

**Atchafalaya Basin keeper, Greenpeace, Gulf Restoration Network, Louisiana  
Charter Boat Association, Louisiana Environmental Action Network,  
Louisiana Shrimp Association, Rod & Reel.com, Sierra Club - Delta Chapter**

May 27, 2010

President Barack Obama  
White House  
Washington, DC

Dear President Obama:

The undersigned groups continuing concerns about the use of dispersants to combat the continuing flood of oil caused by the BP Deepwater Horizon offshore drilling disaster.

We understand that there are no good options for cleaning or containing this onslaught of oil. However, it is not clear how effective the dispersants have been at dispersing the oil and at preventing oil from hitting land. Therefore, we request that EPA and NOAA require BP to stop using dispersants until more is understood about its toxicity, particularly when mixed with Louisiana crude oil, on marine species.

To date, BP has applied over 800,000 gallons of dispersant in response to this spill. Although we appreciate EPA's recent attempts to get to BP to cease the use of Corexit and begin using a less toxic dispersant, it is clear that BP is unwilling to comply with that request and many questions still remain regarding the toxicity or impact of dispersants. At the rate of current application and predictions of the length of time this disaster will continue, it is possible that the amount of dispersant applied could easily exceed 1 million gallons. Yet, little is known about the effect that application of dispersants, particularly in combination with Louisiana crude at this volume will have on the marine and coastal environments. It is possible, that the application of dispersant, particularly when combined with the oil, will have a devastating impact on many species and habitats. The natural resources of the Gulf are simply too important – both environmentally and economically to allow this continued experiment. Accordingly, we request that BP be directed to stop using dispersants until BP can produce evidence: (1) that the dispersants are effective at dispersing the oil and keeping it off the land or out of coastal estuaries; (2) of the toxicity of Corexit 9500/9527 and other proposed dispersants when mixed with Louisiana crude oil (toxicity data from actual samples of the mixture); (3) additional data on whether the oil is being effectively dispersed naturally by physical processes making the use of chemical dispersants less necessary, and (4) restrictions are placed on the use of only the least toxic dispersant and only

when there is no other effective cleanup solution available, such as skimming and burning, due to weather conditions or the like.

We understand that the agencies feel that there are no good options. However, the resources of the Gulf are simply too important to be subjected to an extended chemical experiment without some evidence that the effect of the dispersant in reducing the risk of landfall exceeds the possible impacts to the marine environment.

We look forward to your responses to our requests.

Sincerely,

Clint Guidry  
Louisiana Shrimp Association

Mike Lane  
Rod & Reel.com

Woody Martin  
Sierra Club, Delta Chapter

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