

**Emergency Meeting/Workshop of the
Captiva Erosion Prevention District**

The Celebration Center
11513 Andy Rosse Lane, Captiva, Florida

September 30, 2009 @ 9:00 A.M.

Agenda

**Emergency Workshop/Meeting of the
Captiva Erosion Prevention District**
11513 Andy Rosse Lane, Celebration Center
Captiva, Florida 33924
September 30, 2009 @ 9:00 A.M.

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Public to Be Heard
- IV. Oil Drilling in Florida Coastal Waters Discussion
 - a) Lessons Learned at the FSBPA Conference
 - b) Next Steps to Protect Florida Beaches
- V. Request for Public Records

Adjourn

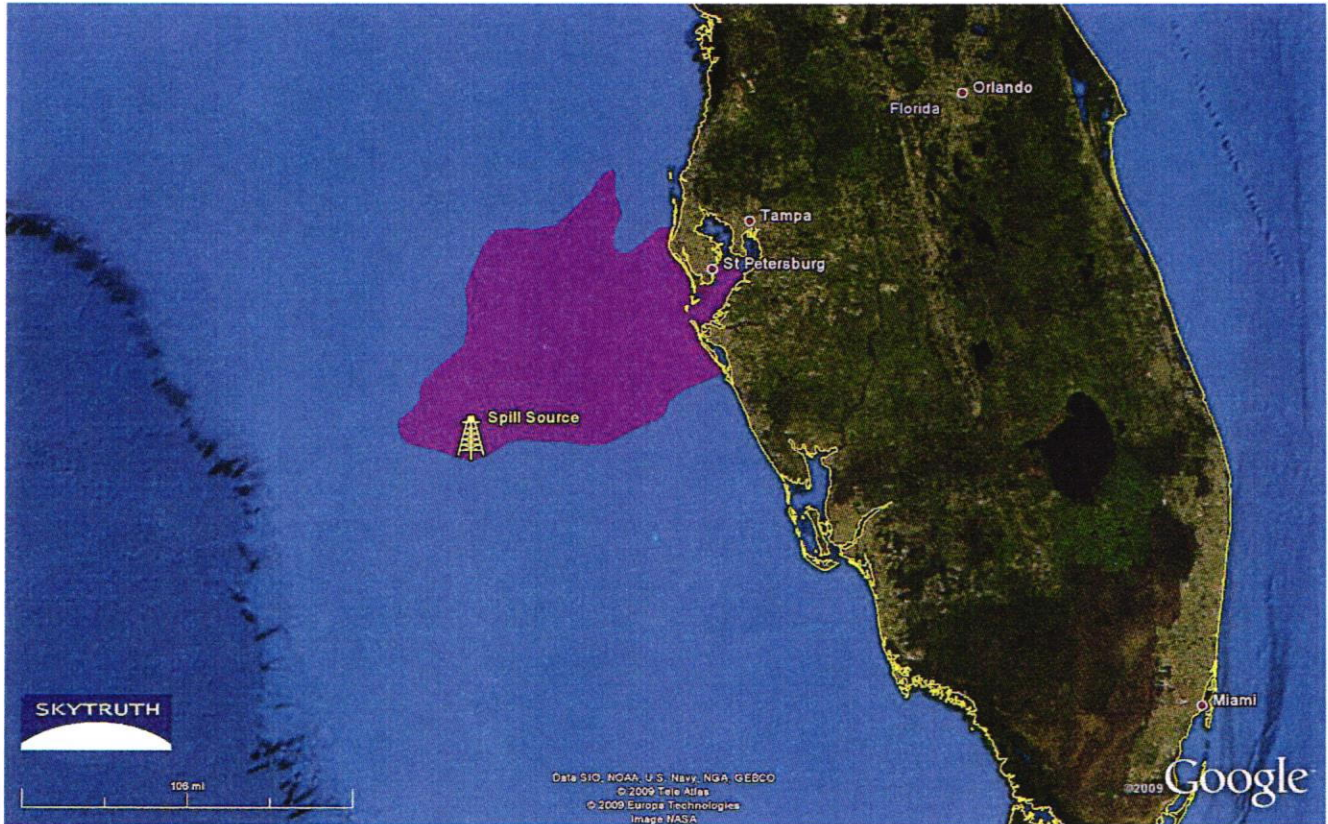


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MEMORANDUM

TO: Distribution

FROM: Bob Gray
Doris Holzheimer
Kathy Rooker

DATE: September 27, 2009

RE: Highlights of FSBPA Conference held on Amelia Island
September 16-18, 2009

The Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association held its Annual Beach Conference at Amelia Plantation on Amelia Island, Florida from September 16-18, 2009. The conference participants who attended on behalf of CEPD were:

- Mike Mullins
- Doris Holzheimer
- Kathy Rooker
- Bob Gray

There were a number of presentations given during the conference (the complete schedule of presentations can be viewed on the FSBPA website), most of which centered on inlet management and the possibility of leases being granted for oil and gas drilling off the coast of Florida, an issue that is expected to be a near term focus of the Florida legislature.

