

**From:** Donald F. Boesch [boesch@umccs.edu]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 18, 2010 9:48 PM  
**To:** Lazarus, Richard  
**Subject:** RE: Possible visit by Oil Spill Commissioners

Good. I just got off the phone with Bob Spies who spent much of last week at a conference on Dauphin Island that kicked off an assessment under the auspices of the NSF-supported National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis on toxicity (including dispersants) related to the oil spill. He reported that the preponderant view of the experts was the dispersant use had a significant net benefit.

Don

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**From:** Lazarus, Richard [mailto:Richard.Lazarus@OilSpillCommission.gov]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 18, 2010 8:47 PM  
**To:** Donald F. Boesch  
**Subject:** RE: Possible visit by Oil Spill Commissioners

On a different matter, please know that I have now taken personal hold of the dispersant paper and am in the process of undertaking a major overhaul, along with Priya. It will be better.

Richard

Richard Lazarus  
Executive Director  
National Commission on the BP Deepwater  
Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Oil Drilling

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**From:** Donald F. Boesch [mailto:boesch@umccs.edu]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 18, 2010 8:43 PM  
**To:** Lindow, Emily; Clark, Katherine; Roston, Eric  
**Cc:** Lazarus, Richard; Hakes, Jay  
**Subject:** FW: Possible visit by Oil Spill Commissioners

Emily, et al.,

The environmental studies and assessments conducted by the former MMS in support of the OCS leasing and development program may be relevant to several subcommittees and should, in any case, not fall through the cracks between them. Of course, we had the recent meeting with the environmental NGOs to hear their recommendations about restructuring, requiring baseline studies, etc. But I do not know whether there has been much discussion with BOEMRE itself on this front.

Fran Ulmer and I, and perhaps Terry Garcia, are planning to go down to New Orleans after the hearing at the end of the month. Eric will be joining us and we will be focusing on restoration and impacts in our discussions with local experts. However, I thought this visit would provide an opportunity to discuss studies and assessments with key people in the BOEMRE Gulf of Mexico office where most of the studies planning and environmental assessments are done. So, on Friday I called Jim Kendall, who is Chief of the Environmental Division at headquarters in Herndon. He was surprised but seemingly very pleased to hear from me. Apparently, his office has had no previous contact with the Commission, but has both a lot of information and a lot at stake. He asked that I send the following email so that he can let his superiors know about this request. He indicated that he would eagerly and promptly help us with any New Orleans discussions. I think this also sets the stage for any staff discussions with Jim and the headquarters folks that might follow.

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I know Jim from my days in Louisiana twenty years ago now. He worked in the New Orleans office and moved to DC in 2000. He has been chief of the Environmental Studies Branch until relatively recently when he moved up to head the Environmental Division, which includes assessment as well as studies.

Let me hear any thoughts on all of this.

Don

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**From:** Donald F. Boesch  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 18, 2010 8:23 PM  
**To:** 'James Kendall'  
**Subject:** Possible visit by Oil Spill Commissioners

Jim,

It was good to chat with you by phone on Friday. I apologize for not getting you this promised email with the particulars sooner, but is the practical fact that I am trying to work three jobs lately (in addition to my main one and the new duties on the Commission, I also serve as Vice Chancellor for Environmental Sustainability).

As I mentioned, at least two if not three members (including me) of the National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling will be visiting New Orleans on September 30 and October 1. We will be meeting with regional experts on oil spill impacts and post-spill environmental restoration, but I thought that it might be helpful if we could arrange a brief (ca. 2 hour) visit to the BOEMRE Gulf of Mexico Regional Office, primarily to discuss environmental studies and assessment regarding the OCS program, particularly in deep water.

The Commission is investigating a wide variety of issues related to the Deepwater Horizon incident, including the causes of the accident, containment efforts, oil spill response, damage assessment and restoration. We are tasked by the President to determine the root causes, including those that go beyond the well design and operating procedures to include the regulatory framework and implementation. As you may know, Director Bromwich appeared at our first hearing in July. In this context the Commission is interested in the BOEMRE environmental studies and assessment to support the OCS exploration and development program. We would like to explore this while in New Orleans, but also in the near future with your office in the DC area. We would greatly appreciate your assistance in both regards.

Don

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