/ntls/2010NTLs/10-n06-FAQs.pdf.

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

Enclosure

Similar letters to:

The Honorable Charles Boustany
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charlie Melancon
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steve Salise
House of Representatives
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The Honorable John Fleming
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ahn Joseph Cao
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

BILL CASSIDY, M.D.
6TH DISTRICT, LOUISIANA

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
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http://cassidy.house.gov

May 27, 2010

The Honorable Kenneth Salazar
Interior Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240-0002

Dear Secretary Salazar:

Please see the enclosed letter from my constituent. I would appreciate if you would respond directly to my constituent about the issue raised in this correspondence. Any information and/or assistance that you can provide will be gratefully received. Thanks in advance for your interest in this matter.

Sincerely,

Bill Cassidy

Bill Cassidy
Member of Congress

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Strategic Consulting Group, LLC

Louisiana Economic Foundation, Inc

May 26, 2010

Dear Cabinet Secretaries and designated parties with interest regarding this Crisis:

Respectfully, please review the following information which is being presented; It is obvious that time is running short to save Louisiana's Coastal Zone as well as the entire Gulf Region which is at direct risk of being lost.

Subsequent damage to Americas Wetlands which supports our nations: food supply, ecology, fisheries, Louisiana working coastal zone, commerce and industry, way of life for residents of the region and can be considered a threat national security with permanent damage to this region. Our marshes and coastal ecology affords critical natural protection against hurricane and related storm surge. These seasonal events disrupt our entire nation as witnessed during Katrina subsequent events which I showcased in my letters to congress in 2006 resulting in OCS revenue sharing for Louisiana. This working coast must be kept alive.

Apparently there exist some miss information / confusion as it relates to understanding that a non toxic safe proven solution does exist that can clean up the contamination and help to diffuse the crises and minimize the consequential damage to the region.

The British Petroleum accident which has turned into national crises/catastrophe can be resolved and be restored with the discovery and utilization of **OIL SPILL EATER II** coupled with the suspension of the use of toxic dispersants like Corexit 9527 with its deadly solvents that have a sterilization effect on the ecology. Sub surface tar balls could come ashore with future storm surge.

Please read the attached documents:

- Letter to Vice President Biden dated May 20, 2010
- US EPA letter, denoting that OIL SPILL Eater is National Contingency Plan approved product. Special emphasis of Section VI (Unique properties and application for use in our coastal zone marshes with the aid of an air boat; also the ability to eliminate the surface oil threat back to the rig site.
- Louisiana State University, certifying documentation of the product for the EPA letter.
- Emulating mother nature
- Win-Win solution

Please accept this information as it was intended (to help our nation's leadership to be better informed and afford local understanding to the issues with the sincere hope of direct resolution). At this critical time our focus is not blame but saving what must be saved and restored at all cost. Failure with respect to this subject matter is not an option.

We respectfully appreciate your review, swift action and especially your time to research and discover a real solution for this crises.

In closing, we wish to convey appreciation and special recognition of Louisiana Congressman William Cassidy and his staff for affording this critical conveyance of information at such a critical time in our nation's history.

Sincerely,

David C Fa-Kouri, (Consultant) Oil Spill Eater II
Fa-Kouri & Associates
Louisiana Economic Foundation, Inc
Strategic Consulting Group, LLC
Consultant to: Oil Spill Eater Corporation

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Email: oseicorp@msn.com
Web: www.osei.us

Thursday, May 19, 2010

Dear Vice President Biden,

Vice President of the United States of America

Delivery thru Anthony Fa-Kouri of Little Rock Arkansas

RE: Special request to intercede and allow OIL SPILL EATER II, immediate utilization to help protect our marshes and ecology in order to save our Louisiana and Gulf Coastal Zone.

I am David Fa-Kouri, I asked my cousin Anthony Fa-Kouri for assistance to help Louisiana save its coast and coastal zone from the toxic oil that will kill our ecosystem and kill our marshes which afford our state critical natural hurricane protection. I fought for OCS revenue sharing under the non profit La Economic Foundation which I am the founder/Director, thus my ties to our Louisiana Coast and its economic value to our nation; as you may recall reading my letters to congress which was presented to the US Senate in July of 2006 by Senator Landrieu.

I need your help to get OIL SPILL EATER II approved for immediate use with BP, RRT and or the US Coast Guard. This product is being blocked for use for unknown reasons which I cannot answer. The same can be said for why and how come our US government agencies have authorized dispersants like Corexit 9527 which is deadly toxin, which was protocol by the RRT and EPA. I do not have time for blame; **I need OSEI to be utilized to save what can be saved.**

What is important is that this EPA proven product is allowed be utilized immediately to save our coastal Marshes, which are our natural hurricane protection assets. They are critical coastal defense from hurricanes that saves critical infrastructure from hurricanes as witnessed during Katrina. Marshes are essential to our US National Security, ecosystem, food supply and is a natural resources for our nation.

Fact: OIL SPILL EATER II, www.osei.us : NON TOXIC / safe (bioremediation agent)

- Formerly Blue Sky Chemical. Water base, non flammable, needs no ventilation, Safe enough that you can drink it.
- Approved by the EPA certified for use on the NCP approved product list available for use if allowed by the RRT. Recertified by LSU spring 2009
- 20 year proven track record world wide, utilized by all five branches of our US Armed Forces domestically and abroad in at least 190 bases worldwide.
- Primary first response oil fight product in 30 foreign countries.
- Florida EPA uses this product to clean its fresh water aquifers for human consumption when contaminated. Safe for humans
- RRT Approved once for use at the OSAGE Indian reservation to clean inland water way successfully.
- Used by BP twice: On the Island of Crete in Greece and in Trinidad Tobago, in a grassy marsh area like our Louisiana marshes where it successfully treated the oil spill.
- Cost $2.00 per spilled gallon of oil or hazardous substance (hydrocarbons) Mix ration 50-1 not including labor cost of spraying and pumps.

- Utilization -- **Land -Marsh -Sea** - Proven track record with 14000 spills cleaned up successfully with OIL SPILL EATER II (OSEI) world wide
- Per EPA (NCP) product schedule- from 3 to 30 minutes after application the molecular walls of the hydrocarbon (oil) breakdown and are penetrated, where they are spread out on the waters surface and break up. Note the oil does not sink and so it does not contaminate other levels of the water table. It is inert, non toxic and non flammable. The oil looses its adhesion properties and causes the treated hydrocarbons to float till they are dissolved with the enzymes and indigenous bacteria of the water which convert the hydro carbons to co2 and water. **The properties of Oil Spill Eater II do what nature does only quicker. Its application is unique for our marshes and the problems with oil contamination.**

Attached is the actual EPA letter, please read it for confirmation? Read section VI.

Vice President Biden, this products application is critically important to help sustain Louisiana working coast for the national security of our Nation. Further losses of coastal protection marshes cause salt water intrusion and the potential loss of critical refineries and essential infrastructure. When Louisiana is hurt the nation is impacted. Most people only understand the seafood and the recreation fishing not the service we provide the nation. Our Louisiana working coast was a showcase of how industry and ecology could co exists. Moreover your administration had desired to expand coastal drilling prior to the accident. Without OSEII being utilized the BP's accident has become as disaster. However, the utilization of OIL SPILL EATER II is the real solution and is a force multiplier for making an ecological disaster turn into a win win solution for all involved.

Louisiana and the entire gulf coast region can save its coast and ecology, BP can minimize its catastrophic and potential future losses, as well as our US Government can save the day by finally approving OSEII to be utilized before it is too late. Moreover your administration can win by saving the coast, BP, and showcasing your administrations ability to make decisions that proves to the rest of the nation that with the new technology, **OIL and GAS Drilling is Safe in US Waters**. However, the continued use of toxic chemicals as well as other outdated RRT protocols must stop such as surface burning all of which has been banned internationally since 1996.

In closing, please accept my research and desire to save our natural resources. I realize that your administration is also sworn to do what is necessary to protect the natural resources of our great nation. I am honored to work with such fine patriot such as you in this great time of crises for our coastal states and nation.

I wish to thank you in advance on behalf of my children and the other residents of our region for your time.

Sincerely,

David C. Fa-Kouri, President

Strategic Consultant Group, LLC (Consultant to OSEI Corporation)

La Economic Foundation, Inc Founder/Director

Attachment: US EPA LETTER (highlighted section VI)

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WIN, WIN, WIN Proposal

There is a way to solve this spill problem with OSE II the non toxic alternative that actually converts the oil to CO2 and Water as substantiated by the Test on the EPA NCP list for OSE II. This is what I believe to be the win, win, win, avenue. Ask BP to use OSE II since there response plan was inadequate, or unacceptable to Politicians, scientists, the public, and it has caused the people of the United States to pull back from opening any new drilling areas since they do not believe that oil companies can respond adequately in case of a disaster. Using a safe easy to use product that actually cleans up the oil would allow BP and the Federal Government, and the State of Louisiana to come out after the clean up, and state that they now have a safe effective means to deal with environmental accidents, which could help allow the people of the US to become comfortable with allowing the expansion of drilling areas. Everyone wins.

This scenario was presented a couple of weeks ago, and I stated the one caveat, would be getting BP on board. They know all about OSE II yet they refuse to utilize OSE II, even in light of changing the PR perception, reducing clean up costs, since they are sinking the oil with dispersants, and then after it ravages the ocean floor it comes ashore where they get to address the same oil a second time. OSE II prevents all the damages, and once you apply the oil is converted to CO2 and water which eliminates addressing the same oil twice. I can assure you BP's stock holders want OSE II used, since BP has spent over 500,000,000.00$ for the spill, and with OSE II they would have spent for 10,000,000 gallons with labor would have cost approximately 110,000,000.00$ with no secondary response needed. If someone can broker the win, win, win scenario to BP it could turn a disaster into a manageable spill.

Steven Pedigo

Chairman/CEO OSEI Corporation

OIL SPILL EATER INTERNATIONAL, CORP.

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EMULATING MOTHER NATURE

HOW BIOREMEDIATION OCCURS IN MOTHER NATURE

We would like to first explain what happens In Mother Nature when a hazardous material is spilled.

There is a myriad of bacteria everywhere, where the spill comes in direct contact with bacteria; that bacteria is killed or dies off. The bacteria that is proximal to the spill but not in direct contact, reacts in several ways.

First, the bacteria separate themselves far enough away so as to protect themselves from the toxicity of the spill.

Second, the bacteria then releases enzymes and bio surfactants to attack the spill.

Third, the bio surfactants emulsify and solubilize the spill. What this means IS the bio surfactants will break up the spill and partition the spill into a manageable consistency. This is also breaking down the molecular structure of the spill or detoxifying it, so it can be used as a food source.

The enzymes then form binding sites on the emulsified or solubilized spill and this is where the bacteria will initially attach themselves and start the digestive process. For this process to occur there has to be large amounts of bacteria, and it is a long process for bacteria to acclimate themselves to a spill. Then it takes time for the bacteria to release enzymes and surfactants. One of the limiting factors is the number of bacteria present to produce, and release enough enzymes and surfactants to get the process started. This is why you hear scientists talk about adding nutrients to jumpstart the rapid growth of bacteria so enough enzymes and bio surfactants can be released to affect the mitigation of the spill.

However, nutrients alone are limited because of concentration (washed away or diluted) and the time it takes to grow a large population of bacteria. Wouldn't it be nice if there was a means of emulating Mother Nature and at the same time speeding up the process to mitigate in hours or days what Mother Nature takes days, months and years to handle on her own?

OIL SPILL EATER II

OIL SPILL EATER II (OSE II) contains the enzymes, bio surfactants, nutrients and other necessary constituents for *complete life cycles and biodegradation*. When OSE II is added to a spill, it is not necessary to wait on the proximal bacteria to release enough enzymes or bio surfactants since they are already supplied in our product. Therefore, the minute you apply OSE II, there is enough bio surfactant to start the emulsification and solubilization process. This process generally takes a few minutes to several minutes, depending on the consistency of the spill. As the bio surfactants do their job, the enzymes are attaching themselves to broken down hydrocarbon structures, forming digestive binding sites.

