



Gulf Coast State Attorneys General

Troy King Attorney General State of Alabama	James D. "Buddy" Caldwell Attorney General State of Louisiana	Bill McCollum Attorney General State of Florida	Jim Hood Attorney General State of Mississippi	Greg Abbott Attorney General State of Texas
---	---	---	--	---

Eric B. Brown, Esq.
Senior Vice President, General Counsel
Transocean Holdings Incorporated
Transocean, Ltd.
Transocean Offshore Deepwater Drilling, Inc.
Transocean Deepwater, Inc.
P.O. Box 2765
Houston, Texas 77252-2765

Dear Mr. Brown:

As the Attorneys General for the five Gulf Coast states, we write concerning the Deepwater Horizon oil spill that threatens our coasts and shared natural resources—as well as the livelihood of our coastal citizens and communities.

In the wake of the tragic loss of human life that has already occurred, our top concern now must be the well-being of the precious environmental and wildlife resources of our states. Protecting the fragile coastal ecologies and economies is critical to preserving the ongoing sustainability of our coastal communities. From the fisherman and shrimpers who rely directly upon the Gulf for their income, to the local businesses that are sustained by our fishing communities, and the small businesses that thrive on coastal tourism, this oil spill threatens the health and safety of our coastal communities. In addition, if the oil spill is not fully remediated, it could be an ecological and economic disaster for all of our states.

At a time when local communities are struggling with budget shortfalls, coastal towns and cities cannot afford to fund the necessary mitigation and clean-up efforts. The same is true for each of our states. Yet without the necessary financial resources it will be impossible to both protect and restore the Gulf. As a result, we are focused on working—hopefully cooperatively—with BP and others to ensure that our state and local governments, as well as our citizens and communities, have access to the financial resources necessary to prevent further environmental degradation, mitigate future ecological damage, and fully restore the Gulf to its natural state, as well as to compensate for any economic losses suffered on an individual, corporate, and governmental level.

Transocean appears to have extensive liability for the consequences of this spill, including but not limited to under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990. Indeed, Transocean Holdings Incorporated was named as a “responsible party” under the Act in an April 28, 2010 letter from Mr. Thomas Morrison of the United States Coast Guard.

We must consider all appropriate measures to preserve taxpayer dollars and maximize the financial resources available to fund this massive clean-up and recovery effort. Because current indications suggest that the magnitude of the damage inflicted and losses expected will very likely exceed the total amount of money currently in the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund, we request that Transocean memorialize any commitment it has made to fund the clean-up and recovery effort.

Additionally, to help facilitate the flow of accurate and timely information between our offices and Transocean, we request that you assign an individual to serve as our point of contact on this matter. Doing so will ensure that each of our offices can quickly and effectively communicate with Transocean about any problems, concerns or questions that arise during the clean-up effort.

Finally, there are multiple outstanding questions about the cause and ultimate effect of the oil spill. Thus, while all of our efforts are concentrated on the environmental impact of this disaster, it is certainly possible that there may be governmental investigations at some point in the future. Accordingly, we would ask that Transocean and any of your affected employees or affiliated organizations preserve any documents, data compilations (including electronically recorded and stored data), tangible objects or other information relevant to the explosion of the Deepwater Horizon oil rig, the resulting oil spill or the clean-up effort in the form in which they currently exist until further notice. Regardless of Transocean's current retention policy, please ensure that the appropriate person within each entity takes all necessary measures to avoid the destruction or modification of any such records.

We look forward to your prompt response on this important matter.

Sincerely,



Troy King
Attorney General
State of Alabama



James D. "Buddy" Caldwell
Attorney General
State of Louisiana



Bill McCollum
Attorney General
State of Florida



Jim Hood
Attorney General
State of Mississippi



Greg Abbott
Attorney General
State of Texas