

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

December 3, 2012

Mr. Mark Tregeant
Owner
Grand Isle Shipyard
18838 Highway 3235
Galliano, LA 70354

Dear Mr. Tregeant:

On November 26, 2012, our Committees launched an inquiry into the events surrounding the recent deadly explosion on a Black Elk Energy oil production platform in the Gulf of Mexico. The New Orleans Times-Picayune reported that the accident “involved maintenance welding work being conducted by Grand Isle Shipyard, which has its own history of accidents that have been cited by [Department of Interior’s Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement] and its predecessor, the Minerals Management Service.”¹

In order to better understand your company’s role in the recent Black Elk rig explosion, we ask that you provide our staff with a briefing on your understanding of the reasons for the explosion and the extent to which they may involve work done by Grand Isle Shipyard workers. We also ask that you provide us with a briefing on your company’s track record on safety, including a description of any prior accidents and any enforcement actions taken by federal or state officials against you or your company. We understand that you are currently focused on responding to this emergency but would appreciate your assistance in scheduling this briefing by December 6, 2012. Please contact Tiffany Benjamin with the Energy and Commerce Committee Democratic staff at (202) 226-3400 or Morgan Gray with the Natural Resources Committee Democratic staff at (202) 225-6065 to schedule this briefing.

Sincerely,



Henry A. Waxman
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and
Commerce



Edward J. Markey
Ranking Member
Natural Resources Committee

¹ Oil platform owner Black Elk Energy ordered to make immediate safety improvements at all offshore facilities, New Orleans Times-Picayune (Nov. 21, 2012).

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Bobby L. Rush
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and
Power
Committee on Energy and
Commerce

Rush D. Holt, Jr.
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and
Mineral Resources
Natural Resources Committee



Diana DeGette
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight and
Investigations
Committee on Energy and
Commerce