



## STATE OF FLORIDA

**PAM BONDI  
ATTORNEY GENERAL**

August 3, 2011

**VIA U.S. MAIL AND E-MAIL**

The Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr.  
Attorney General of the United States  
United States Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001

Re: Gulf Coast Claims Facility

Dear Attorney General Holder:

I understand that the United States Department of Justice has reached an agreement with the Gulf Coast Claims Facility ("GCCF") for an independent audit. I applaud this long overdue step toward transparency of the claims process for those individuals and businesses that have suffered damages as a result of the Deepwater Horizon blowout. Indeed, I, along with the other Gulf Coast Attorneys General, have repeatedly demanded an independent audit of the operations of the GCCF, both in court filings and in direct communications with Mr. Feinberg.

In order for the GCCF to perform its critical role in the recovery of the Gulf Coast, it must have the trust of the people. This audit will hopefully answer the serious questions that continue to exist about the fairness and efficiency of the claims process. The available data suggests that a minority of interim or final full review claims have been paid, that the payments made on interim or final full review claims have been relatively modest, and the continuing bias towards resolving claims through the "quick pay" process that is not recognized by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 ("OPA"). Thus, there are many areas worth examining.

I trust that you will coordinate with the Gulf Coast Attorneys General concerning the scope of and goals for the independent audit, since our offices have extensive experience with the GCCF and its dealings with affected business and individual claimants. In the

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same way, our offices should have full access to meaningful data from the GCCF to look for payment trends.

I also note that the date for commencing the internal audit is not yet established, although it appears that the audit will begin by the end of the year. While I recognize the need to not disrupt the ongoing operations of the GCCF, I would suggest that the Department of Justice promptly select an internal auditor and then allow the person to begin his or her work. Mr. Feinberg, despite the repeated attempts of the Gulf Coast Attorneys General, has operated the claims process for a year without any oversight. This problem needs to be rectified at the earliest available opportunity.

Again, thank you for taking this important step towards the transparency of and public trust in the GCCF. I am committed, as I am sure you are, to ensuring the implementation of a claims process that allows the people of the Gulf Coast to fairly and efficiently obtain compensation for their economic losses, an outcome required by OPA and very much in the public interest. I look forward to discussing this matter with you in further detail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pam Bondi". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pam Bondi  
Attorney General

cc: Kenneth R. Feinberg, Esq.