Note: Once this process has occurred, several things are true:

1. The fire hazard has diminished.

2. The toxicity of the spill is rapidly diminished.

3. The odor or smell is almost non-existent.

4. The oil or spill will no longer adhere to anything.

5. The spill is caused to float, OSE II will prevent the oil from sinking.

If the spill has not reached a shoreline yet, but does so after application, it will not adhere to sand, rock, wood, metal or any vegetation.
If the spill has already attached itself, once application occurs, the spill will be lifted from sand, rock, wood, metal or vegetation.
The spill is detoxified to the point, that indigenous (natural) bacteria can now utilize the oil as a food source. This also diminishes toxicity to marine organisms, birds or wildlife.

OSE II causes the oil to float on the surface of the water, which reduces the impact to the sub-surface - preventing secondary contamination of the water column or tertiary contamination on the floor of the body of water associated with the spill area. The spill being held on the surface will make it easy to monitor.

OSE II also has an extremely efficient nutrient system that is activated once you mix OSE II with natural water. While the spill is being broken down, detoxified the indigenous bacteria in the natural water used to mix OSE II starts rapidly colonizing or proliferating the growth of large numbers of indigenous bacteria. Once the bacteria run out of the OSE II readily available nutrients they convert over to the only food source left the detoxified spill. The spill is then digested to CO_2 and water. In some cases you can see bacteria growing on the spill, and the oil will be digested to CO_2 and water before your eyes on a contained spill. In laboratory test once you see the water in the test beaker or aquarium become turbid, you know it is only a matter of time before the contaminant is remediated to CO_2 and water.

Unlike mechanical cleanup, which cleans up a maximum of 20% of the oil spilled, OSE II will actually address 100% of a spill. This information is substantiated by the EPA's listing of OSE II on the National Contingency Plan for oil spills or the NCP list, which contains the efficacy test performed for the EPA at LSU University. You can see this information at www.osei.us, click in the icon that looks like a flower moving across the page. This will link you to the EPA's site with the OSE II listing, and information.

Oil Spill Eater II emulates (copies) mother nature's process exactly.

TCEQ NELAP Certified

LDEQ LELAP Certified

Bio-Aquatic Testing
2501 Mayes Rd
Suite 100
Carrollton, TX 75006
(972) 242-7750

Bioremediation Agent Effectiveness Test

Oil Spill Eater II

Oil Spill Eater International, Corp.

June 25, 2009

Prepared by: _____ Vice President 6/26/2009 Date

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Bio-Aquatic Testing, Inc. located at 2501 Mayes Rd. Suite 100 Carrollton, Texas 75006 was contracted by Oil Spill Eater International, Corp. (OSEI) to test effectiveness of their bioremediation product, Oil Spill Eater II, using Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) protocol listed in 40 CFR Chapter 1 (7-1-99) Pt. 300 Appendix C, Item 4.0. The test protocol calls for application of products onto ANS 521 oil. The product was applied to test flasks according to manufacturer's specifications. Samples were sacrificed on Day 0, Day 7, and Day 28 of the test period. Day 0 and Day 7 samples were sampled for microbiological analysis and then frozen at –10° C until GC/MS results were known for the Day 28 samples. Each replicate of product and control were tested for continued microbiological viability over time, reduction in weight via gravimetric analysis, and reduction in alkane and/or aromatic constituents via Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectroscopy (GC/MS). The product was deemed effective if the data showed the GC/MS product results for Day 28 treatments to be statistically less than the Day 28 controls and Day 28 treatments to be statistically less than Day 0 treatments.

GC/MS data for Days 0, 7, and 28, were consolidated and analyzed with the Minitab Statistical program 13.3. Data was analyzed for a significant difference between controls and treatments (products) using a General Linear ANOVA Model with Dunnett's and/or Tukey's means comparison test. GC/MS analysis showed significant reduction of both alkane and aromatic constituents of the test oil as indicated by the statistically significant difference between the Day 28 controls and Day 28 treatments as well as between Day 0 control and Day 28 treatments. Day 7 results also showed a statistically significant reduction of treatments as compared to controls.

The surrogate compounds, d-10 phenanthrene and 5-α androstane showed recovery percentages which indicates the test meets acceptability criteria and is considered valid.

Microbiological results showed continued viability of the oil-eating microorganisms over time. Day 7 and Day 28 gravimetric analysis showed a statistically significant reduction from the controls to the treatments.

Based on the parameters of this test, the product should be included on the NCP list of approved bio-remediation products.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The following methods* were obtained from 40 CFR Chapter 1 (7-1-99) Pt. 300 Appendix C, item 4.0 Bioremediation Effectiveness test, as submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency. Some modifications were made to these methods as discussed below.

The procedure consists of an experimental orbital shaker flask setup using 250-mL Erlenmeyer flasks labeled with unique identifiers using the following treatment design:

Table 1.
*Details from these methods can be found in the aforementioned 40 CFR Chapter 1 (7-1-99) Pt. 300 Appendix C, item 4.0. A copy is available upon request.

Treatment	Number of samples at sampling times			Total number of analytical determinations		
	Day 0	Day 7	Day 28	ANALYSES		
				Microbial counts	Gravimetric	GC/MS
Control	3	3	3	9	9	9
Nutrient	3	3	3	9	9	9
Oil Spill Eater II	3	3	3	9	9	9

Number of replicates per treatment or control per sampling event - 3
Number of replicates per treatment or control – 9
Total replicates - 27
Control - Oil + Seawater
Nutrient – Oil + Seawater + EPA Nutrient
Oil Spill Eater II – Oil + Seawater + Product

Using sterile technique, each appropriately labeled replicate flask has 100-mL of seawater added. The seawater obtained was from the Gulf of Mexico by faculty at LSU. Each flask is placed on a balance and the weight recorded. Approximately one half-gram (0.5 g) of artificially weathered oil (Alaska North Slope 521)* is then added to each flask while still on the balance and the weight recorded again.

*The ANS 521 oil was obtained from John Haines of the Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Monitoring and Support Laboratory, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45268

The control flasks were prepared by adding oil to the natural seawater.

The nutrient flasks were prepared as instructed in 40 CFR Chapter 1 (7-1-99) Pt. 300 Appendix C.

The product mix was prepared according to the manufacturer's instructions. The product was applied to each oil + product flask at a ratio of 10:1 (V/V).

After preparing all treatments and controls, three replicates of each treatment and control were shaken on an orbital shaker at 190 – 200 rpm and incubated at 20° C until sacrificed for the Day 0, 7, and 28 analyses. At each sampling (sacrifice) day, a 0.5-mL aliquot was set aside for microbiological analysis and the remaining solution is prepared for chemical analysis.

STATISTICAL METHODS

GC/MS Data

Surrogate-adjusted data or rank-transformed surrogate adjusted data were analyzed using the Minitab™ 13.3 program. The computer program, unlike many others, is powerful enough to analyze unbalanced sets (uneven replication) of data using a general linear multiple factor ANOVA model. The probability of a type I error (α) was set apriori to 0.05.

Data sets were first analyzed for normality using the Anderson-Darling Goodness of Fit test. This test compares plot points with the normal theoretical distribution. Minitab calculates the statistic, above which there is a danger of non-normality. This is then compared to the chosen (preset by program), alpha (α) level of 0.01. For least-squares estimation, Minitab calculates a Pearson correlation coefficient. If the distribution fits the data well, then the plot points on a probability plot will fall on a straight line. The correlation measures the strength of the linear relationship between the X and Y variables on a probability plot. The correlation will range between 0 and 1, with higher values indicating a better fitting distribution.

Data passing a formal test for normality may not, strictly speaking, come from a normal distribution. Data that has sufficient linearity as shown by the passing results of a formal test for normality, may have attributes that weaken the ANOVA and Dunnett's test's ability to detect statistically significant differences between treatments (Zar, 1984).

Routine transformations were not amenable to non-normal data so an acceptable procedure for multiple-comparison ANOVA was found by using the rank-transformation test (Helsel, 1993). This technique first rank transforms the data and subjects it to the same multiple factor ANOVA test. This allows for an acceptable multiple comparison non-parametric test. After the program calculated the "F" and "P" statistics, the data were automatically subjected to Dunnett's means comparison test for comparison between treatments and controls.

Tables below give the final adjusted P-Values. Values of less than 0.05 (chosen α) indicate statistical significance. The T-Value is a ratio of the Difference of Means and Standard Error of Difference and indicates the degree and direction of the difference.

Microbiological Data

Microbiological data was analyzed with the Environmental Protection Agency's Most Probable Number Calculator, designed by the Risk Reduction Engineering Laboratory, Cincinnati, Ohio. This program calculates the most probable number (mpn) per mL with Salama correction for bias, and a Spearman-Karber Estimate. The program is based on the number of positive reactions in each of six replicates per serial dilution made. Confidence limits are included in the output of the program.

Gravimetric Data

Gravimetric data were analyzed with a simple two sample t-test available on the Minitab™ 13.3 program which compares the Day 0, 7, or 28 control means with their respective treatment means for statistical significance. The calculated p-Value is then compared to the chosen alpha (α) level of 0.05, as in the ANOVA analysis above. If the calculated value exceeds the 0.05, there is no statistical significance.

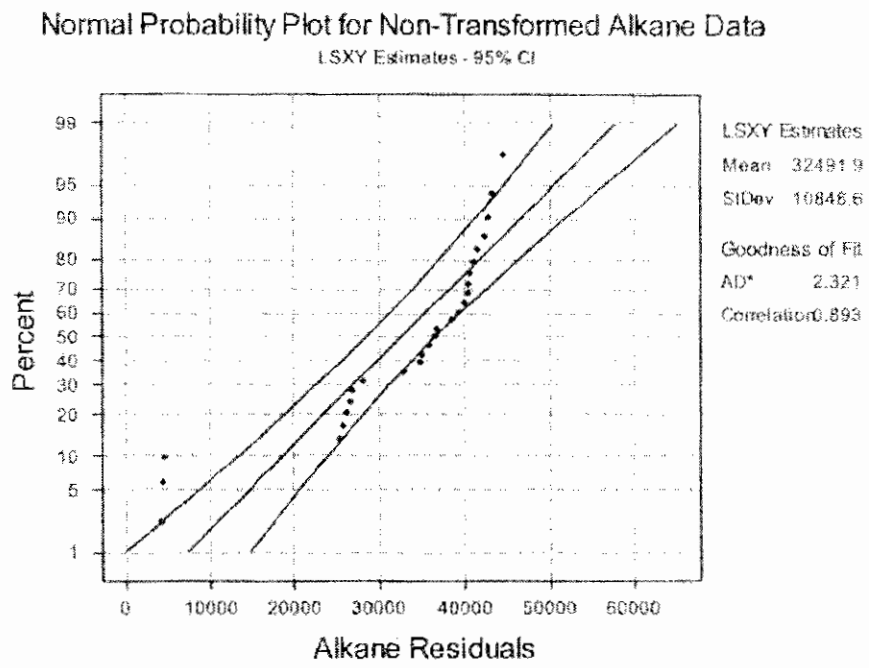

Figure 2. – Probability plot of the surrogate-adjusted alkane residuals showing further evidence of non-linearity.

