

National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling

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Oil Spill Commission Releases Draft Staff Working Paper on Louisiana Berms Project

The National Oil Spill Commission today released its latest Draft Staff Working Paper, which is entitled, “**The Story of the Louisiana Berms Project.**”

Its conclusions include:

- “From a long-term coastal restoration perspective, the berms may indeed be a ‘significant step forward,’ as Governor Jindal has claimed, but they were not successful for oil spill response.”
- “. . . evidence available to the Commission staff reveals two main concerns that counsel against employing offshore barrier berms as a spill response measure in the future *First* and foremost, the length of time and cost to build only a fraction of the proposed project shows that, even with advance planning and preparation, and rapid review of proposed actions, it is unlikely that offshore barrier berms could ever be constructed to any effective scale during an emergency.”
- “The Commission staff can comfortably conclude that the decision to green-light the underwhelmingly effective, overwhelmingly expensive Louisiana berms project was flawed.”

The Draft Staff Working Paper:

[Berms Working Paper](#)

A full copy of the paper is also viewable at www.oilspillcommission.gov.