

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

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Executive Director National Oil Spill Commission

March 11, 2011

Today, March 11th, 2011, the National Oil Spill Commission closes its doors. The timing was set by the Presidential Order that created this body on May 21, 2010.

The Commission wishes to thank President Obama for this opportunity and for the commitment and support that the President promised and provided in our mandate to investigate the root causes of BP's Macondo well blowout, the *Deepwater Horizon* rig explosion and the resulting oil spill and "to follow the facts wherever they may lead, without fear or favor."

The full body of work from our investigation will remain posted permanently at www.OilSpillCommission.gov. Among the key written documents available for viewing and downloading on the website: the Commission's Final Report, the Chief Counsel's Report, and Staff Working Papers on myriad issues.

The Commission website also includes a new interactive-media presentation of the Commission's findings and recommendations: www.OilSpillCommission.gov/media

On the website, the public also can find videos of the testimony given to the Commission by oil company executives, public officials at every level of government, safety experts, drilling engineers, Gulf fisherman, petroleum-industry employees, seafood suppliers, small business owners financially dependent upon tourism, community leaders, a renowned national author and a little-known local musician

each uniquely conveying their fears and aspirations, mothers concerned about the health and economic impacts of the spill on their families, marine scientists and many others.

The Commission's Final Report tells the story of the Gulf oil spill and fulfills the President's charge by identifying the spill's root causes and by offering recommendations for changes in government and industry that will reduce the risk of future spills and mitigate their harmful consequences. We hope that both the President and the Congress will now take the steps necessary to ensure that these recommendations are adopted.

In closing now, we remember once more the names of those eleven men whose lives ended too soon when on April 20th, 2010, a massive explosion destroyed the *Deepwater Horizon* rig where they worked and the worst oil spill in our nation's history began to flow unchecked from the seafloor below.

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Donald Clark
Stephen Curtis
Gordon Jones
Roy Wyatt Kemp
Karl Dale Kleppinger, Jr.
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Dewey Revette
Shane Roshto
Adam Weise

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