Suttles US  PiC

Suttles, Doug 05-19-2011
Suttles, Doug 05-20-2011

Used in Montage00:10:05
Total Time00:10:05
Suttles, Doug 05-19-2011 (00:00:45)

22:23 Q. And from January 1, 2009, up through and including the date of the sinking of the DEEPWATER HORIZON on April the 22nd you were the chief operating officer for BP Exploration & Production; is that right?
23:3 A. Yes, that was my title, yes.
23:4 Q. Now, as I understand it, since then the chief executive officer of BP, PLC, Tony Hayward, has been replaced; is that right?
23:7 A. Tony has left the company, yes.
23:8 Q. All right. The chief executive officer of BP Exploration & Production, Andy Inglis, has left the company?
23:10 A. That's correct.
23:13 Q. And you as the chief operating officer of BP Exploration & Production have left the company?
23:15 A. I retired at the end of March, yes.
23:18 Q. Okay. And I just wanted to ask you: At the time that you retired, you were the ripe old age of 50 years old; is that right?
23:22 A. Yes, I was.

Suttles, Doug 05-19-2011 (00:01:37)

495:17 Q. Okay. Now, we'll go back to your time at BP as -- your -- your official title after April 20th was senior representative in the Unified Area Command; is that right? Does that sound right?
495:22 A. Well, I was BP's representative on Unified Area Command. I don't know that we gave it a specific title. I was -- I was just the BP representative at the member of the Unified Area Command.
496:3 Q. You -- you were the senior-most BP official?
A. I was the senior -- I was the Unified Area commander from BP.
Q. Okay.
A. That was my job.
Q. How were you selected to be the Unified Area representative for BP?
A. Well, before when they -- the -- the spill first happened and I got -- or the accident first happened, I -- I went into the BP office. And on the morning of April 21st, Tony Hayward spoke with me and -- as he and Andy Inglis were in London at the time and asked if I could lead the response. Then after Admiral Landry called me and said that she was -- she was activating Unified Area Command, I had a discussion, if I recall correctly, with Andy Inglis about who was the best -- at that point I had deployed Dave Rainey before then to New Orleans to Admiral Landry's office here. And at that point we had a discussion would it -- who would be the best person to do that job, and given my experience, the decision was made that I should -- I should take that role.

Suttles, Doug 05-20-2011 (00:00:38)
Q. Okay. Now -- and prior -- I'm going to be focusing on -- on the time around April 20, 2011, perhaps some after that.
A. I -- of BP Exploration & Production, the -- the actual -- I believe my paycheck came from BP North America, but --
Q. Okay.
A. -- I worked for --

Suttles, Doug 05-20-2011 (00:01:35)
A. Could you repeat the question?
EXAMINATION BY MR. GODWIN:
Q. I'll be happy to, sir. I want to establish who it was that you worked for insofar as your title as COO of E&P. And that stands for Exploration & Production, does it not?
A. That's correct.
Q. Okay. Which company were you the chief operating officer of prior to the time that you retired on March 31, 2011?
A. The -- the organizational structure of BP Group had what we refer to as two major segments: One was Exploration & Production and the other was Refining & Marketing. Then it had a third element which was the other businesses, things like alternative energy.
Q. What I'm after, just the name of the company, sir. I'll go into, if I need, how they were divided up and what they did. I just want to know: The company that you were the chief operating officer of for E&P, what was the name of that company up to the time that you retired?
A. Okay. I'm -- I'm trying to do my best to answer that.
Q. I don't need you to name -- answer it except give me the name of a company is all I need, sir. I'm trying to get through it. I have a -- I'm limited in my time.
A. Okay.
Q. I just need the name of a company, please.
A. Well, my paycheck came from, I believe, BP North America, Inc., but I -- my role involved -- I reported to the chief executive officer of Exploration & Production.
Q. And -- and who was that, sir?
A. Andy Inglis.
Q. Mr. Inglis. Okay.
And are you able to tell us here today the name of the company that you were the COO, the chief operating officer, of prior to the time you retired on March 31, 2011?

Q. Go ahead, sir.
A. Yes. I am trying to do my best to answer your question. I -- the corporate structure of the company involved a number of subsidiaries around the world which I had some responsibility and relationship to, so I -- I actually don't know how to answer your question other than --

Q. Okay.
A. -- to tell you --
Q. Okay. Let me rephrase it, then. I understand the company, BP, is divided -- the main primary company in London is divided into companies around the world. And I'm talking about Doug Suttles who was the COO for earning -- or E&P earnings -- Exploration & Production.

