



P.O. Drawer 5548 • Thibodaux, LA 70302 • Telephone 985.446.8427
Thibodaux 800.834.8832 • Fax 985.446.8459 • Mathews 985.537.7603

Charlotte A. Randolph, *Parish President*

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Logan Banks
Phone: (985) 493-6603

Lafourche Parish President along with parish and state officials encourage U.S. Coast Guard to live up to oil spill “Transition Plan”

(Washington, D.C.) – A parish and state delegation including Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority Director Garret Graves and Lafourche Parish President Charlotte Randolph met with U.S. Coast Guard Admiral Paul F. Zukunft last week in an effort to convince the USCG to honor its 2010 Gulf Oil Spill transition plan.

Zukunft signed the transition plan – which focuses on clean-up response, boom anchors and long-term monitoring – one year ago.

Randolph said that the transition plan included more monitoring and maintenance than what is being conducted now.

The delegation claims the Coast Guard is “unilaterally” ignoring the agreement.

Graves, Randolph and delegates from Plaquemines, St. Bernard and St. Tammany parishes met with Zukunft to stress that USCG must develop the “Stage 5” plan and tighten monitoring of the area affected by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in 2010.

“Admiral Zukunft has agreed to return to Louisiana after the holidays to meet with us and review the 2010 plan and its implementation,” Randolph said.

“We are concerned that the Coast Guard is following BP's direction to reduce the monitoring and maintenance program, ignoring the agreement we signed,” she stressed.

Zukunft, the on-scene coordinator responsible for all oil searches, monitoring and clean up operations related to spill, met with delegation in the USCG “Mess Hall” at the headquarters in the nation’s Capitol.

The Deepwater Horizon oil spill flowed unabated for three months in 2010, and continues to leak fresh oil. It is the largest accidental marine oil spill in the history of the petroleum industry.

An estimated 53,000 barrels per day escaped from the well before it was capped in September 2010. The disaster effectively shutdown oil drilling and commercial fishing along the Louisiana Gulf Coast for more than one year.

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