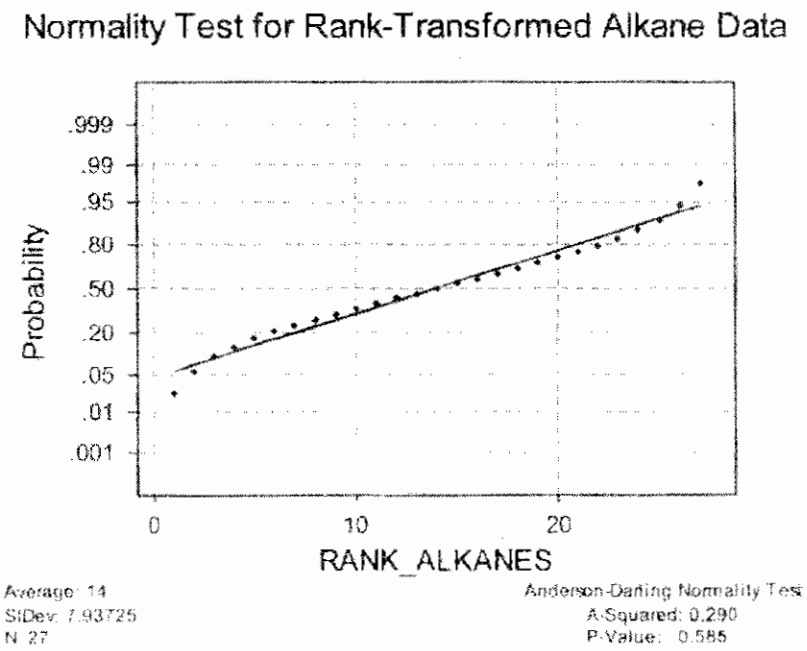

Figure 3. - Anderson-Darling test for normality showing improved linearity of the rank transformed surrogate-adjusted alkane data.

Table 2. ANOVA on non-transformed alkane Data

ANOVA non-transformed data

Source	DF	Seq SS	Adj SS	Adj MS	F	P
Day	2	1746813937	1746813937	873406968	697.73	0.000
Treatment	2	1082517417	1082517417	541258708	432.39	0.000
Treatment*Day	4	761225884	761225884	190306471	152.03	0.000
Error	18	22531957	22531957	1251775	----------	----------
Total	26	3613089194	----------	----------	----------	----------

ANOVA on rank transformed alkane data

Source	DF	Seq SS	Adj SS	Adj MS	F	P
Day	2	1178.00	1178.00	589.00	182.79	0.000
Treatment	2	298.67	298.67	149.33	46.34	0.000
Treatment*Day	4	103.33	103.33	25.83	8.02	0.001
Error	18	58.00	58.00	3.22	----------	----------
Total	26	1638.00	----------	----------	----------	----------

Table 3. Dunnett's test results using the Day 0 control as the control level vs. all other treatments and controls (all interactions). Note - non = non-transformed data, trans = transformed data

Treatment	Day	Difference of Means		T-Value		Adjusted P-Value	
		NON	TRANS	NON	TRANS	NON	TRANS
Nutrient	0	-2600	-5.00	-2.85	-3.41	0.0597	0.0094
Oil Spill Eater II	0	-1439	-2.00	-1.58	-1.36	0.5103	0.3439
Control	7	-3920	-8.33	-4.29	-5.69	0.0029	0.0001
Nutrient	7	-8354	-13.33	-9.15	-9.10	0.0000	0.0000
Oil Spill Eater II	7	-16854	-19.33	-18.45	-13.19	0.0000	0.0000
Control	28	-7373	-12.33	-8.07	-8.41	0.0000	0.0000
Nutrient	28	-16663	-18.33	-18.24	-12.51	0.0000	0.0000
Oil Spill Eater II	28	-38896	-23.33	-42.58	-15.92	0.0000	0.0000

Table 4. Dunnett's test results using the Day 7 control as the control level vs. all other treatments and controls (all interactions). Note - non = non-transformed data, trans = transformed data

Treatment	Day	Difference of Means		T-Value		Adjusted P-Value	
		NON	TRANS	NON	TRANS	NON	TRANS
Control	0	3920	8.33	4.26	5.69	0.0029	1.0000
Nutrient	0	1319	3.33	1.44	2.27	0.5977	0.9999
Oil Spill Eater II	0	2480	6.33	2.72	4.32	0.0772	1.0000
Nutrient	7	-4435	-5.00	-4.85	-3.41	0.0009	0.0094
Oil Spill Eater II	7	-12934	-11.00	-14.16	-7.51	0.0000	0.0000
Control	28	-3453	-4.00	-3.78	-2.73	0.0086	0.0376
Nutrient	28	-12743	-10.00	-13.95	-6.82	0.0000	0.0000
Oil Spill Eater II	28	-34977	-15.00	-38.29	-10.23	0.0000	0.0000

Surrogate-adjusted Aromatic Data

Preliminary analysis of surrogate-adjusted aromatic data for normality (fig.5) showed the raw data to be non-normal with an Anderson-Darling P-statistic of 0.000. This is below the selected α-level of 0.01 and indicates the data are not normally distributed. Further visual evidence of the data's non-linearity can be seen in the probability plot for residuals of the data (fig.6). The data were rank-transformed and reanalyzed for normality (fig.7) giving an Anderson-Darling statistic of 0.585, well above the chosen α-level of 0.01. The probability plot for the residuals (fig. 6) of the data still show a small degree of non-linearity which can slightly lower the ANOVA and Dunnett's test ability to detect a statistical difference between treatments and controls. More on this subject is discussed in the conclusions.

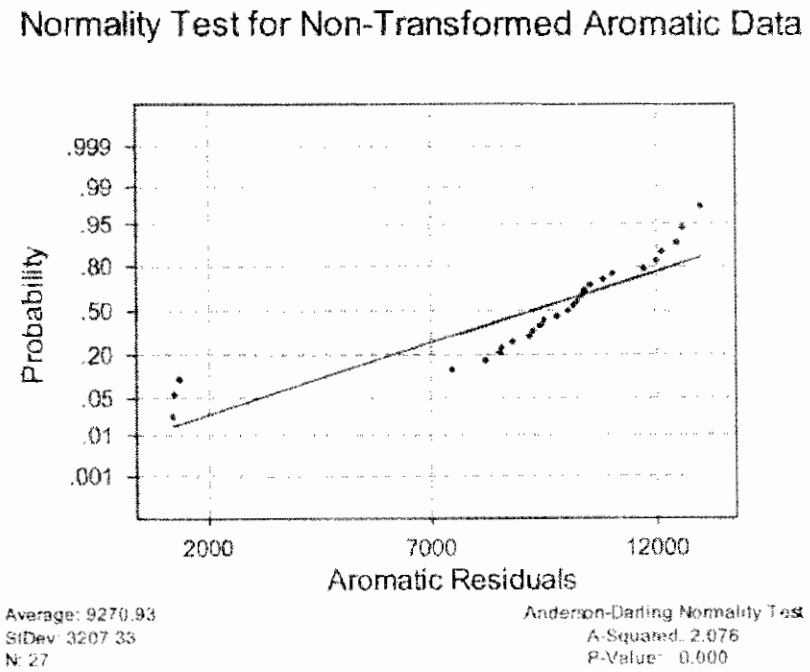

Figure 5. - Anderson-Darling test for normality showing non-linearity of the surrogate adjusted aromatic data.

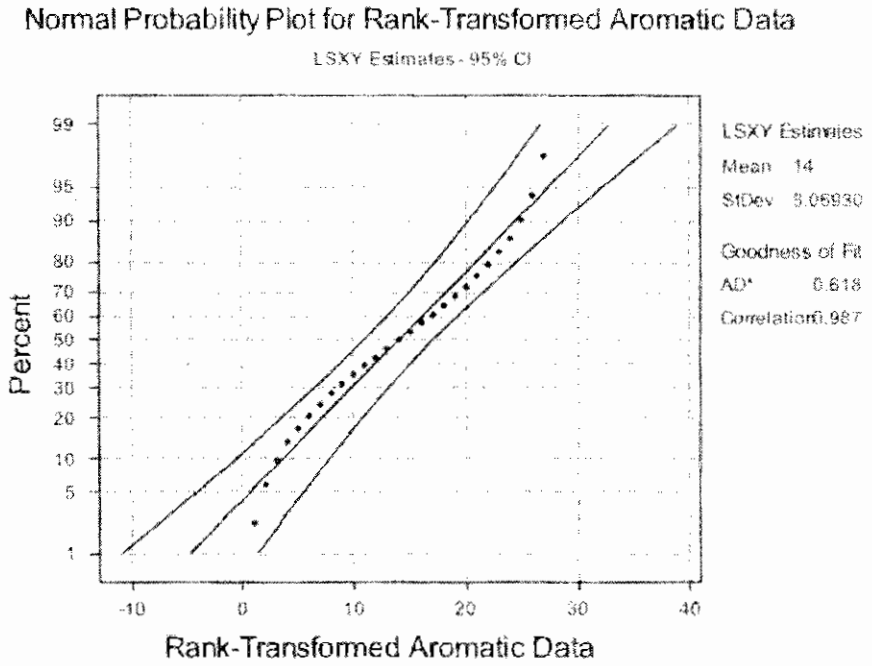

Figure 8. – Probability plot of the rank-transformed surrogate-adjusted aromatic residuals showing improved linearity.

Non-transformed and rank-transformed surrogate-adjusted aromatic data were analyzed with the General Linear ANOVA Model and Dunnett's multiple comparison tests between treatments and controls. P-statistics calculated for the F-test in the ANOVA table for non-transformed and transformed treatment main effects, and treatment/day interactions are all under the chosen alpha (α) level of 0.05 indicating at least one significant difference between one or more treatments over one or more days.

Adjusted P-values for non-transformed and transformed data Oil Spill Eater II Days 7 and 28 are shown to be significantly less than the Day 0 controls (Table 8). Adjusted P-values for non-transformed and transformed product data, Days 7 and 28 are shown to be significantly less than the Day 7 controls (Table 9). Both transformed and non-transformed product data on Day 28 statistically demonstrated significantly more reduction than the Day 28 control (Table 10).

The Nutrient control behaved in a similar manner as the product up to Day 28, showing the same significant differences between the Day 7 and 28 results from Day 0 and Day 7, but not the Day 28 controls. This indicates that nutrient alone is not as effective as the product in reducing aromatics. Using Tukey's pairwise means comparison method on non-transformed data, the Day 28 Oil Spill Eater II product is also significantly less than the Nutrient alone, reinforcing the previous statement (Table 11).

Table 10. Dunnett's test using Day 28 control as the control level vs. all other treatments and controls (all interactions). Note - non = non-transformed data, trans = transformed data

Treatment	Day	Difference of Means		T-Value		Adjusted P-Value	
		NON	TRANS	NON	TRANS	NON	TRANS
Control	0	1902	9.67	3.54	4.138	1.0000	1.0000
Nutrient	0	2251	11.00	4.20	4.709	1.0000	1.0000
Oil Spill Eater II	0	2651	12.33	4.88	5.280	1.0000	1.0000
Control	7	821	5.33	4.53	2.283	0.9985	0.9999
Nutrient	7	364	2.00	0.68	0.856	0.9788	0.9872
Oil Spill Eater II	7	-1462	-6.67	-2.73	-2.854	0.0379	0.0294
Nutrient	28	-596	-3.00	-1.11	-1.284	0.4554	0.3778
Oil Spill Eater II	28	-8266	-9.67	-15.41	-4.138	0.0000	0.0020

Table 11. Tukey's pairwise means comparison results between the Day 28 Nutrient and the Day 28 OIL SPILL EATER II non-transformed aromatic data.

Treatment	Day	Difference of Means	T-Value	Adjusted P-Value
Oil Spill Eater II	28	-7671	-14.30	0.0000

Microbiological Analysis Data

The following tables show the most probable number calculated by EPA's most probable number calculator Version 4.04. The data show the continued viability of the organisms through 28 days.

Table 12. Micro Results, MPN (per mL)

Treatments	**Day 0**	**Day 7**	**Day 28**
Control Rep# 1	7,968	8,406	9,843
Control Rep #2	8,179	8,072	10,136
Control Rep #3	7,647	8,724	9,549
Nutrient Rep #1	8,493	1,832,536	7,274,655
Nutrient Rep #2	7,647	2,015,665	7,967,738
Nutrient Rep #3	7,852	2,115,255	7,646,602
Oil Spill Eater II Rep# 1	8,724	7,274,655	182,054,230
Oil Spill Eater II Rep# 2	8,406	7,967,738	175,038,856
Oil Spill Eater II Rep# 3	8,972	7,646,602	197,910,169

Conclusions

Our conclusions will begin with a discussion of the GC/MS due to its relative importance in judging the tested product effective. A discussion of the microbiological results and gravimetric results will follow.

