ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS

## Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE 2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

> Majority (202) 225–2927 Minority (202) 225–3641

April 27, 2010

Mr. Steve Newman President and CEO Transocean Ltd. P.O. Box 2765 Houston, TX 77252

Dear Mr. Newman:

On April 20, 2010, an explosion occurred on an oil rig drilling an exploratory well in deep water off the coast of Louisiana. The cause of the explosion at the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig is still unknown, but the cost in human life has been large and the environmental consequences appear to be growing daily. A striking feature of the incident is the apparent lack of an adequate plan to contain the spreading environmental damage. The two companies involved, BP Exploration and Production, Inc., and Transocean Ltd., are attempting to contain the oil spilling from the well with techniques that have never been used before at these ocean depths.

The Committee on Energy and Commerce and its Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations are investigating what the companies knew about the risks of drilling at the site and the adequacy of the companies' response plans. To assist the Committee with its investigation, we ask that you provide the following documents to the Committee for the period January 1, 2000, to the present:

- 1. Any documents, including communications to or from senior company officials, relating to the risk of an accidental release of oil or gas at the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig or other offshore deep water or ultra-deep water drilling facilities;
- 2. Any documents, including communications to or from senior company officials, relating to potential responses to an accidental release of oil or gas at the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig or other offshore deep water or ultra-deep water drilling facilities;

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- 3. Any documents relating to the testing of emergency response procedures and technologies for use in responding to an accidental release of oil or gas at the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig or other offshore deep water or ultra-deep water drilling facilities;
- 4. All multiagency plans, emergency management plans, and contingency plans developed relating to an accidental release of oil or gas at the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig or other offshore deep water or ultra-deep water drilling facilities in the Outer Continental Shelf, including any regional and site-specific Oil-Spill Contingency Plans (OSCPs), and attached documentation, prepared for or submitted to federal or state regulators;
- 5. All regional and site specific Environmental Protection and Response Plans (EPRPs), and attached documentation, prepared for or submitted to federal or state regulators relating to the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig or other offshore deep water or ultra-deep water drilling facilities in the Gulf of Mexico portion of the Outer Continental Shelf.

Please produce the requested information by May 14, 2010. In addition, we ask that you advise the Committee by Tuesday May 4, 2010, whether you will comply with this request on a voluntary basis.

An attachment to this letter provides additional information on how to respond to Committee document requests. For purposes of this request, the term "senior company officials" includes all company officials at the level of Vice President and above for the company, any parent, or any subsidiary.

If you have questions regarding this request, please contact Meredith Fuchs of the Committee staff at (202) 226-2424.

Henry A. Waxman

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Chairman

Sincerely,

Bart Stupak

Chairman

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Joe Barton

Ranking Member

The Honorable Michael Burgess Ranking Member Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations