



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

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**Charlotte A. Randolph**, *Parish President*

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Local Officials React to Large Oil Discovery Made in the Gulf of Mexico**

As Lafourche Parish and its residents are still recovering from last year's oil spill, local officials welcomed today's report from ExxonMobil of three new deepwater discoveries in the Gulf of Mexico. The company is touting the find as "one of the largest oil discoveries in the Gulf of Mexico in the last decade."

ExxonMobil Corporation today announced two major oil discoveries and a gas discovery in the deepwater Gulf of Mexico after drilling the company's first post-moratorium deepwater exploration well. The well is located 250 miles southwest of New Orleans in approximately 7,000 feet of water and has the potential for more than 700 million barrels of recoverable oil equivalent.

"This is probably the best news our local oil and gas service industries have received since the moratorium has been lifted," said Parish President Charlotte Randolph. "Now that oil has been discovered at this well, it means even more job creation."

Chett Chiasson, Executive Director of Port Fourchon, also reacted to today's news.

"This is the first major oil discovery on a drilling permit issued after the moratorium ended," said Chiasson. "The drilling at this site has been and will continue to be serviced out of Port Fourchon. We are very excited to be able to continue servicing deepwater drilling in the Gulf as we have done for so many years. This is a huge step forward after last summer's oil spill and moratorium."

Over the past decade, ExxonMobil has drilled 36 deepwater wells in the Gulf of Mexico in water ranging from 4,000 to 8,700 feet. The corporation is one of the largest lease holders in the Gulf with interests in over 370 leases.

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