



## DUPED INTO DRILLING

Despite Oil Industry and Government Assurances, Offshore Oil Drilling Is Not Safe

### They Said it's Safe - Oil Industry

"We can drill safely and efficiently with an ever-decreasing environmental footprint." - Marvin E. Odum, President Shell Oil Company, February 25, 2009, *CQ Transcriptions*

"Producing more oil and gas in the U.S. is a "no lose" proposition." - Marvin E. Odum, President, Shell Oil Company, November 19, 2009, *Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Hearing*

"We can drill safely and efficiently with an ever-smaller environmental footprint in ever-greater water depths farther and farther from shore with minimal stress on the oceans." - Marvin E. Odum, President, Shell Oil Company, November 19, 2009, *Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Hearing*

"MMS studies have repeatedly concluded that offshore oil and natural gas operations do not harm the marine environment." – American Petroleum Institute, February 9, 2009, *Targeted News Service*

" (Drilling in the Gulf of Mexico) has been going on for the last fifty years, and it has been going on in a way that is both safe and protective of the environment," – David Rainey, BP's Vice President of Exploration for the Gulf of Mexico, November 19, 2009, *Think Progress*

"Our experience in the Gulf of Mexico and elsewhere shows that we can produce oil and gas safely and efficiently, and our technology is helping us produce more with a smaller environmental footprint." - Marvin E. Odum, President Shell Oil Company, February 25, 2009, *CQ Transcriptions*

"Successfully drilling deep wells in water depths exceeding 5,000 feet is one example of industry's ability to operate without adverse environmental impact." Gary Luquette, President of Chevron North America Exploration and Production Company, February 25, 2009, *Chevron*

"The US oil and natural gas industry is one of the most modern, technologically advanced industries of its kind in the world." – American Petroleum Institute, February 9, 2009, *Targeted News Service*

"Over the past 40 years, improved practices and equipment have enabled the industry to significantly strengthen its offshore environmental performance and meet or exceed federal regulatory requirements." – American Petroleum Institute, February 9, 2009, *Targeted News Service*

"Releases from oil and gas operations are rare, and the application of technology has enabled a dramatic reduction in releases from our industry over the last 30 years." – David Rainey, Vice President, Gulf

"Advances in drilling technologies and production systems have been significant. They include extended reach drilling, drilling in deeper waters, and to greater depths. These advances enable more production while reducing environmental impacts and allowing for efficient use of existing facilities and infrastructure." – David Rainey, Vice President, Gulf of Mexico Exploration BP America Inc., November 19, 2009, *CQ Transcription*

"The record clearly shows that offshore development can occur in an environmentally responsible way. We should demand no less." - Marvin E. Odum, President, Shell Oil Company, November 19, 2009, *Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Hearing*

"The oil and gas industry has proven, especially in the last 25 years, that it has the technical capability and safety procedures in place to minimize the risk of adverse impact on the natural environment." Gary Luquette, President of Chevron North America Exploration and Production Company, February 25, 2009, *Chevron*

"There has never been an oil spill caused by a well blowout from offshore exploration and production in state or federal waters off Alaska or Canada - over 110 wells have been drilled." - Marvin E. Odum, President Shell Oil Company, February 25, 2009, *CQ Transcriptions*

"To be clear, any release of hydrocarbons from our operations into the environment is unacceptable, and we continue to invest in research and technology to drive us to our ultimate goal of zero discharge." – David Rainey, Vice President, Gulf of Mexico Exploration BP America Inc., November 19, 2009, *CQ Transcriptions*

"Many of the technology examples discussed herein have enabled a robust track record of environmental stewardship and can reduce or even eliminate the visual ``footprint`` of offshore energy operations." – David Rainey, Vice President, Gulf of Mexico Exploration BP America Inc., November 19, 2009, *CQ Transcriptions*

"We are not supportive of the extensive, prescriptive regulations as proposed in this rule," arguing that the voluntary programs "have been and continue to be very successful" - Richard Morrison, BP vice president for Gulf of Mexico production, September 14, 2009, *Huffington Post*

"MMS adds a lot of prescriptive record keeping and documentation that does nothing to keep people safe". - Offshore Operators Committee, September 2, 2009, *Huffington Post*