GC/MS Data

OSEI Corp.Product (Oil Spill Eater II)

Surrogate-adjusted Alkane Data

Surrogate-adjusted alkane Oil Spill Eater II data was shown to be non-normal and had to be rank-transformed to attain an acceptable degree of linearity. Analysis of the surrogate-adjusted data with ANOVA and Dunnett's test did however show the product treatments at Day 7 and 28 to be significantly less than Day 0, 7, and 28 controls. The extreme non-linearity of the non-transformed data makes the results of the ANOVA and Dunnett's test less reliable. The data, upon rank-transformation, achieved the desired linearity showing Day 7 and 28 product results to be significantly less that the respective Day 0, Day 7 and Day 28 controls. Based on this parameter the product appears to be effective.

Surrogate-adjusted alkane nutrient data was shown to be non-normal and had to be rank-transformed to attain an acceptable degree of linearity. Analysis of the surrogate-adjusted data with ANOVA and Dunnett's test did however show the nutrient treatments at Day 7 and 28 to be significantly less than their respective controls. The non-linearity of the non-transformed data may make the results of the ANOVA and Dunnett's test less reliable, however. The data, upon rank-transformation, achieved the desired linearity showing Day 7 and Day 28 nutrient results to be significantly less than the respective Day 0, 7, and 28 controls. Based on this parameter the nutrient treatment alone appears to be effective.

Tukey's test on untransformed alkane data showed a significant difference between the Day 28 Oil Spill Eater II results and Day 28 Nutrient results, indicating that the product seems more effective than nutrient treatment by itself.

Surrogate-adjusted Aromatic Data

Surrogate-adjusted aromatic Oil Spill Eater II data was shown to be non-normal and had to be rank-transformed to attain an acceptable degree of linearity. Analysis of the surrogate-adjusted data with ANOVA and Dunnett's test did however show the product treatments at Day 7 and 28 to be significantly less than Day 0, 7, and 28 controls. The extreme non-linearity of the non-transformed data makes the results of the ANOVA and Dunnett's test less reliable. The data, upon rank-transformation, achieved the desired linearity showing Day 7 and 28 product results to be significantly less that the respective Day 0, Day 7 and Day 28 controls. Based on this parameter the product appears to be effective.

Surrogate-adjusted aromatic nutrient data was shown to be non-normal and had to be rank-transformed to attain an acceptable degree of linearity. Analysis of the surrogate-adjusted data with ANOVA and Dunnett's test did however show the nutrient treatments at Day 7 to be significantly less than the Day 0 and Day 7 controls. The non-linearity of the non-transformed data may make the results of the ANOVA and Dunnett's test less reliable, however. The data, upon rank-transformation, achieved the desired linearity showing Day 7 nutrient results to be significantly less than the respective Day 0, and Day 7, but not the Day 28 controls. Based on this parameter the nutrient treatment alone is not as effective as the product after 28 days and is not significantly than the control alone.

Statistical Analysis

Lastly, we feel that the nature of the data may reduce the ANOVA and Dunnett's means comparison test to detect a legitimate statistical effect between treatments and controls. Before the data can be subjected to the ANOVA analysis, it must pass a "normality" test where a calculated P-value is compared to a chosen alpha (α) level (usually 0.01). ANOVA has reduced power to detect a significant statistical difference when analyzing non-normal data (Zar, 1984). However, data that passes a formal test for normality is not necessarily from a "normal distribution" strictly speaking. A test for normality looks for linearity, which is only one aspect of the assumptions of normality. The data may also be skewed to the left or right as indicated by measurement of the median, may have "heavy tails" in the distribution or may contain outliers. Normality after all, is usually a matter of degrees and not just whether the data are, or are not normally distributed. If data are not normal in the strictest sense, we feel the test's ability to detect subtle but significant statistical differences may be compromised to some degree.

APPENDIX I

	Panel 1		Panel 2		Panel 3		Panel 4					
Total Alkanes	26091?	40744	26334	40432	16015	40926	40344	40438	40976	40569	313	0.8
Total Aromatics	9573?	10832	11290	13651	11993	12492	10852	12031	12492	11785	762	7.2?

	Column 1	Column 2
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Total Alkanes	22081	28833
Aromatic Analytes [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Total Aromatics	2234	1123
% Surrogate Recovery	[illegible]	[illegible]

	Column 1	Column 2
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Total Alkanes	24723	28142
Aromatic Analytes [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Total Aromatics	6482	6529
% Surrogate Recovery	[illegible]	[illegible]

	Column 1	Column 2
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Total Alkanes	21640	26171
Aromatic Analytes [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Total Aromatics	6893	7450
% Surrogate Recovery	[illegible]	[illegible]

	Replicate	Replicate	Replicate	Average	Stdev	%RSD
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Total Alkanes	25623	29153	22171	25816	1097	5.1
Aromatic Analytes	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Total Aromatics	8825	8120	7460	8072	491	6.5

	Day 0 (g)	Day 7 (g)	Day 28 (g)	% Reduction	Avg % Red.
Ctrl. #1	0.097	0.093	0.082	15.5	
Ctrl. #2	0.099	0.093	0.084	15.2	16.5
Ctrl. #3	0.100	0.094	0.081	19.0	
Mean	0.099	0.093	0.082		
Nutrient #1	0.097	0.081	0.044	54.6	
Nutrient #2	0.101	0.077	0.049	51.5	52.0
Nutrient #3	0.104	0.079	0.052	50.0	
Mean	0.101	0.079	0.048		
Product #1	0.099	0.077	0.018	81.8	
Product #2	0.101	0.078	0.014	86.1	85.4
Product #3	0.101	0.075	0.012	88.1	
Mean	0.100	0.077	0.015		

	Vial wt. (g)	Vial + DCM + Oil (g)	Vial + Oil (g)	Oil (g)
D0-C-1	13.473	26.985	13.570	0.097
D0-C-2	14.015	27.530	14.114	0.099
D0-C-3	13.865	26.751	13.965	0.100
D0-N-1	14.249	27.189	14.346	0.097
D0-N-2	13.785	27.087	13.886	0.101
D0-N-3	13.591	27.025	13.695	0.104
D0-P-1	13.687	27.176	13.786	0.099
D0-P-2	13.798	27.115	13.899	0.101
D0-P-3	13.981	27.125	14.082	0.101
D7-C-1	13.976	27.043	14.069	0.093
D7-C-2	14.151	27.148	14.244	0.093
D7-C-3	13.591	26.887	13.689	0.098
D7-N-1	13.687	26.964	13.768	0.081
D7-N-2	13.798	27.195	13.875	0.077
D7-N-3	13.981	27.045	14.060	0.079
D7-P-1	14.211	27.193	14.288	0.077
D7-P-2	14.323	27.187	14.401	0.078
D7-P-3	14.063	27.131	14.138	0.075
D28-C-1	13.976	26.864	14.058	0.082
D28-C-2	14.151	27.112	14.235	0.084
D28-C-3	13.591	27.058	13.672	0.081
D28-N-1	13.687	27.283	13.731	0.044
D28-N-2	14.111	27.217	14.160	0.049
D28-N-3	13.981	27.156	14.033	0.052
D28-P-1	14.211	26.947	14.229	0.018
D28-P-2	14.323	26.852	14.337	0.014
D28-P-3	14.063	27.099	14.075	0.012

APPENDIX II

General Linear Model: ALKANES versus DAY, TREATMENT

[illegible]

Analysis of Variance for ALKANES, using Adjusted SS for Tests

Source	DF	Seq SS	Adj SS	Adj MS	F	P
Day	2	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
TREATMENT	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	0.000
DAY*TREATMENT	4	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	0.000
Error	18	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]		
Total	26	[illegible]				

Tukey's Simultaneous Tests
Response Variable ALKANES
Comparisons with Control Level
DAY = 28
TREATMENT = Control subtracted from:

Level	Difference of Means	SE of Difference	T-Value	Adjusted P-Value
0 Control	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
0 Nutrient	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
0 Oil	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
7 Control	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
7 Nutrient	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
7 Oil	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
28 Control	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
28 Nutrient	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
28 Oil	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

General Linear Model: RANK_ALKANES versus DAY, TREATMENT

[illegible]

Analysis of Variance for RANK_ALK, using Adjusted SS for Tests

Source	DF	Seq SS	Adj SS	Adj MS	F	P
DAY	2	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	0.000
TREATMENT	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
DAY*TREATMENT	4	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Error	18	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]		
Total	26	[illegible]				

Tukey's Simultaneous Tests
Response Variable RANK_ALK
Comparisons with Control Level
DAY = 0
TREATMENT = Control subtracted from:

Level	Difference of Means	SE of Difference	T-Value	Adjusted P-Value
0 Nutrient	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
0 Oil	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
7 Control	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
7 Nutrient	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
7 Oil	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
28 Control	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
28 Nutrient	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
28 Oil	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

General Linear Model: AROMATICS versus DAY, TREATMENT

Factor	Type	Levels	Values
DAY	Fixed	[illegible]	[illegible]
TREATMENT	Fixed	[illegible]	Control, Naphthenic, [illegible]

Analysis of Variance for AROMATICS, using Adjusted SS for Tests

Source	DF	Seq SS	Adj SS	Adj MS	F	P
DAY	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
TREATMENT	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
DAY*TREATMENT	4	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Error	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]		
Total	[illegible]	[illegible]				

Tukey's Simultaneous Tests
Response Variable AROMATICS
Comparisons with Control Level
DAY = 0
TREATMENT = Control subtracted from:

Level	Difference of Means	SE of Difference	T-Value	Adjusted P-Value
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

General Linear Model: AROMATICS versus DAY, TREATMENT

Factor	Type	Levels	Values
DAY	Fixed	[illegible]	[illegible]
TREATMENT	Fixed	[illegible]	Control, Naphthenic, [illegible]

Analysis of Variance for AROMATICS, using Adjusted SS for Tests

Source	DF	Seq SS	Adj SS	Adj MS	F	P
DAY	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
TREATMENT	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
DAY*TREATMENT	4	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Error	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]		
Total	[illegible]	[illegible]				

Tukey's Simultaneous Tests
Response Variable AROMATICS
Comparisons with Control Level
DAY = [illegible]
TREATMENT = Control subtracted from:

Level	Difference of Means	SE of Difference	T-Value	Adjusted P-Value
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

General Linear Model: Rank_aromatics versus DAY, TREATMENT

Factor	Type	Levels	Values
DAY	fixed	3	0, 7, 28
TREATMENT	fixed	5	Control, Nutrient, OSI

Analysis of Variance for Rank_aro, using Adjusted SS for Tests

Source	DF	Seq SS	Adj SS	Adj MS	F	P
DAY	2	1102.89	1102.89	551.44	87.37	0.000
TREATMENT	1	194.00	194.00	97.00	15.36	0.001
DAY*TREATMENT	4	197.76	197.76	49.44	7.83	0.003
Error	15	94.33	94.33	6.29		
Total	24	1589.00				

Fisher's Simultaneous Tests
Response Variable Rank_aro
Comparisons with Control Level
DAY = 7
TREATMENT = Control subtracted from

Level	Difference of Means	SE of Difference	T-Value	Adjusted P-Value
DAY-TREATMENT				
1 Control	4.33	2.164	1.955	0.3955
1 Nutrient	5.67	2.336	2.426	0.2355
2 OSI	7.00	2.336	2.997	0.0468
7 Nutrient	3.33	2.164	1.537	0.3166
7 OSI	13.00	2.336	5.562	0.0002
28 Control	-5.33	2.164	-2.461	0.0863
28 Nutrient	2.33	2.164	1.077	0.5065
28 OSI	16.00	2.336	6.849	0.0000

General Linear Model: Rank_aromatics versus DAY, TREATMENT

Factor	Type	Levels	Values
DAY	fixed	3	0, 7, 28
TREATMENT	fixed	5	Control, Nutrient, OSI

