



National Commission on the  
BP DEEPWATER HORIZON OIL SPILL  
AND OFFSHORE DRILLING

Commissioners

Bob Graham, Co-Chair  
William K. Reilly, Co-Chair  
Frances Beinecke  
Donald F. Boesch  
Terry D. Garcia  
Cherry A. Murray  
Fran Ulmer

December 21, 2010

The Honorable Robert Menendez  
United States Senator  
528 Senate Hart Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Richard Lazarus  
Executive Director

Dear Senator Menendez:

Thank you for your letter to Commission Co-Chairs Graham and Reilly. They have asked me to respond on their behalf.

Your letter raises important questions about the need for both governments and industry to have the most up to date information concerning offshore drilling accidents, so that contingency plans can guard against repeating the same mistakes. In fact, several Commissioners raised the very questions you raise in your letter when Walker Cruickshank, Deputy Director of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE), and industry executives, testified before them in November of this year.

Moreover, during the Commission's deliberations on the staff draft recommendations, there was considerable interest in the United States taking a leadership role both in developing international standards for offshore drilling and improving international cooperation in the reporting of incidents. The staff presentations regarding drilling safety issues, as well as video of the Commission deliberations, can be found at the Commission web site, [www.oilspillcommission.gov](http://www.oilspillcommission.gov).

The Commission's final report will be issued on January 11, 2011, and will be available on our web site at that time. I will have a copy hand-delivered to your office on the morning of the 11th.

Once again, thank you for your letter. I hope that this information is helpful to you.

Sincerely,

Claudia A. McMurray  
Senior Counsel for Congressional and  
State Relations