The salient points from those presentations, as well as from a presentation about an appeal pending before the U.S. Supreme Court relative to the statutory foundation of Florida's beach management program, are provided below.

Oil and Gas Exploration and Drilling

Various speakers at the conference made the following points about the potential granting of near- and off-shore oil and gas drilling leases during their presentations:

- The Oil and Gas Industry has mobilized a well funded army of lobbyists that are making unsubstantiated promises and statements about the benefits of near- and off-shore drilling along Florida's coastlines with the hope that they will be able to sway Florida legislators and their constituents into supporting legislation that will allow that drilling to take place.
 - The lobbyists claim that oil and gas drilling along the Florida coast will:
 - Increase state revenue
 - Force gas prices down (The US Energy Department claims that there would be no impact on oil prices until 2030)
 - Promote energy independence for the US (even though the oil and gas industry itself estimates that only 3% of the world's oil reserves are to be found in the entire Gulf of Mexico)

- The lobbyists will not say who they are working for or how much they are being paid. They are avoiding broad publicity.
- The oil and gas industry has decided that the timing is right for this push because of Florida's economic downturn and the seeming attractiveness of revenue and job creation from near- and off-shore drilling leases. One of their strategies is to divide east and west coast interests.
- Even though the recent discovery of an on-shore natural gas field, which runs from Florida through New York and contains a volume of natural gas that rivals Saudi Arabia's oil reserves, raises serious questions about the justification for the much more expensive production of equivalent petroleum product from near-and off-shore drilling along Florida's coasts, the oil and gas industry wants to pursue that path because owning the leases, even if they are not exploited, adds asset value to an oil company's balance sheet and raises its stock price.
- The lobbyists are unwilling or unable to provide detailed data that support their promises and claims relative to the benefits of near- and off-shore drilling and are unwilling or unable to participate in a fact-based debate about those claims and promises.
- The risk of oil spills from near- and off-shore drilling is extremely high and the damage that those oil spills would cause to Florida's beaches, off-shore sand borrow areas and tourist economy would far outweigh the potential economic benefits to Florida's granting of off-shore drilling leases.
 - The lobbyists claim that the latest drilling rigs, jack-up rigs, have 22 failsafe mechanisms and are virtually foolproof. This claim is belied by the fact that these same jack up rigs that they are proposing to use in Florida are the cause of the Western Australia oil spill, currently a 6,000 square mile oil spill off the coast of Western Australia that started in August 2009 and is still on-going in September 2009 because no-one can figure out how to stop it..
 - The hotels along the Gulf coast beaches in Texas and Louisiana, states that have historically permitted off-shore drilling along their coasts, provide guests not only with free soap and shampoo, but with specially formulated chemical wipes with which the guests can remove tar and oil from their feet, once they return to their hotel rooms from the beach.
 - The worst case scenario for oil spills is damage to rigs during a hurricane: 140 rigs collapsed in Katrina
 - The loop current starts in the panhandle, moves down the west coast and picks up the gulf stream in Miami. This means that an oil spill on the west coast of Florida would be carried to the east coast.
 - Perception, rather than reality affect the Florida trademark beaches: tourists don't necessarily know geography and may stay away from Florida altogether if a widely publicized oil spill occurs
- The lobbyists claim that off-shore oil and gas drilling will create 40,000 jobs in Florida, however, it seems more likely that the oil companies will hire skilled, experienced workers from Louisiana and Texas, rather than Florida residents who do not have the expertise to qualify for those positions. Bear in mind that the 40,000 jobs created do not offset the potential loss of tourism related jobs. Pinellas County estimates that their \$6.5 billion tourist industry employs 85,000 people – jobs that would be lost if tourists stop coming to Florida beaches.
- The view of the horizon from the beach will be marred by the drilling platforms, each of which the lobbyists state will appear to be about the size of a dime held out at arms length by the viewer (depending upon how close they are to the shoreline). The drilling platforms are well lit up at night to facilitate production.