Analysis of Variance for Rank_aro, using Adjusted SS for Tests

Source	DF	Seq SS	Adj SS	Adj MS	F	P
DAY	2	1102.89	1102.89	551.44	87.37	0.000
TREATMENT	1	194.00	194.00	97.00	15.36	0.001
DAY*TREATMENT	4	197.76	197.76	49.44	7.83	0.003
Error	14	94.33	94.33	6.74		
Total	24	1589.00				

Fisher's Simultaneous Tests
Response Variable Rank_aro
Comparisons with Control Level
DAY = 28
TREATMENT = Control subtracted from

Level	Difference of Means	SE of Difference	T-Value	Adjusted P-Value
DAY-TREATMENT				
0 Control	9.67	2.598	3.722	0.0016
0 Nutrient	11.00	2.598	4.234	0.0010
0 OSI	13.33	2.598	5.130	0.0000
7 Control	5.33	2.598	2.051	0.5883
7 Nutrient	2.33	2.598	0.896	0.9813
7 OSI	8.67	2.598	3.336	0.0364
28 Nutrient	-3.00	2.598	-1.155	0.8778
28 OSI	3.33	2.598	1.281	[illegible]

[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

DAY = [illegible]
TREATMENT - Dolphins subtracted from:

Level of TREATMENT	Difference of Means	SE of Difference	T Value	Adjusted P Value
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

DAY = [illegible]
TREATMENT - [illegible] subtracted from:

Level of TREATMENT	Difference of Means	SE of Difference	T Value	Adjusted P Value
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

DAY = 18
TREATMENT - Control subtracted from:

Level of TREATMENT	Difference of Means	SE of Difference	T Value	Adjusted P Value
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

DAY = 24
TREATMENT - Marsilent subtracted from:

Level of TREATMENT	Difference of Means	SE of Difference	T Value	Adjusted P Value
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

2A	Control	871	335.2	1.32	0.8271
2B	Diluted	1492	333.5	2.64	0.2507
2C	ERR	9669	336.5	-18.94	0.0000

DEP 1
TUA MEV Dunn-Bonferroni adjusted means

Level	Difference of Means	DF of Difference	T Value	Adjusted P Value
TREATMENT				
1 ERR	1336	336.5	-3.40	0.1807
1A Control	366	336.5	-0.68	0.9945
1B Diluted	970	336.5	1.79	0.6891
1C ERR	9669	336.5	17.20	0.0000

DEP 2
TREATMENT = ERR subtracted from:

Level	Difference of Means	DF of Difference	T Value	Adjusted P Value
2A Control	1492	336.5	2.75	0.0157
2B Diluted	2639	336.5	4.87	0.0000

DEP 3
TREATMENT = Control subtracted from:

Level	Difference of Means	DF of Difference	T Value	Adjusted P Value
3B Diluted	1147	336.5	2.11	0.1812
3C ERR	8298	336.5	15.31	0.0000

DEP 4
TREATMENT Nutrient subtracted from:

Level	Difference of Means	DF of Difference	T Value	Adjusted P Value
4C ERR	7697	336.5	14.20	0.0000

Two-Sample T-Test and CI: Con_0, OSEI_0

```
Two-Sample T for Con_0 vs OSEI_0

          N      Mean     StDev   SE Mean
Con_0     2    0.1796   0.04179    0.0332
OSEI_0    3    1.1633   0.00289    0.0017

Difference = mu (Con_0) - mu (OSEI_0)
Estimate for difference:  -0.98837
95% lower bound for difference:  -1.0414
T-Test of difference = 0 (vs >): T-Value = -29.79  P-Value = 0.966  DF = 3
```

Two-Sample T-Test and CI: Con_7, OSEI_7

```
Two-Sample T for Con_7 vs OSEI_7

          N      Mean     StDev   SE Mean
Con_7     4    0.39806   0.00279    0.0012
OSEI_7    3    0.08601   0.01385    0.0015

Difference = mu (Con_7) - mu (OSEI_7)
Estimate for difference:  0.31201
95% lower bound for difference:  0.28351
T-Test of difference = 0 (vs >): T-Value = 1.84  P-Value = 0.103  DF = 3
```

Two-Sample T-Test and CI: Con_28, OSEI_28

```
Two-Sample T for Con_28 vs OSEI_28

          N      Mean     StDev   SE Mean
Con_28    2    0.07633   0.00161    0.0013
OSEI_28   3    0.37627   0.02177    0.0125

Difference = mu (Con_28) - mu (OSEI_28)
Estimate for difference:  -0.30267
95% lower bound for difference:  -0.33416
T-Test of difference = 0 (vs >): T-Value = -23.25  P-Value = 1.000  DF = 2
```

OIL SPILL EATER II

Report oil or chemical spills at 800-424-8802

TECHNICAL PRODUCT BULLETIN #B-53
USEPA, OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
REGULATION AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION
ORIGINAL LISTING DATE: AUGUST 26, 1996
REMOVAL DATE: AUGUST 16, 2005
RELISTING DATE: SEPTEMBER 18, 2009
"OIL SPILL EATER II (OSE II)"

I. NAME, BRAND, OR TRADEMARK

OIL SPILL EATER II (OSE II)
Type of Product: Bioremediation Agent (Biological Enzyme Additive [previously listed as a Nutrient Additive])

II. NAME, ADDRESS, AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF MANUFACTURER/CONTACT

OSEI Corporation (Formerly Sky Blue Chems)
P.O. Box 515429
Dallas, TX 75251-5429
Phone: (972) 669-3390

E-mail: oseicorp@msn.com
Web Site: www.osei.us
(Mr. Steven Pedigo, Chairman, CEO, Inventor)

III. NAME, ADDRESS, AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF PRIMARY DISTRIBUTORS

OSEI Corporation (Formerly Sky Blue Chems)
P.O. Box 515429
Dallas, TX 75251-5429
Phone: (972) 669-3390
E-mail: oseicorp@msn.com
Web Site: www.osei.us
(Mr. Steven Pedigo, Chairman, CEO, Inventor)

IV. SPECIAL HANDLING AND WORKER PRECAUTIONS FOR STORAGE AND FIELD APPLICATION°

1. Flammability: Water-based, non-flammable
2. Ventilation: Needs no ventilation; aqueous-based product; does not emit hazardous vapors
3. Skin and eye contact; protective clothing; treatment in case of contact: OSE II is not a primary dermal irritant. Avoid eye contact, and wear goggles if possible for the spray to come in direct contact with eyes. Facilities for quick and copious eye flushing should be provided and prompt medical attention should be sought if exposure and irritation persists. Protective rubber gloves are suggested during handling. Before mixing the product has a smell of fermentation. The product does not give off any harmful vapors.
4.a. Maximum storage temperature: 120°F
4.b. Minimum storage temperature: None; OSE II can freeze and thaw without adverse effects
4.c. Optimum storage temperature range: 72°F
4.d. Temperatures of phase separations and chemical changes: 120°F

V. SHELF LIFE

OSE II has a recommended shelf life of 5 years. After 5 years at optimum storage temperature, there is an approximate 10% decrease per year in product capability.

VI. RECOMMENDED APPLICATION PROCEDURE

1. Application Method:
A. Use surface spray apparatus, such as small hand held tanks, back pack, large mixing tanks with mechanical pumping devices, vessels with booms for spraying wide paths, or spray devices on airplanes or helicopters.
B. OSE II can be applied by eductor systems from vessels, fire trucks, etc. Set the eductor system to 2% and apply 1 gallon of mixed OSE II to each spilled gallon of hydrocarbon.

2. Concentration/Application Rate:
General - OSE II generally takes 3 to 30 minutes to penetrate the molecular walls of

hydrocarbons. However, once you spray OSE II on the hydrocarbons, OSE II attaches itself and will eventually engulf the hydrocarbons regardless of where the hydrocarbons may spread on the surface of salt or fresh water. Additionally, once you spray OSE II, the hydrocarbons cannot attach itself to the shoreline, rocks, or any equipment in its path. OSE II breaks down the adhesion properties of hydrocarbons and causes hydrocarbons to float, thereby, eliminating secondary contamination of the water column or any other areas, and holding the contaminated area to the waters surface, the original contaminated area.

- If OSE II is to be used on ocean spills or on intertidal zones OSE II should be mixed with ocean water.
- If OSE II is to be used on lakes, rivers, streams, ponds, or on land mix the product with water from a lake, stream, or pond.
- If you are performing a clean up, make sure the water used to mix with OSE II, and the water used to keep the area saturated, is the type of water normally associated with that area.
- If you use fresh water in an area normally contacted with salt water or vice versa, the different types of bacteria and competition could occur, not to mention the problems with salinity for fresh water organisms.

[Note: Do not mix tap water with OSE II if possible: Chlorine in tap water slows bacterial enhancement]

Spills on Water:
Dilute each gallon of OSE II with 50 gallons of fresh, brackish, or salt water - depending on the water associated with the area that has been impacted by the spill. Apply OSE II at a ratio of 1 gallon mixed OSE II to each gallon of hydrocarbon spilled. Apply using hand held sprayers, tank sprayers, booms from vessels, helicopters, or airplanes; by spraying the perimeter first then working toward the middle of the spilled area. Next spray the entire surface of the spill. If the spill is very heavy (more than 2 inches thick) it is recommended that OSE II be applied every day until you have met a 1:1 ratio of OSE II and water mixture to spilled oil/hydrocarbons.

- Use 1 gallon OSE II for every 50 gallons of hydrocarbons.
- Use 1 drum of OSE II for every 2,750 gallons of hydrocarbons.
- If you know gallons of hydrocarbons spilled, multiply gallons of hydrocarbons by 0.02 to get amount of OSE II needed [gallons of hydrocarbons x 0.02 = gallons of OSE II].
- If you know barrels of crude oil spilled, multiply barrels of crude oil by 0.015 to get drums of OSE II needed [barrels of crude oil x 0.015 = drums of OSE II].
- If you do not know gallons of hydrocarbons or barrels of crude oil, multiply size of spill by 0.0023 to get drums of OSE II needed or by 0.12 to get gallons of OSE II needed [(yards long x yards wide x inches thick) x 0.0.0023 = drums of OSE II or (yards long x yards wide x inches thick) x 0.015 = gallons of OSE II].

Intertidal Zone:
Mix each 55 gallon drum of OSE II with 2,750 gallons of fresh, brackish, or salt water. The water used is determined by the type of water associated with the site. OSE II should be applied as the tide recedes (if there is a tide) and once the tide comes in the application should cease until the tide recedes again. Additional applications should only be warranted if spill has been allowed time to percolate into

the depths of the soil.

If there is no tide, but waves have pushed the spill into the intertidal zone, then there will be direct access to the spill at all times. If possible use string or stakes to grid off the beach or intertidal zone area, and then you can calculate how much premixed OSE II to apply to a given area. If unable to grid off an area then calculate how much OSE II to apply and then determine how much premixed OSE II will flow through a nozzle (gallons per minute) then let application technician know how many gallons to apply in a given area and this can be determined by applying product for a certain time period to get the correct amount of OSE II applied to gain the 1:1 ratio.

Note: If the intertidal zone is associated with the sea then mix OSE II with salt water. If the spill area is in an area of brackish water then mix OSE II with brackish water. If the intertidal zone is associated with fresh water such as lakes, rivers, streams, ponds, creeks, aquifers, or drinking water wells then use fresh water to mix OSE II.

3. Conditions for Use:

- OSE II can remediate hydrocarbon-based material including chlorinated hydrocarbons, PCB's, dioxins, and some pesticides.
- As the age of spilled hydrocarbons increases, the time necessary for bioremediation increases. In general, fresh crude, gasoline of BTEX takes from 72 hours to 30 days to completely bioremediate.
- Variations of sea water salinity should have no effect, but as long as microbial life can exist, then OSE II will be effective.
- OSE II bioremediation slows somewhat at temperatures below 40°F. OSE II however, will continue to work at any liquid water temperature that will sustain microbial life.

