



National Incident Commander  
Deepwater Horizon Response

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16451  
14 Aug 2010

Bob Dudley  
Chief Managing Director  
BP Group  
501 West Lake Park Boulevard  
Houston, TX 77070

Dear Mr. Dudley,

After the results of the Post Cement Pressure Test #3 (Near Ambient Pressure Test), and in response to BP's request to consider foregoing the Relief Well, the Government Scientific Technical Team has determined that the benefits of the bottom kill procedure outweigh the risks. On that basis, the bottom kill will go forward pursuant to a future directive. At this time, to determine the best method to mitigate the risks of the bottom kill I direct BP to:

1. Provide me a plan for a pressure relief system to prevent excessive pressurization of the Macondo well stack (capping stack, LMRP, and BOP), including any necessary containment option. Contingent upon the approval of the plan, this system will be installed before the intercept of the DDIII relief well.
2. Maintain full readiness of the relief well (DDIII) to resume intercept of the Macondo well when directed.
3. Provide me a plan for an ambient pressure test and analysis to assess the stability of the well during the period of time after the removal of the current Macondo well stack and its replacement with a new BOP package.
4. Before the current BOP stack is removed, prove to my satisfaction that the Macondo annulus does not represent a potential pathway for hydrocarbon flow; or, if the potential for flow can't be proven, identify the conditions under which flow could occur and the risks of those events occurring.

Sincerely,

T. W. Allen  
Admiral, USCG (Ret.)  
National Incident Commander