"I strongly disagree that a mandated program as proposed is needed," arguing that the proposed action "is a major paperwork-intensive, rulemaking that will significantly impact our business, both operationally and financially," calling it an "unnecessary burden." - George Frazer, TransOcean accountant, Comments on the proposed safety regulations, September 2009, *Huffington Post*

"...the facts show that environmental stewardship and oil and gas activity are not mutually exclusive. We do not have to choose between OCS development *or* the environment. We can access OCS resources *and* be good environmental stewards." - Marvin E. Odum, President, Shell Oil Company, November 19, 2009, *Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Hearing*

"Releases from oil and gas operations are rare, and the application of technology has enabled a dramatic reduction in releases from our industry over the last 30 years." - David Rainey, Vice President, Gulf of Mexico Exploration, BP America Inc., November 19, 2009. *Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Hearing*

"Of the spills recorded in 2009, 112 were contained by specially-constructed spill containment facilities and did not reach the environment. 122 spills breached secondary containment and did affect the environment. Of these, 92% reached a land mass and 8% reached a water body." BP.com, May 7, 2010, *BP*

### **They Said it's Safe – Government**

"Furthermore, harvesting oil and natural gas offshore is one of the safest and most environmentally friendly options to produce energy." – Representative John E. Peterson (R-PA), September 15, 2008, *Duluth News-Tribune*

"I mean, just the gallons are so minuscule compared to the benefits of U.S. strength and security, the benefits of job creation and energy security. So while there are risks associated with everything, I think you understand that they are quite, quite minimal." - Senator Mary Landrieu (D-La.), November 19, 2009, *Jed Report*

"[Exploration] and development in the OCS doesn't mean the destruction of our environment, contrary to some thoughts. In fact, modern technology has made OCS development cleaner and safer than ever." – Representative Doc Hastings (R-WA), February 11, 2009, *Financial Market Regulatory Wire*

"Oil exploration off the coast of Texas has been going on for years, providing a shining example of the safety, effectiveness and limited environmental impact of modern exploration technology." Rick Perry, Texas Governor, June 18, 2008, *Politex*

"From the tundra of Alaska to the wetlands of Louisiana, a host of advanced technologies enable the oil and gas industry to produce resources far beneath sensitive environments." U.S. Department of Energy and Office of Fossil Energy, 1999

"As for offshore drilling, it's safe enough these days that not even Hurricanes Katrina and Rita could cause significant spillage from the battered rigs off the coasts of New Orleans and Houston." - Senator John McCain, (R- TX), July 2008, *Washington Post*

"Offshore drilling safety is so advanced that even during Hurricane Katrina not one drilling rig in the Gulf experienced a significant environmental event." - Rep. Myra Crownover, (R-TX), On her 2006 Campaign Website

"You know, that's one the great unwritten success stories, after Katrina and Rita, these awful storms, no major spills." - Sen. Bobby Jindal R-La., June 26, 2008, *Think Progress*

"One of the problems that we're seeing today with this discussion about wind turbines and solar energy, is the technology is really not as advanced in those areas as in the safety we have in the petroleum industry to protect our environment." – Representative John Fleming (R-LA), February 11, 2009, *Financial Market Regulatory Wire*

"Not only is the industry finding and developing resources in more remote and challenging settings, it is significantly enhancing worker safety and pollution control in the process." U.S. Department of Energy and Office of Fossil Energy, 1999

"As a result (of OCS operators working with MMS to implement SEMP's on a voluntary basis), this commitment to safer and smarter operating practices has enabled the offshore industry to practically eliminate oil spills from offshore platforms." U.S. Department of Energy and Office of Fossil Energy, 1999

"By collaborating with the numerous Federal and State agencies with stewardship responsibilities over these valued areas, the oil and gas industry is today fulfilling its role as protectors of the environment—and advanced technology is playing a large part in this success." U.S. Department of Energy and Office of Fossil Energy, 1999

"We have the most environmentally rigorous protections for offshore drilling in the U.S. than there are for any other country." – Representative Doug Lamborn (R-CO), February 11, 2009, *Financial Market Regulatory Wire*