Q. I simply want to know the name of the company that you were the chief operating officer of. I'm not interested in sales and marketing or legal or any other aspect of the company. I want to know the company that you believe you were the COO of, if you know.
A. I'm sorry. I -- I can't answer your question. I -- I just don't know the --
Q. Okay.
A. -- answer to that.
Q. All right. And -- okay. And I believe you said that you reported prior to your retirement while you were the COO in most recent times to Mr. Andy Inglis, correct?

A. That's correct, yes.

Q. And -- and tell us, if you will, please, he was the CEO?

A. He -- his -- his title -- at least my understanding of his title was the chief executive officer of Exploration & Production.

Q. Okay. Of -- of Exploration & Production of which company?

A. It's not -- I mean, I don't know -- I don't know the -- the legal entity status. I'm sorry.

Q. Okay, sir. Do you know the name of the company that as of April 20, 2010, Mr. Andy Inglis was the CEO of?

A. He -- all -- what I understood was he was the chief executive officer for Exploration & Production and those activities across the company. I do not know -- I do not believe that was structured under one legal entity.

Q. Okay, sir. And -- and as of April 20, 2010, to whom did Mr. Andy Inglis report, if you know?

A. My understanding is his boss was Tony Hayward who is the chief executive officer of the BP Group.

Q. Okay. And did you at any time in the 2010 time frame report direct to Tony Hayward on any matters?
A. Not to my knowledge, no.

Q. Okay. Because after the event on April 20, I understand you were in charge of the response effort?

A. My role was --

Q. Is that correct, sir?

A. Well, there were -- there were two roles I played. Tony Hayward on the 21st of April asked me to lead BP’s group crisis response initially because --

Q. Right.

A. -- because he and Andy Inglis were in London at the time. And then a day or two later, I was asked to be BP’s member of Unified Area Command, which put me as the senior BP person inside of the Unified Area Command spill response.

Q. Okay. Now, in those two roles that you played that you were requested to do by Mr. Tony Hayward, to whom did you report?

A. Internally within BP I consulted on -- Tony granted me authority -- BP authority to make the decisions I needed to make inside of that role. It's a difficult question to answer because I didn't think of it in that way.

Q. Okay. So in terms of, though, as of April 21, 2010, and up until the -- up until the time when you no
555:3 longer were involved with the HORIZON --
555:4  A. Right.
555:5  Q. -- well -- HORIZON matters, I
555:6 understand you were in charge as -- as
555:7 delegated to you by Mr. Tony Hayward,
555:8 correct, with the response effort?
555:9  A. Yes, he -- well, he spoke with
555:10 me about -- he's the person who asked me to
555:11 lead -- initially lead BP through crisis
555:12 response. It was Andy Inglis, I believe, who
555:13 asked me to be the Unified Area commander for
555:14 BP.
555:15  Q. Okay, sir. And -- and as I
555:16 understand it, during the time that you were
555:17 in those two roles you've just named, you
555:18 would consult direct with Tony Hayward from
555:19 time to time as -- as the necessity arose?
555:20  A. Yes, I did on -- on a number of
555:21 occasions.
555:22  Q. And you would also consult
555:23 direct with Mr. Andy Inglis as needed as the
555:24 occasion arose after you were put into those
555:25 two positions as of April 20, 2010?
555:26  A. That's correct.

**Suttles, Doug 05-20-2011 (00:00:40)**

817:4  Is this the company you worked
817:5 for, BP Exploration & Production, Inc.?
817:6  A. As -- as I described earlier, I
817:7 worked for the organizational entity called
817:8 BP Exploration & Production. I'm just not
817:9 familiar with the -- the -- the legal entity
817:10 structure.
817:11  Q. Well, is there an organization
817:12 called the BP Exploration & Production and a
817:13 company called BP Exploration & Production,
817:14 Inc.?
817:15  A. The -- the -- the organizational
817:16 unit that -- that looks after BP's
817:17 exploration and production activities
817:18 globally is called BP Exploration &
817:19 Production. There are a huge number of legal
817:20 entities, and I would assume this is one of
817:21 those.