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August 6, 2010

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

Dear Secretary Salazar:

On July 12, 2010, you issued a Decision Memorandum to Michael Bromwich, Director of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE), regarding suspension of certain offshore permitting and drilling activities on the Outer Continental Shelf. This document outlines your reasoning for directing Mr. Bromwich to issue a new moratorium on certain offshore drilling operations through November 30, 2010.

We write to obtain certain specific documents explicitly cited in this public Decision Memorandum. We understand that Minority Committee staff has already contacted relevant staff of the Department of the Interior to request these referenced documents and that their collection has been initiated.

In keeping with your commitment to transparency and your offer to work with us to timely obtain certain public documents at the July 20, 2010, hearing before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations and Subcommittee on Energy and Environment, we respectfully ask you to provide the following documents cited in the July 12 Decision Memorandum within one week of the date of this letter:

1. June 30, 2010, Memorandum from Walter Cruickshank, Deputy Director of BOEM, to Secretary Ken Salazar, entitled "Options regarding the potential suspension of certain offshore drilling activities and permitting on the Outer Continental Shelf," which is referenced on page 7, footnote 4.

2. June 27, 2010, Memorandum by Dr. Marcia McNutt, Director of the United States Geological Survey, entitled "USGS Support for Macondo Well Control and Containment; Observations Regarding Technical Problems with Deepwater Efforts," which is referenced on page 10, footnote 8.
3. May 15, 2010, BOEM Information Memorandum for the Secretary Re: Inspection History of Deepwater Horizon, which is referenced on page 11, footnote 12.
4. June 16, 2010, Memorandum from BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Federal On-Scene Coordinator Rear Admiral Watson to National Incident Command, referenced on page 15, footnotes 24, 25.
5. June 14, 2010, MMS Economic Impact Assessment: Effects of Drilling Pause for 6 Months, referenced on page 28.
6. June 28, 2010, Memorandum: The Department of Interior and MMS's Economic Analysis of the 6-Month Moratorium, referenced on page 28.


In addition, we seek your assurance that the Department of the Interior will promptly make available to Committee staff any other documents cited in the July 12 Decision Memorandum, should we request them, and that the Department will provide full access to the complete administrative record when that record is available.

We appreciate your prompt attention to this request. If you have any questions, or need additional information, please contact the Minority Committee Staff at (202) 225-3641.

Sincerely,



Joe Barton
Ranking Member



Michael C. Burgess
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

cc: The Honorable Henry A. Waxman, Chairman

The Honorable Bart Stupak, Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

The Honorable Norman D. Dicks, Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

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Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Michael K. Simpson, Ranking Member,
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations

Ms. Mary Kendall, Acting Inspector General
U.S. Department of the Interior