"We have allowed states to ban oil drilling on the Outer Continental Shelf prompted by a failure of 40 or 50-year-old technology in Santa Barbara, California in 1969, though current technology is much better as shown by a lack of oil spills in water soft Louisiana and Mississippi during Hurricane Katrina." – Representative Jimmy Duncan (R-TN), February 11, 2009, *Financial Market Regulatory Wire*

"That if you look at the leakage that does happen from pipelines, it's old pipelines. It's not new pipelines. Those typically have newer techniques and newer stuff and so, therefore, they don't leak as much. So I think that the environmental hazard with the new stuff is less than the old stuff." – Representative Bill Cassidy (R-LA), February 11, 2009, *Financial Market Regulatory Wire*

"We have the technology to explore for offshore resources in an environmentally safe way, and I urge President Obama to take advantage of this opportunity in an expeditious manner." – Senator Saxby Chambliss (R-GA), March 3, 2009, *Targeted News Service*

### **They Wanted More Offshore Drilling**

"So today we're announcing the expansion of offshore oil and gas exploration..." – President Barack Obama, March 31, 2010, *White House Office of the Press Secretary*

"And that means, yes, increasing domestic production and off-shore drilling, but we only have 3 percent of the world's oil supplies and we use 25 percent of the world's oil. So we can't simply drill our way out of the problem." – Senator Barack Obama, September 26, 2008, *Fox News*

"...when I'm president, we will drill offshore and we will drill now! I think we ought to, we ought to hear it one more time. Drill, baby, drill. And we will. And we will, my friends." – Senator John McCain (R-AZ), November 4, 2008, *Targeted News Service*

"We have drilled 1,000 deep water wells in the gulf successfully, 1,000 except for this one. So the fact that we do it 99 -- 999 right and one wrong doesn't mean that you throw up your hands and run in hysteria." – Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA), May 6, 2010, *Miami Herald*

"I don't want a mass hysteria to take hold and we put a moratorium on new drilling and existing production... we don't need to federalize every issue today." – Representative Joe Barton (R-TX), May 4, 2010, *Fox News*

"Unfortunately, Senator Obama continues to oppose offshore drilling." – Senator John McCain (R-AZ), August 4, 2008, *CNN*

"...I'm ready to drill on the offshore, I have no problem with that. But don't look for big reserves off the East Coast of the United States." – T. Boone Pickens, Founder and Chairman, BP Capital Management, March 31, 2010, *Financial Market Regulatory Wire*

"...trust the oil industry." – Sarah Palin, May 2, 2010, *Huffington Post*

"Each SAFE finalist should be extremely proud of their commitment to offshore safety and environmental protection." BP was a finalist for the 2009 SAFE awards. - Mineral Management Service Press Release, March 2, 2006

"The winners of the District SAFE Awards have set very high standards for safety by their technical accomplishments and commitment to protection of the environment while conducting Federal offshore oil and natural gas operations." - Chris Oynes, Former MMS Gulf of Mexico OCS Region Director, March 2, 2004, *Mineral Management Service*

"During the 2005 hurricanes that devastated the Gulf of Mexico, about 115 platforms were destroyed and more than 50 others were damaged. There was no loss of life due to the industry's safety and evacuation practices. There were no well blowouts because the safety valves worked. There were some relatively small oil spills from storage tanks located on the platforms, but none that caused oiling of the coastline." - Marvin E. Odum, President, Shell Oil Company, November 19, 2009, *Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Hearing*

### **Spill Containment is Difficult**

"This is the first time the industry has had to confront this issue in this water depth, and there is a lot of real-time learning going on." Tony Hayward, BP Chief Executive Officer, May 10, 2010, *NY Times*

"This has not been done before. It is very complex and it will likely have challenges along the way." - Doug Suttles, Chief Operating Officer, BP Exploration and Production, May 6, 2010, *Miami Herald*

"I should emphasize this is a highly complex operation being performed at 5,000 feet below the surface, and it may not be successful." - Doug Suttles, Chief Operating Officer, BP Exploration and Production, April 25, 2010, *Washington Examiner*

"I wouldn't say it has failed yet. What we attempted to do last night hasn't worked." Doug Suttles, Chief Operating Officer, BP Exploration and Production, April 25, 2010, *NY Times*

