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Committee on Natural Resources
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June 8, 2010

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

Dear Secretary Salazar:

To assist the Committee on Natural Resources in carrying out its oversight responsibilities related to the *Deepwater Horizon* incident and on-going oil & gas activities on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), we request that you promptly provide to the Committee the following information:

- The number of Minerals Management Service (MMS) field inspectors (including supervisory inspectors) by GS-level for each of the five MMS districts in the Gulf of Mexico OCS Region for each of the past 25 years;
- The number of Minerals Management Service (MMS) field inspectors (including supervisory inspectors) by GS-level for the Pacific and Alaska OCS Regions for each of the past 25 years;
- A summary of the educational qualifications of each of the current MMS field and supervisory inspectors;
- Information about the type and amount of specialized training that existing inspectors receive each year;
- The number of current MMS field and supervisory inspectors that have previously held positions with the oil & gas industry, including a listing of what companies these inspectors worked for and in what positions;
- Information regarding rotation practices designed to ensure that inspectors maintain arms-length relationships with offshore facility personnel;

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- Turnover rates for the MMS field and supervisory inspection force for each of the past 25 years;
- Information regarding government work rules that affect field inspectors;
- Information regarding bonuses and other incentives, such as support for obtaining advanced degrees in relevant fields, provided or available to field inspectors;
- A copy of the National Potential Incident of Noncompliance (PINIC) List, as well as copies of any other handbooks and training materials that are provided to MMS field inspectors, as I previously requested in a letter on May 13, 2010.

In complying with each part of this request, include information regarding any applicable distinctions between drilling and production inspectors, to the extent that such distinctions exist. Please produce the requested information by Monday, June 14th, 2010. In addition, I request that staff from the MMS regulatory program provide a briefing regarding offshore inspectors and inspection practices to the staff of the Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee at the earliest possible opportunity.

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

cc: The Honorable Bob Abbey, Acting Director, Minerals Management Service