

U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security

United States  
Coast Guard



Federal On-Scene Coordinator  
Unified Area Command

Shell Robert Training & Conf. Center  
23260 Shell Lane  
Robert, LA 70455

16451  
June 11, 2010

Doug Suttles  
Chief Operating Officer  
Exploration & Production  
BP America Inc.  
501 WestLake Park Boulevard  
Houston, Texas 77079

I received your letter and plan dated June 9, 2010, responding to my letter requiring that BP submit a plan for building additional capacity and redundancy for collecting oil leaking from the Macondo well.

You have provided information indicating that the Enterprise/top hat system is capable of collecting an amount consistent with previous flow rate estimates. Because those estimates have now been revised and estimate a substantially higher flow of oil from the Macado 252 well, it is clear that additional capacity is urgently needed. I am concerned that your current plans do not provide for maximum mobilization of resources to provide the needed collection capacity consistent with the revised flow estimates. I am also concerned that your plan does not go far enough to mobilize redundant resources in the event of an equipment failure with one of the vessels or some other unforeseen problem.

You indicate that some of the systems you have planned to deploy may take a month or more to bring online. Recognizing the complexity of this challenge, every effort must be expended to speed up the process. For example, elements of the Unified Command have been in active discussions with you about the use of the choke and kill lines for oil collection. Your letter indicates that it will be approximately a month before the kill line can be used to collect oil.

Based on the foregoing, BP must identify in the next 48 hours additional leak containment capacity that could be operationalized and expedited to avoid the continued discharge of oil from the Macado 252 well into the Gulf with expanded redundancy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "James A. Watson".

JAMES A. WATSON  
Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard  
Federal On-Scene Coordinator