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ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

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June 4, 2010

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

Dear Secretary Salazar:

The Committee on Energy and Commerce and its Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations are investigating the causes of the explosion on the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig and the oil spill off the Gulf Coast. Given the integral role of the Minerals Management Service (MMS) in the oversight and inspections of drilling operations on the Deepwater Horizon, we seek your assistance to provide information necessary for the Committee to evaluate the factors that may have contributed to the blowout and spill and the related failure of the blowout preventer (BOP).

At this point, we seek information concerning MMS inspections and investigations of the Deepwater Horizon and information concerning reviews of well construction and preparation procedures associated with the drilling operations at the site. Accordingly, we respectfully request that you provide the following within two weeks of the date of this letter:

1. All MMS inspection reports, investigation reports, and documents related to MMS inspections of the Deepwater Horizon, including any tests of the BOP performed by BP or Transocean Ltd.
2. All documents related to MMS oversight of well preparation and completion procedures on the Deepwater Horizon, including any MMS reviews of well completion procedures associated with the temporary abandonment of the well at the site of the incident.

An attachment to this letter provides additional information about responding to Committee document requests.

We appreciate your assistance with the Committee's investigation. Should you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Meredith Fuchs of the Majority Committee staff at (202) 226-2424 and Peter Spencer of the Minority Committee staff at (202) 225-3641.

Sincerely,



Henry A. Waxman  
Chairman



Joe Barton  
Ranking Member



Bart Stupak  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Oversight  
& Investigations



Michael C. Burgess  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Oversight  
& Investigations



Charlie Melancon  
Member



Steve Scalise  
Member