VII. TOXICITY AND EFFECTIVENESS

a. Effectiveness:

Summary Data Table:

DAYS	PRODUCT 3 REPS/PROD	TOTAL MEAN ALKANES (ppm)	RED% 28 DAYS	TOTAL MEAN AROMATICS (ppm)	RED% 28 DAYS
0	CONTROL	43,170	-	11,435	-
	NUTRIENT	40,569	-	11,785	-
	OSE II	41,730	-	12,155	-
7	CONTROL	39,250	9.1	10,355	9.4
	NUTRIENT	34,815	14.2	9,898	16.0
	OSE II	26,316	36.9	8,072	33.6
28	CONTROL	35,797	17.1	9,534	16.6
	NUTRIENT	26,507	34.7	8,938	24.2
	OSE II	4,273	89.8	1,268	89.6

Results of Gravimetric Analysis:
Percentage (%) Decrease in Weight of Oil on Day 28
Control: 16.5%
Nutrient: 52.0%
Product: 85.4%

VIII. MICROBIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

1. Listing of each component of the total formulation, other than enzymes, by chemical name and percentage by weight: CONFIDENTIAL
2. Enzyme Names: CONFIDENTIAL
3. I.U.B.: CONFIDENTIAL
4. Source of Enzymes: Fermentation process
5. Units: No less than 1% and no more than 50% by weight
6. Specific Gravity: 1.05
7. Optimum Conditions:
   a. pH: 7.0
   b. Temperature: 72°F
   c. Salinity Ranges: Fresh water to salt water
   d. Maximum and Minimum pH: 3.5 - 8.0
   e. Maximum and Minimum Temperature: 28°F - 128°F
   f. Maximum and Minimum Salinity Levels - Salinity level above that will support microbial activity will adversely effect OSE II's performance
   g. Enzyme Shelf Life: Up to 5 years when properly stored
   h. Enzyme Optimal Storage Conditions: 72°F is optimal, enzyme range is freezing to 120°F, never leave OSE II in direct sunlight for more than a couple of hours

IX. PHYSICAL PROPERTIES

NA

X. ANALYSIS OF HEAVY METALS, CYANIDE, AND CHLORINATED HYDROCARBONS

NA

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United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY
MANAGEMENT, REGULATION, AND ENFORCEMENT

Washington, DC 20240

SEP 03 2010

Mr. David C. Fa-Kouri
Fa-Kouri and Associates
16956 S Harrell's Ferry Road
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70816

Dear Mr. Fa-Kouri:

Thank you for your letter dated May 12, 2010, to Representative Bill Cassidy suggesting the use of Oil Spill Eater II, a bioremediation agent, to help with the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Your letter was forwarded to Interior Secretary Ken Salazar. I am the Director of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE), and I have been asked to respond on the Secretary's behalf.

Throughout the period when the efforts to respond to the Deepwater Horizon explosion and spill were at their height, thousands of people across the nation and the world offered their ideas for stopping the flow of oil in the Gulf and cleaning it up. We very much appreciate the interest and commitment of the many people who offered their ideas and suggestions – and in some cases their own products and inventions.

Now that the spill has been contained and large quantities of oil from the spill have been collected, the urgency of assessing and testing a wide variety of techniques and products has diminished. Even so, we are in the process of exploring the important issues of spill containment and spill response so that the nation is better prepared in the event of another spill. We appreciate your contribution to that discussion.

Thank you for your continuing interest in the Deepwater Horizon matter, and for the interest of your constituents in the important spill containment and cleanup efforts. If you have any further questions, please contact me at (202) 208-3500 or Ms. Lyn Herdt, Chief, BOEMRE, Office of Congressional Affairs, at (202) 208-3502.

Sincerely,

/RB

Michael R. Bromwich
Director

Copy to: Representative Bill Cassidy

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 21, 2010

The Honorable Kenneth L. Salazar
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W. – Room 6156
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar:

We write today concerning the moratorium announced by the U.S. Department of Interior on May 6, 2010, which halted the issuance of any new offshore drilling permits by the Minerals Management Service (MMS) in the offshore regions of the United States. We certainly understand and support the need for an in-depth federal investigation into the causes of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, and we look forward to working with you on legislation that appropriately guards against a similar incident ever happening again while ensuring that our domestic producers of all sizes will continue to be able to produce offshore. However, because the date for lifting the drilling permit moratorium remains uncertain, we are concerned that this uncertainty might jeopardize the ongoing long-term viability of the shallow water development of vital oil and natural gas resources.

Specifically, we are concerned that there are approximately 57 shallow water rigs currently operating in the Gulf of Mexico, and that as many as 50 of those rigs within the next six weeks will be unable to work if the moratorium is not lifted for shallow water drilling operations. Additionally, at least 5,000 direct jobs from the shallow water rigs alone would be lost in the Gulf Coast region.

Shallow water activities throughout the Gulf of Mexico have operated without major incident for decades. Deepwater operations such as those associated with the unfortunate Deepwater Horizon incident involve very different risks and challenges than those for shallow water jackup rigs and other platforms. At the outset, jackup and platform rigs in shallow water (less than 1000 feet in depth) employ "blow-out preventers" (BOPs) that are positioned above the surface of the water. These surface BOPs are accessible for regular inspection, maintenance and repair, and can be controlled directly or remotely in emergency situations. Shallow water drilling sites also involve predictable and mature reservoirs that predominantly consist of clean natural gas resources. Furthermore, a large percentage of shallow water wells require positive external stimulation to produce the flow of oil or gas, thus significantly limiting the risk of loss of control.

Therefore, we respectfully request that next week when you issue your recommendations to the President that you also recommend and allow for the immediate and proper processing and issuance of new shallow water drilling permits for the Gulf of Mexico region. Domestic energy resources are vital to the national security and economic growth of our country and our country requires the safe, effective and steady development of its offshore oil and gas resources.

We appreciate your immediate attention to this critically important matter, and please do not hesitate to contact us if we can ever be of any assistance to you.

Sincerely,

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

Member of Congress CHARLES GONZALEZ

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Gregg Harper
Member of Congress

Rodney Alexander
Member of Congress

Member of Congress JOHN CARTER

Member of Congress

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John Culberson
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We appreciate your immediate attention to this critically important matter, and please do not hesitate to contact us if we can ever be of any assistance to you.

Sincerely,

Gene Green
Member of Congress

Charles Boustany
Member of Congress

Solomon Ortiz
Member of Congress

Tim Murphy
Member of Congress

Ruben Hinojosa
Member of Congress

Todd Akin
Member of Congress

Silvestre Reyes
Member of Congress

Phil Gingrey
Member of Congress

Dan Boren
Member of Congress

Jeb Hensarling
Member of Congress

Charlie Melancon
Member of Congress

Michael McCaul
Member of Congress

John Salazar
Member of Congress

Kenny Marchant
Member of Congress

Leonard Boswell
Member of Congress

Peter King
Member of Congress

Charles Gonzalez
Member of Congress

Harry Teague
Member of Congress

Ciro Rodriguez
Member of Congress

Kevin Brady
Member of Congress

Gregg Harper
Member of Congress

Rodney Alexander
Member of Congress

John Carter
Member of Congress

Ted Poe
Member of Congress

Steve Scalise
Member of Congress

Parker Griffith
Member of Congress

Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress

Pete Olson
Member of Congress

Bill Cassidy
Member of Congress

Blaine Leutkemeyer
Member of Congress

Lynn Westmoreland
Member of Congress

Doc Hastings
Member of Congress

John Culberson
Member of Congress

Christopher Lee
Member of Congress

Mac Thornberry
Member of Congress

Joe Barton
Member of Congress

Trent Franks
Member of Congress

John Shimkus
Member of Congress

Tom Cole
Member of Congress

Ed Whitfield
Member of Congress

Howard Coble
Member of Congress

Lamar Smith
Member of Congress

Denny Rehberg
Member of Congress

Sam Johnson
Member of Congress

Michael Conaway
Member of Congress

Jo Bonner
Member of Congress

Joseph Cao
Member of Congress

Fred Upton
Member of Congress

John Fleming
Member of Congress

Spencer Bachus
Member of Congress

Michael Burgess
Member of Congress

Al Green
Member of Congress

Mike Rogers (AL)
Member of Congress

Kay Granger
Member of Congress

Randy Neugebauer
Member of Congress

Eric Cantor
Member of Congress

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United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY
MANAGEMENT, REGULATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Washington, DC 20240

OCT 28 2010

The Honorable Bill Cassidy
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Cassidy:

Thank you for your letter dated May 21, 2010, to Interior Secretary Salazar, cosigned by your colleagues, expressing your concern over development of oil and natural gas resources in the shallow waters of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). As the Director for the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE), I have been asked to respond on the Secretary's behalf. A similar response is being sent to each signer of your letter.

Following the Deepwater Horizon incident, the Secretary suspended any authorized drilling of and ceased approval of pending and future applications for permits to drill wells using subsea or surface blowout preventers on a floating facility. On October 12, 2010, Secretary Salazar lifted the suspensions and announced that deepwater oil and gas drilling can resume, provided that operators certify compliance with all existing rules and requirements, including those that recently went into effect, and demonstrate the availability of adequate blowout containment resources.

I appreciate your concern over the economic impacts of the drilling suspensions; however, ensuring operational safety and incident response on the OCS is of critical importance. During the suspension, we conducted an active and necessary public outreach effort with industry, academic experts, and the public and gained valuable insight regarding the safety of deepwater drilling technology and procedures.

I recognize the importance of the contributions of the deepwater Gulf of Mexico to the domestic energy supply. The Department is committed to facilitating the resumption of drilling operations. While the former deepwater drilling ban has caused short-term economic hardships for the residents of the Gulf States, their long-term economic well-being, safety, and health have been better served by ensuring that drilling can proceed in a safe and environmentally protective manner.

Thank you for your interest in the OCS drilling 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

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 19, 2010

The Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We strongly object to your recent announcement that the Obama Administration intends to discard the 2010-2015 Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) lease plan and delay implementation of a new leasing plan until 2012. This means that not one lease sale of areas previously under moratoria will occur during President Obama's entire term in office. This is unacceptable to the overwhelming majority of the American people who support expanded offshore drilling, measured at 68% in one recent poll, and a step backwards from the President's statements that he wants to improve our nation's energy security.

While the Administration may not feel the sense of urgency to enact a new five-year plan, the American people do. In 2008, in response to rising prices, the American people called on Congress to act by opening the OCS for exploration and development. The American people should not have to wait the entire four years of the President's term before any action is taken to explore and develop our precious national oil and gas resources from these new areas. By waiting until 2012, the Administration will unilaterally reinstate the ban on offshore drilling – and do it against the will of the American people.

There is no question that establishment of this new "Obama Moratorium" will have dire impacts on our economic future. These years of delay will directly result in uncreated jobs for unemployed Americans, billions of dollars in lost revenues to the U.S. Treasury, and a greater dependence on unstable foreign sources of oil and natural gas that puts our national security at risk. This action cancels nearly a dozen lease sales in the OCS that were scheduled to begin in July, 2010. The Department's stalling and blockade of new energy production from the OCS endangers tens of thousands of existing jobs, and also prevents the creation of new jobs that would help lower our nation's nearly ten percent unemployment rate. Opening new areas to drilling and job creation would be a no-cost stimulus for the U.S. economy.

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Congress' intent of opening the OCS was to offer as much of the newly available 500 million acres, which contain at least 14 billion barrels of oil and 55 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, for new American energy production. It should be the policy of the Administration to execute the will of Congress and the American people. Instead, the Administration is poised to use their new plan timeline as a backdoor opportunity to reinstate a moratorium that closes off wide expanses of the OCS. It is not too late to reverse this course of action, abandon this "Obama Moratorium," and implement the 2010-2015 plan beginning in July to help create jobs and new American-made energy production.

