

PROJECT PLAN:

Solutions for the BP Gulf Oil Spill

by Ray McKinney



Paid for by Friends of Ray

Project Plan for BP Gulf Oil Spill

By Ray McKinney, Republican Candidate for Congress
12th District, Georgia

Oil continues to spurt from the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico and is washing up on the beaches and marshes of Louisiana and other Gulf states. The failure of President Obama and the Congress to take effective and timely action on this crisis is a poignant reminder of how broken and ineffective our federal government has become under control of the Democrats. What's frightening is these are the same people that have taken over the health care system!

On June 15th, Obama gave a national speech to show how angry he is at BP and how determined he is to punish BP and clean up the spill. He claimed that he and the administration have been actively working on the crisis, but here's the truth:

- As the spill worsened, the President somehow found the time to play basketball and golf, throw lavish parties at the White House, and meet with Bono and Paul McCartney.
- Old laws enacted by protectionist Democrats are hurting our ability to clean up this oil. **The President refused help from foreign companies** who offered to help in the clean up effort because he didn't want to offend his union bosses.
- **When state and local officials came up with solutions to protect the beaches and marshlands of the Gulf coast, bureaucrats refused to give them the go-ahead to take action.** In fact, they were threatened with legal action if they went around the federal government. LA Governor Bobby Jindal and the Okaloosa County Commission have defied the federal government and are taking protective measures on their own.
- **The green energy initiative President Obama pushed in his speech will have no effect on stopping the leak** or restoring the Gulf coast to its pre-spill condition.

As a mechanical engineer with decades of experience in crisis management in the energy industry, it's clear to me that the Deepwater Horizon oil spill is a mechanical problem that demands mechanical solutions, not more words. Here's what needs to be done:

- **Immediately suspend or grant waivers to the Jones Act. Saudi and Dutch firms have proven high-tech solutions to clean up the spill in an estimated 3 months, instead of the current projection of 9 months it is likely to take under current policies.** I also agree with the Heritage Foundation that the law needs to be eventually repealed by Congress. It's ironic that the law intended to preserve U.S. jobs is now killing the jobs of fishermen, people in the tourism industry, and people living along the coast.
- **Lift the six-month moratorium on offshore drilling.** Thirty-three Gulf oil rigs are now idle, and according to the Times-Picayune, Louisiana alone would lose \$2.97 billion and 7,590 jobs directly related to the oil industry. State officials estimate up to 20,000 oil and

related jobs will be lost in the next 18 months because many companies will choose to move their operations to foreign countries.

- **Allow local governments to construct all the protective barrier islands** (sand berms) they need to keep safe the beaches and marsh lands along the gulf coast. Delay in approval has allowed oil to wash up on the shore.. Finally, the government has given authorization, and BP has committed to fund the entire \$360 million for those protective barriers along Louisiana. However, the White House has not approved the full number of protective islands and booms requested by the local governments. They should do that immediately.
- The President has finally authorized calling up National Guard troops to assist in cleanup, however **the Gulf Governors are right to not activate these men and women inside their respective states until they have the equipment required to get the job done.**
- The government needs more doers, and fewer bureaucratic committees. I call for the formation of a response team ready for a catastrophe like this. Our hospitals, nuclear sites, and military have similar response teams and plans ready, yet we are not prepared for an oil well going rogue just 1 mile below the surface. More solutions, less talk.
- **Cut all red tape** that may hinder efforts to stop the spill and clean up areas affected by the spill.
- **Salvaging the well can no longer be priority one. We must stop the gushing well and return to normal the lives affected by this catastrophe.** I agree with Coast Guard Rear Admiral Thad Allen, the federal government's lead on the spill response, in saying that **the government doesn't have the resources or technology to take control of this problem.**
- **BP is responsible for the spill and BP**, not the taxpayers, must bear the cost of the cleanup.

The mishandling of the oil spill is another example of the Obama Administration being out of touch with local governments' needs. To add insult to injury, Obama is using this crisis to push a radical liberal agenda that will kill jobs, place a tax burden working families can't handle, and increase our dependence on foreign oil.

I advocate positive, effective solutions for energy independence:

- Open up available crude oil reserves for access.
- Open up oil shale exploration.
- Build nuclear power plants to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and create an infrastructure of cheap nuclear power, which can be used as an alternate energy source. This would reduce greenhouse gases by 60 percent in 20 years, and create an environmentally neutral power source for electric vehicles

- Mandate the Nuclear Regulatory Commission work with private industry to develop "copy exactly" technology for nuclear power plants.
- Mandate the EPA to work with private industry to develop and build "copy exactly" oil refineries which can be placed around the country. This would protect the U.S. from damage to localized natural or un-natural disasters so that another Katrina type storm should not be able to affect the national economy.
- Develop a national energy plan to reduce use of fossil fuels by fifty percent over the next 30 years.
- Work with private industry to develop hydrogen storage and delivery, develop and produce hydrogen powered vehicles to be used by federal, state, and local government vehicles.
- Build an infrastructure of manufacturing and fuel availability to convert the private fleet to alternate fuels within 30 years.
- Develop technologies and manufacturing capabilities that can be marketed to the rest of the world with a goal of reducing demand and use of carbon based fuels and creating jobs.

Now is the time for solutions that work, rather than solutions that adhere to a radical leftist ideology, destroy jobs and seek to put private industry out of business

About Ray McKinney

Ray McKinney is an energy-sector project manager and Republican candidate for Georgia's 12th Congressional District. Ray has been a vocal proponent of smart deregulations that would allow the United States to move at a faster pace toward energy independence with nuclear power plants at the forefront. Ray has spent the better part of four years working inside of the Republican Party and the tea party movement advocating that citizens take greater control of their politics and government.