"If this works – hallelujah." - Dr. Paul Bonner, petroleum engineering professor, University of Texas at Austin, May 6, 2010, *Miami Herald*

"It's unlikely to be as effective (as the larger dome) in capturing all of the oil." - Tony Hayward, BP CEO, May 10, 2010, *Reuters*

### **They're Against Offshore Drilling**

"I follow this debate, and I just shake my head...It's amazing how stupid some people can be. There were valid environmental objections to offshore drilling, but they were valid 30 years ago." - Jerry Patterson, Land Commissioner, 2008, *McClatchy*

"I think we need to look back over 10 years or so to see if the record denies the industry's claims about safety and technology," - Sen. Bill Nelson, (D-FL), April 28, 2010, *Fox News*

"In all honesty I doubt this is the first accident that has happened and I doubt it will be the last." - Robert Gibbs, White House Spokesman, April 28, 2010, *Fox News*

"BP is now known as British Petroleum. If this leak is not shut off soon, it will become known as 'bayou polluter,' and they will be known that way forever." – Representative Ed Markey (D- MA), May 4, 2010, *Politico*

"We cannot drill our way to energy independence." – Ken Salazar, Secretary of the Interior, April 2, 2010, *Federal News Service*

"This is turning out to be one of the world's worst oil spills, and it's clear that offshore drilling cannot be done in a way that sufficiently protects America's coasts. I respectfully request that the president and the Interior secretary reassess their position on offshore oil." – Representative Frank Pallone (D-NJ), April 29, 2010, *Energy & Environment*

"Let me be very clear about this, as far as oil drilling is concerned: Not now, no way." – Governor Charlie Crist (R-FL), May 6, 2010, *Miami Herald*

"All the people in the industry told us that the technology had been developed, that this would always be safe. Well, here we are. It's not far enough, it ain't clean enough and it sure isn't safe enough – 11 people lost their lives – so my perspective is, not now and no way." – Governor Charlie Crist (R-FL), May 9, 2010, *Tallahassee Democrat*

"I see on TV the birds drenched in oil, the fishermen out of work, the massive oil spill, oil slick destroying our precious ecosystem. That will not happen here in California." – Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger (R-CA), May 7, 2010, *CNN*

"There are places that are too special to risk offshore drilling." – Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD), April 2, 2010, *Federal News Service*

"It's crazy they are discussing more drilling." – Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA), June 10, 2009, *Tri-City Herald*

"There were more drilling rigs operating in the United States last year than in the rest of the world combined. Let me repeat that. There were more drilling rigs operating in the United States of America last year than in the rest of the world combined. Anyone who implies that we are not currently going after our own resources is being misleading and perhaps a little disingenuous." – Representative Nick Rahall (D-WV), February 11, 2009, *Financial Market Regulatory Wire*

"There should be no ambiguity about where California stands on the issue of new offshore oil and gas leasing off California. We oppose it." - Mike Chrisman, California Secretary of Natural Resources, the state's secretary for natural resources, February 26, 2009, *Associated Press*

"We used to be fishermen. Now all we can hope for is to find work cleaning up for the guys who put us out of work." - Freddy Johnston, Venice, La Fisherman, May 1, 2010, *Telegraph*

### **Obama Knows Offshore Drilling Isn't the Answer**

"We have less than 2 percent of the world's oil reserves; we consume more than 20 percent of the world's oil. And what that means is that drilling alone can't come close to meeting our long-term energy needs." – President Barack Obama, March 31, 2010, *White House Office of the Press Secretary*

"What wouldn't do a thing to lower gas prices...a proposal adopted by George Bush... to open up Florida's coastline for offshore drilling. ...It would have long term consequences for our coastlines but no short term benefits, since it would take at least 10 years to get any oil." – Senator Barack Obama, June 20, 2008

“...offshore drilling violates the bipartisan consensus that we’ve had for decades that has protected Florida’s pristine coastlines from drilling.” – Senator Barack Obama, June 20, 2008

“When I am President, I intend to keep in place the moratorium here in Florida and around the country that prevents oil companies from drilling off Florida’s coast. That’s how we can protect our coastline and still make the investments that will reduce our dependence on foreign oil and bring down gas prices for good.” – Senator Barack Obama, June 20, 2008