



Gulf Coast State Attorneys General

Luther Strange
Attorney General
State of Alabama

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

Pam Bondi
Attorney General
State of Florida

Jim Hood
Attorney General
State of Mississippi

Greg Abbott
Attorney General
State of Texas

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VIA FEDEX AND E-MAIL

Mr. Robert Dudley
Group Chief Executive
BP, PLC
Executive Office
1 St. James Square
London, SW1Y 4 PD, United Kingdom

VIA U.S. MAIL AND E-MAIL

Captain Julia Hein, FOSC
US Coast Guard
Gulf Coast Incident Management Team
17th Floor
1250 Poydras Street
New Orleans, LA 70113

VIA U.S. MAIL AND E-MAIL

Mr. Geir Robinson
Director of Claims
BP America, Inc.
501 West Lake Park Blvd.
Houston, TX 77079

VIA U.S. MAIL AND FACSIMILE

Secretary Janet Napolitano
Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

As you are aware, tar mats are submerged along the Gulf Coast as a result of the 2010 Deepwater Horizon Explosion and resulting oil spill. I understand that a number of nearshore tar mats, within reach of a shoreline track hoe, have been identified through the SCAT process and removed. I further understand that the GCRO has now begun initial efforts to test technologies to locate and remove the submerged oil mats (SOMs) further off the beaches.

Hurricane season is upon us, and it is vital that the Gulf Coast be prepared for the oil that is likely to wash ashore as a result of a tropical disturbance. All due haste in locating and removing the SOMs is imperative lest the disastrous results of last year's oil spill be repeated. Therefore, we request that all necessary efforts be expended to quickly map and then remove SOMs off the coastlines of the affected coastal States. At the very least, the quantity, location and size of each SOM should be determined and reported. A grid should be prepared that shows us each SOM, an identifier label, a key describing the dimensions of each SOM and an estimate of the level of threat each SOM potentially poses to the American coastline. As the SOMs are identified, a schedule should be developed setting out the technology to be used and the timing for removal of each SOM. This information is critical for us to perform our duties and be prepared for any issues that may arise from these SOMs.

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