Sincerely,

Doc Hastings
Ranking Member
Committee on Natural Resources

John Boehner
Republican Leader

Eric Cantor
Republican Whip

Mike Pence
Member of Congress

Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress

Tom Price
Member of Congress

Rob Bishop
Member of Congress

Joe Barton
Member of Congress

Bill Cassidy
Member of Congress

John Shimkus
Member of Congress

Cynthia Lummis
Member of Congress

Devin Nunes
Member of Congress

John Fleming
Member of Congress

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Jason Chaffetz
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Charles Dent
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Jim Gerlach
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Dana Rohrabacher
Member of Congress

Glenn Thompson
Member of Congress

Dean Heller
Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

Bill Posey
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Howard Coble
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Gregg Harper
Member of Congress

Sue Myrick
Member of Congress

Jeff Flake
Member of Congress

Wally Herger
Member of Congress

Rodney Alexander
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Tim Murphy
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Paul Broun
Member of Congress

Mark Souder
Member of Congress

Phil Roe
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Robert Latta
Member of Congress

Steve Scalise
Member of Congress

Ted Poe
Member of Congress

John Sullivan
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John Shadegg
Member of Congress

Dennis Rehberg
Member of Congress

J. Gresham Barrett
Member of Congress

Adrian Smith
Member of Congress

Thaddeus McCotter
Member of Congress

Tom McClintock
Member of Congress

Aaron Schock
Member of Congress

Lonie Gohmert
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Hal Rogers
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Tom Cole
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Don Young
Member of Congress

Jack Kingston
Member of Congress

Ken Calvert
Member of Congress

John Duncan
Member of Congress

Mac Thornberry
Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Shelley Moore Capito
Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Jerry Moran
Member of Congress

Bob Goodlatte
Member of Congress

Spencer Bachus
Member of Congress

Dan Burton
Member of Congress

Marsha Blackburn
Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Lamar Smith
Member of Congress

Pete Sessions
Member of Congress

Sam Graves
Member of Congress

Todd Tiahrt
Member of Congress

Joe Barton
Member of Congress

Kevin Brady
Member of Congress

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BILL CASSIDY, M.D.
6TH DISTRICT, LOUISIANA

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COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INSULAR AFFAIRS, OCEANS AND WILDLIFE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
108 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
PHONE: (202) 225-3901
FAX: (202) 226-7313

DISTRICT OFFICE
8615 HILTON AVENUE, SUITE 108
BATON ROUGE, LA 70809
PHONE: (225) 925-7711
FAX: (225) 925-7688

http://cassidy.house.gov

October 1, 2009

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

One year ago today, Congress acted in bipartisan fashion to lift the moratorium on oil and gas drilling on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). This action was overwhelmingly supported by the American people, and it opened the door to the possibility of increased domestic energy production and energy security. However, under your leadership there has been no progress in advancing oil and gas production on our OCS. No exploration plan has been approved, no seismic or environmental work has been conducted, and no new drilling has occurred on the newly-opened OCS areas.

Instead of moving forward, the Administration has taken multiple steps in the wrong direction:

- In February, the Department of Interior delayed for six months the development of the proposed 5-year leasing program for offshore drilling that would have created thousands of new jobs, produced more American-made energy, generated billions in federal revenue, and made us less dependent on foreign oil. This action imposed a de facto ban on drilling in new OCS areas, despite the fact that Congress made its intentions clear when it lifted the ban a year ago.
- Since then, the Department of Interior has given no indication of preparing to open new OCS areas for oil and gas exploration. Secretary Salazar recently said that he is not obligated to prepare a new leasing plan before 2012. Such inaction would push back the implementation of the proposed leasing program by another two years, hurting job creation and our economic and energy security.
- The Administration's FY2010 budget proposed eight separate tax increases specifically targeting domestic oil and gas production, which would increase energy prices for American consumers.

Millions of Americans depend on OCS oil and gas production for their livelihood and every American depends on it for transportation. It is a major source of revenue for the

Federal and state governments and a future energy lifeline to the American people. In my state, over 320,000 Louisianans work in the energy industry, generating around $12 billion a year in household income. These are well-paying jobs for welders, pipe fitters, barge workers, and the thousands of people who work in industries that support the energy sector.

According the Minerals Management Service at the Department of Interior, the OCS has estimated reserves of 8.5 billion barrels of oil and 29 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, plus an estimated 86 billion barrels of oil and 420 trillion cubic feet of natural gas in undiscovered resources. Congress and the American people clearly expressed their support for more OCS energy production when the moratorium was lifted. Increasing domestic energy production will lead to economic growth, job creation, and greater energy security. It is essential that the U.S. move forward with OCS energy production as part of an all-of-the-above energy plan.

Sincerely,

Bill Cassidy
Member of Congress

cc: Secretary Ken Salazar, U.S. Department of Interior

467270

OFFICE OF UNITED STATES CONGRESSMAN BILL CASSIDY

Serving Louisiana's Sixth Congressional District

In Washington, DC:
Voice Phone: 202/225-3901; Fax Phone: 202/225-7313
Address: 506 Cannon HOB, Washington, DC 20515

In Baton Rouge, LA:
Voice Phone: 225/929-7711; Fax Phone: 225/929-7688
Address: 5555 Hilton Avenue, Suite 100, Baton Rouge, LA 70808

Date: October 1, 2009

Please Deliver To: President Obama

Fax Number: 202-456-1573

From: Bill Cassidy
Member of Congress

Number of Pages to Follow: 2

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United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

NOV 20 2009

TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA

The Honorable William "Bill" Cassidy
House of Representatives
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Cassidy:

Thank you for your letter dated October 1, 2009, to President Barack Obama expressing your support for oil and gas activity on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar, to whom your letter was forwarded, has asked me to respond.

President Obama expects the Department of the Interior to make significant progress toward a new energy future, with attention to responsible domestic production of conventional energy resources as well as a strong new emphasis on renewable energy production and transmission. We are delivering on this task. Since January 20, 2009, we have offered tens of millions of acres of onshore and offshore lands for oil and gas leasing, adopted a new framework for renewable energy development in the OCS, and expedited the review of solar, wind, and geothermal energy projects on public lands.

As you note, we are occupied with two major initiatives regarding offshore oil and gas planning. First, we are analyzing the existing 2007–2012 OCS program, which was the subject of a judicial challenge earlier this year. At the direction of the Court, the Department is addressing the environmental sensitivity analysis required under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA). The Secretary will then balance significant factors (including environmental sensitivity) in accordance with OCSLA and may make appropriate revisions in the leasing program for the remainder of the planning period. The Court has allowed leasing and permitting activity to continue under the 2007–2012 program, except that there will be no new development approvals in the Arctic pending a final decision by the Court on the 2007–2012 OCS program. We appreciate your comments urging the Department to proceed with leasing of all areas proposed for sale in the existing program.

The Department's second major activity, as you have indicated, is to develop a new leasing program that will succeed the current program. The previous Administration released the 2010–2015 DPP on January 16, 2009. After extending the public comment period on the DPP through September 21, 2009, the Department received over 530,000 comments. We are moving expeditiously to consider them and will take the next steps in the lease planning and environmental review in the near future by announcing scoping venues for possible future leasing under the next program. This will be followed by the publication of the Proposed Program and draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Thank you for your interest in the OCS program. We look forward to continuing to work with you to develop the energy America needs in an environmentally sound and responsible manner. If you have any questions, you may contact me at (202) 208-6734 or Ms. S. Elizabeth Birnbaum, Director, MMS, at (202) 208-3500.

Sincerely,

Wilma A. Lewis
Assistant Secretary
Land and Minerals Management

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 30, 2009

The Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

RE: Support for the Five-Year Draft Proposed Program to Develop Offshore Energy Resources

Dear Secretary Salazar:

Last year, rising energy prices put middle-class families, small businesses, and all sectors of our economy under tremendous strain. As a result, Congress and President Bush removed the moratoria on Outer Continental Shelf energy development which had been in place for more than 20 years. Unfortunately, the new Administration immediately took action in February to prevent offshore drilling by delaying the Minerals Management Service's Draft Proposed Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil & Gas Leasing Program for 2010 to 2015.

As your Department collects opinions from Americans about the draft offshore plan, we write to register our strong support for expanded offshore development as part of an "all of the above" approach to increased U.S. energy independence. As elected officials who represent middle-class families who are struggling because of rising energy costs and the highest unemployment rate in decades, we believe that the draft proposed plan is a critically important step in creating a robust national energy policy and strengthening our economy. At a time when 14.7 million Americans are out of work, it is more important than ever that the federal government move forward with this plan to responsibly develop our energy supply, create new jobs, lower energy costs, and reduce our dependence on foreign oil.

By offering new leasing opportunities in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans – as well as in Alaska and the Gulf of Mexico – the proposed plan is appropriately expansive, provides maximum flexibility to properly utilize all of our nation's domestic resources, and helps coastal communities pursue leasing and responsible development in the deep waters off their coastlines. Important offshore areas, like those in Alaska, offer tremendous natural gas and oil resources. By some estimates the Chukchi Sea off Alaska's coast, contains as much natural gas and oil as the country has produced in the Gulf of Mexico since 1942. The Administration should not continue to stand in the way of American energy development.

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Additionally, we hope that the Minerals Management Service will continue to move forward with the 2007-2012 Leasing Program for all available leasing areas, including the Gulf of Mexico, Atlantic and offshore Alaska.

In conclusion, we urge the Department to open new leasing areas included in the 2010-2015 draft proposed offshore plan and responsibly develop the abundant energy resources off our coasts.

Sincerely,

John Boehner
Member of Congress

Eric Cantor
Member of Congress

Doc Hastings
Member of Congress

Tom Price
Member of Congress

Rob Bishop
Member of Congress

Cynthia Lummis
Member of Congress

Devin Nunes
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John Fleming
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John Linder
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Roy Wittman
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Cathy McMorris Rodgers
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Sam Graves
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Randy Neugebauer
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Mike Pence
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Shelley Moore Capito
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John Shimkus
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Tom Cole
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Michael Burgess
Member of Congress

Marsha Blackburn
Member of Congress

Mark Souder
Member of Congress

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2009 AUG -4 PM 4:53
RECEIVED

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 30, 2009

The Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

RE: Support for the Five-Year Draft Proposed Program to Develop Offshore Energy Resources

Dear Secretary Salazar:

Last year, rising energy prices put middle-class families, small businesses, and all sectors of our economy under tremendous strain. As a result, Congress and President Bush removed the moratoria on Outer Continental Shelf energy development which had been in place for more than 20 years. Unfortunately, the new Administration immediately took action in February to prevent offshore drilling by delaying the Minerals Management Service's Draft Proposed Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil & Gas Leasing Program for 2010 to 2015.

As your Department collects opinions from Americans about the draft offshore plan, we write to register our strong support for expanded offshore development as part of an "all of the above" approach to increased U.S. energy independence. As elected officials who represent middle-class families who are struggling because of rising energy costs and the highest unemployment rate in decades, we believe that the draft proposed plan is a critically important step in creating a robust national energy policy and strengthening our economy. At a time when 14.7 million Americans are out of work, it is more important than ever that the federal government move forward with this plan to responsibly develop our energy supply, create new jobs, lower energy costs, and reduce our dependence on foreign oil.

By offering new leasing opportunities in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans – as well as in Alaska and the Gulf of Mexico – the proposed plan is appropriately expansive, provides maximum flexibility to properly utilize all of our nation's domestic resources, and helps coastal communities pursue leasing and responsible development in the deep waters off their coastlines. Important offshore areas, like those in Alaska, offer tremendous natural gas and oil resources. By some estimates the Chukchi Sea off Alaska's coast, contains as much natural gas and oil as the country has produced in the Gulf of Mexico since 1942. The Administration should not continue to stand in the way of American energy development.

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Additionally, we hope that the Minerals Management Service will continue to move forward with the 2007-2012 Leasing Program for all available leasing areas, including the Gulf of Mexico, Atlantic and offshore Alaska.

In conclusion, we urge the Department to open new leasing areas included in the 2010-2015 draft proposed offshore plan and responsibly develop the abundant energy resources off our coasts.

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Member of Congress

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Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

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2009 MAY 15 PM 12: 16

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May 11, 2009

The Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As you know, the U.S. Court of Appeals vacated and remanded the current 2007-2012 offshore oil and natural gas leasing plan on April 17, 2009 – over 22 days ago. However, we have yet to hear from the Department of the Interior about this significant decision.

