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June 7, 2010

**Mr. Steven L. Newman**  
**President and Chief Executive Officer**  
**Transocean Ltd.**  
**P.O. Box 2765**  
**Houston, TX 77252**

Dear Mr. Newman:

As part of the Committee on Natural Resources' investigation into the explosion aboard the *Deepwater Horizon* on April 20, 2010, we have uncovered some potentially troubling details about staffing practices that I believe require additional explanation.

Analysis of the Transocean Daily Drilling Reports obtained by Committee investigators has shown that there appear to have been fewer people at work on the rig the night of the explosion than at any time in the preceding two weeks. Only 18 names are listed on the Drilling Crew Payroll Data for the time period 12:00 to 24:00 on April 20, the smallest number listed in this time period for the month of April. For the entire day of April 20<sup>th</sup>, only 48 people are listed as working, which is the smallest number at work in a single day dating back to April 5.

Furthermore, the payroll data for the second half of April 20 shows that there was a shortage of technical personnel on duty, with zero engineers, electricians, mechanics, or subsea supervisors listed in the report. This is the only time period listed in any of the *Deepwater Horizon* April logs that has a complete lack of these personnel. Also, the Daily Drilling Report of April 14 shows that 20 crewmen worked 24-hour shifts, including seven of the men who would perish in the explosion less than one week later.

Although these reports do not provide a complete picture of exactly who was working during the time of the explosion and in the days leading up to it, when combined with the ongoing BP internal investigation that suggests that inattentiveness may have been a contributing factor in the disaster, I have serious questions about whether enough people were working on the night of April 20<sup>th</sup> to adequately handle the complex operations that were being performed, or if crew fatigue caused by extended shifts may have played a role.

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To help address these questions, I ask that you provide to the committee a more detailed explanation of Transocean's staffing practices, as well as more detailed logs showing exactly which employees were on duty and for what times in the week leading up to the explosion. I also request that Transocean provide an explanation for the necessity of 24-hour shifts, and how often drilling rig crews are expected to work such shifts.

In the light of this horrible human and environmental catastrophe, we owe it to the memory of those eleven men to ensure that those who continue to work on offshore drilling rigs are not being asked to do so shorthanded and fatigued.

If you have questions regarding this request, please contact Deborah Lanzone, Staff Director, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, at 202-225-9297.

With warm regards, I am

Sincerely,



NICK J. RAHALL, II  
Chairman  
Committee on Natural Resources