We strongly urge the Department of Interior to immediately defend and restore the plan for the development of American oil and gas resources on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). The Department has at its disposal more than 1600 pages of environmental documents used to develop the OCS plan to complete the analysis requested by the Court.

Millions of Americans depend on the (OCS) leasing program for their livelihood. It is a major source of revenue for our national and state governments and a future energy lifeline to the American people. American oil and gas production provides over a million American jobs. And the action by this court, and a failure to reinstitute the plan by the Administration, endangers the jobs of tens of thousands of geologists, engineers, and dock workers in the industry, as well as millions of Americans who depend on the availability of affordable energy.

The current five-year plan has generated more than $10 billion in federal revenue from lessees – note, this money is more than half the 'savings' projected by President Obama in his May 7th announcement of his Fiscal Year 2010 budget. Failure to reinstate the lease plan could force the federal government to refund the entire $10 billion and threaten oil and gas production in the Gulf of Mexico that has already come online under this program. The government will also have to forego billions of more dollars expected from upcoming lease sales.

In addition to jobs and revenue, the 2007-2012 offshore program promises vitally needed American energy that will make our country less dependent on foreign oil The Administration's own projections show our nation will require large amounts of oil and natural gas for decades to fuel vehicles, heat homes, generate electricity, and manufacture American products. Fortunately, oil and gas is abundantly available offshore below our own waters, where most Americans want it produced and where U.S. workers can safely produce it using state-of-the-art technology.

If left unaddressed, the court decision becomes a de facto ban on any new offshore drilling.

The Administration frequently expresses its support for offshore development and the importance of oil and gas production to the American economy. However, the Administrations' words are rarely matched by substantive action that will increase American energy production. The Department now has a clear opportunity to turn words into action by restoring the 2007-2012 offshore leasing program now. In addition to reinstating the current program, the federal government should also move quickly to open new areas to development previously kept off limits by the current government moratoria. Potential revenue from these areas exceeds $1.3 trillion and could create tens of thousands of jobs, according to a study by ICF International.

Given the urgency of this request, and as a result of the Department's silence on this issue for over three weeks, we request a reply within two weeks.

Sincerely,

Rep. Doc Hastings (WA)
Ranking Member
Committee on Natural Resources

Sincerely,

Rep. Bill Cassidy (LA)

Rep. Don Young (AK)

Rep. John Fleming (LA)

Rep. Louie Gohmert (TX)

Rep. Jason Chaffetz (UT)

Rep. Doug Lamborn (CO)

Rep. Rob Bishop (UT)

Rep. Steve Scalise (LA)

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

WASHINGTON

SEP 0 8 2009

The Honorable William "Bill" Cassidy
House of Representatives
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Cassidy:

Thank you for your letter dated May 11, 2009, cosigned by your colleagues, requesting the Department of the Interior to defend the current 2007–2012 offshore oil and natural gas leasing program after the April 17, 2009, U.S. Court of Appeals decision. A similar letter is being sent to each cosigner of your letter.

I believe, as you do, that oil and gas leasing decisions must be based on sound scientific principles. The Court determined that in formulating the current 5-year plan, the program erred in considering only the environmental sensitivity of shoreline areas, rather than considering the environmental sensitivity of the entire leasing area as required by law. Therefore, we are addressing the issues the Court identified.

On May 11, 2009, I asked the Department of Justice to seek clarification from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit on the scope of its April 17, 2009, decision. At my request, the Department of Justice asked the Court to confirm its interpretation of the decision as requiring remand only of the environmental sensitivity analysis and subsequent balancing of the factors mandated in Section 18(a)(3) of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Lands Act, 43 U.S.C. § 1344(a)(3), and not vacating the entire leasing program thereby calling into question leases already issued in the Chukchi Sea and the Gulf of Mexico.

On July 28, 2009, the U.S. Court of Appeals clarified that its ruling applies only to the Chukchi, Beaufort, and Bering Seas. As a result, the Department of the Interior will provide the Court with periodic reports on the progress of its review of the existing 5-year plan to ensure that it properly balances environmental concerns with the Nation's energy needs.

I appreciate your interest regarding the 5-Year Program, and I look forward to working with you on the OCS leasing program. If you have any questions, you may contact me or Mr. Christopher Mansour, Director of my Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs, at (202) 208-7693.

Sincerely,

Ken Salazar

Ken Salazar

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EAN F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA, AS
NEIL ABERCROMBIE, HI
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PEDRO R. PIERLUISI, PR

JAMES H. ZOIA
CHIEF OF STAFF

U.S. House of Representatives

Committee on Natural Resources

Washington, DC 20515

DOC HASTINGS, WA
RANKING REPUBLICAN MEMBER
DON YOUNG, AK
ELTON GALLEGLY, CA
JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR., TN
JEFF FLAKE, AZ
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CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS, WA
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CYNTHIA LUMMIS, WY
TOM McCLINTOCK, CA
BILL CASSIDY, LA
TODD YOUNG
REPUBLICAN CHIEF OF STAFF

March 5, 2009

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

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Dear Secretary Salazar,

We are writing to stress that the upcoming Central Gulf Oil and Gas Lease Sale 208 cannot and should not be delayed. This Sale scheduled for March 18, 2009 should go forward as planned to increase investment in American energy, strengthen our nation's energy independence, and create thousands of jobs in the Gulf of Mexico region.

The Central Gulf Planning Area has produced more offshore oil and gas than any other Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) area, and the annual Central Gulf Sale is the largest annual oil and gas lease sale held by the United States. For the first time since 1988, this Sale will offer the so-called "181 South" area consisting of more than 4.2 million acres as mandated by the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006.

As our nation continues to experience a serious economic crisis and face severe energy challenges, it is more important than ever that the Department truly demonstrate its commitment to President Obama's expressed goal of implementing a fully comprehensive energy strategy. However, after only a little more than a month in office, the Department has already established a clear track record of opposing oil and gas development in our country:

- **February 4th** – The Department announced that the Bureau of Land Management would withdraw areas offered for oil and gas leases in Utah.

- **February 10th** - The Department announced a decision to essentially restore the OCS moratoria by unreasonably delaying the new 5-year leasing program and mandating reports that are designed to result in long-term withdrawal of OCS areas from oil and gas leasing.

- **February 25th** - The Department announced a decision to unreasonably delay the new round of oil shale research, demonstration, and development (R, D & D) leases.

If the Department decides to delay Central Gulf Oil and Gas Lease Sale 208, it will further establish a dangerous trend of opposition to American-made energy and the creation of new American jobs in the energy sector. Additionally, a delay of this sale would throw obstacles in the way of providing access to American oil and gas that the Energy Information Administration says the Nation will need well past 2030 and also discourage energy companies from pursuing new opportunities in our country.

As the decision making process continues, we strongly encourage the Department to move forward on schedule with the Central Gulf Lease 208 sale that may bring in billions of dollars to the U.S. Treasury, open an entirely new frontier of the Gulf for oil development, and save and create thousands of jobs. In addition, the 181 South Area will share revenue with the states of Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas helping those states deal with this economic downturn. MMS's own estimates say that this sale could result in production of approximately .8 to 1.3 billion barrels of oil and 3.3 to 5.4 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. These are resources that are critically needed by the American consumers and will help us offset our future energy needs.

Failure to move forward with this lease sale at this critical juncture may threaten not just future leasing in this area of the Gulf but our entire OCS program. Preparation for a lease sale as large as the annual Central Gulf Sale requires a massive commitment of human and financial capital by dozens of companies. If these companies no longer trust that the government will hold the lease sales that it announces, many will no longer bid or they will reduce their bids, resulting in lower government receipts and less energy produced.

We hope to hear from you quickly that you plan to allow this lease sale to move forward and look forward to working with you to open other areas equally rich in resources for the American people.

Sincerely,

Rep. Doc Hastings (WA)
Ranking Member, Committee on
Natural Resources

Rep. Doug Lamborn (CO)
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on
Energy and Mineral Resources

Rep. Rob Bishop (UT)
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on
National Parks, Forests and Public Lands

Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (WA)
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on
Water and Power

Rep. Louie Gohmert (TX)

Rep. Mike Coffman (CO)

Rep. John Fleming (LA)

Rep. Bill Cassidy (LA)

Rep. Jeff Flake (AZ)

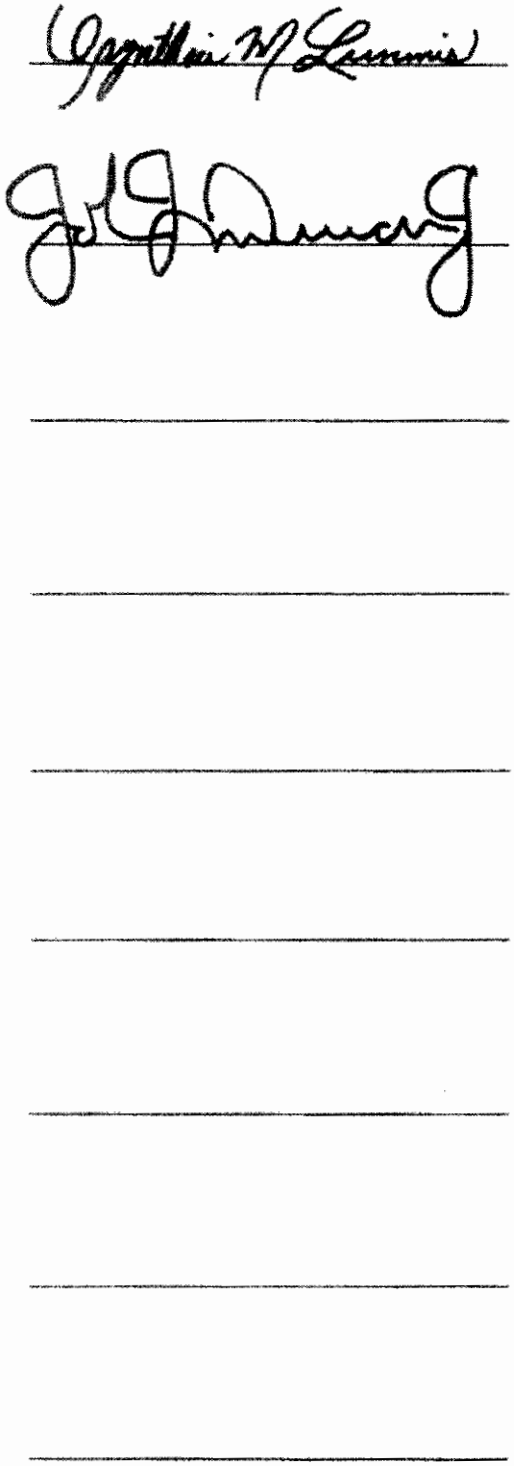
M.C.

Rep. Jason Chaffetz (UT)

Rep. Don Young (AK)

Rep. Elton Gallegly (CA)

Rep. Paul Broun (GA)



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

WASHINGTON

MAY 0 4 2009

The Honorable Bill Cassidy
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Cassidy:

Thank you for your letter dated March 5, 2009, cosigned by your colleagues, supporting the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Lease Sale 208 in the Central Planning Area of the Gulf of Mexico. A similar letter is being sent to each signer of your letter.

On March 18, 2009, the Minerals Management Service (MMS) held Sale 208, as scheduled. I was honored to participate in Sale 208 and publicly announced the bidding results. The MMS received 476 bids on 348 tracts, offering $703 million in high bids, demonstrating the continued interest industry has in the Central Gulf of Mexico. Evaluation of the high bids to ensure fair market value has already begun.

I recently met with the American public on the Atlantic, Gulf, and Pacific coasts, as well as in Alaska, to get input that will help ensure that we develop the right kind of energy in the right places on the OCS.

The security of our energy supply and stability of energy prices remain significant concerns for the Nation. Even as the Department of the Interior aggressively pursues renewable energy opportunities, domestic production of oil and gas is crucial, including oil and natural gas from the OCS. The need to continue to produce our traditional domestic energy resources and develop renewable energy resources, while remaining responsible stewards of our environment has never been greater.

Again, thank you for sharing your concerns with me.

Sincerely,

Ken Salazar

Ken Salazar