- The drilling platform floating on top of the water is only the visible portion of the rig. Miles of pipes and cables spread out along the ocean floor from the drilling platform, as well as miles of pipeline to carry oil produced by the platforms to refineries or storage facilities. The resulting network of pipes and cables would likely interfere with access to beach quality sand sources, already in short supply. This would increase the difficulty and cost of beach nourishment projects.
- There are really 2 issues: a federal issue that revolves around drilling more than 10 miles off shore and a Florida state issue relative to drilling within the 10 mile boundary.
- The St. Petersburg oil spill in 1993 still makes itself evident when tar balls wash up on the beach after storm activity in the Gulf. That spill caused double digit declines in business revenue.
- One of three major Gulf fields that the oil industry is interested in is right off the coast of Lee County.
- Off-shore oil and gas drilling along Florida's Gulf Coast would affect national security and the revenue generated in Florida by US military bases. The largest area for top secret military testing and naval maneuvers in the United States is in the Gulf of Mexico off of Florida's coast, that's why none of Florida's military bases were included in the recent rounds of base closings. If drilling rigs were allowed off Florida's Gulf coast, the military would no longer be able to maintain the secrecy required for testing nor justify the necessity of maintaining Florida's military bases.
- www.protectfloridasbeaches.org is a site for information

A Voice Within the Florida Legislature

Senator Dennis Jones, District 13, Pinellas County, gave a presentation during which he made the following points:

- Opponents of oil and gas drilling in Florida need to:
 - agree on main issues
 - recognize that they can't get the legislature to focus on the big program
 - establish a minuteman response process because they can't match big oil's money
 - identify contacts
 - prioritize issues
 - go to editorial boards
 - remember we are coming into an election year for state officials
- Committee Meetings start October 6. The oil and gas industry is trying to get the legislation in a special session. Send a letter to Senator Atwater and the governor
- Internal counties don't care about beaches
- We need to dismiss the air of inevitability and overblown promises of money (also ask when oil \$ would come-the last well in LA took 15 years)
- The leadership of the legislature changes in 2 years
- Use relationships, we can't outspend oil
- We could solve budget issues by revisiting all that is exempted from taxes
- The risk to FL's economy outweigh any projected benefits
- Timing depends on the governor, speaker and president of the senate- the Seminole Gaming Contract could be held hostage

Supreme Court Case

In her presentation, "The Statutory Foundation of Florida's Beach Management Program to be Reviewed by the U.S. Supreme Court – What are the Implications?", Linda Loomis Shelley (Fowler White Boggs Banker, P.A., and Counsel to FSBPA) made the following points:

- There is a strong property rights sentiment in Florida, especially northern Florida and all over the country. The sentiment is heartfelt.
- One thing to note; this case is about littoral rights, not riparian rights (riparian refers to lakes and streams)
- Some of the issues that the Florida Supreme Court focused on in its opinion:
 - a. The court made it clear that its opinion only applied to critically eroded beaches. The court was very concerned with the volatility of Florida beaches and the beaches role in protecting upland property.
 - b. The court stated that the existing statute protects the upland property owners rights of ingress, egress, view, fishing, etc. and said that its opinion was not intended to deprive property owners of upland or submerged land that they own. The court noted that the Erosion Control Line (ECL) goes away if the government does not maintain the beach after the first nourishment project.
 - c. The court further noted that existing Florida case law and the Florida Constitution have always stated that the public owns the property between the mean high and low water line and that property is held in trust. Upland owners have no rights to navigation or shoreline, but have special access rights that should not be interfered with and are still protected by the Florida statutes, however, there is no independent right of contact with (as opposed to access to) the water.
- The FSBPA retained a national expert, Tom Merrill to assist in this case. He is a Yale Law Professor and this is his issue. He and legions of law students from Yale are working on briefs to be filed with the Supreme Court.
- The other side has two main contentions:
 - a. their littoral rights were taken. They claim that the loss of the right of their property to maintain contact with the mean high water line is such a sudden change in property law that it constitutes a "judicial taking". This very specific wording, "judicial taking", is what FSBPA believes the Supreme Court found interesting.
 - b. The way in which the ECL is set lacks any procedural protections for the owner and changes their property boundary line.
- The FSBPA strategy is to:
 - a. Assert that the Florida Supreme Court was right
 - b. Assert that even if the Florida Supreme Court was not right, this is a question of Florida, not Federal, law
 - c. Assert that there is no constitutional violation – no one lost property that was theirs
 - d. Raise a procedural issue relative to the other side's claim that they should get title from the ECL to the high water line because this is a new claim and there is no evidence in the record about the specifics of property details
- There are a number of possible outcomes to the case:

- a. The court may dismiss the case as "improvidently granted", which is not uncommon
- b. The court may hear the case and rule in favor of the Florida Supreme Court, thereby validating that court's decision
- c. The court may dismiss the case for any number of other reasons:
 - i. It's not a federal issue
 - ii. The procedural issue (noted above)
 - iii. The case may be considered moot, since the nourishment project already took place
 - iv. No proof was presented that it affects the plaintiffs property rights
- d. It is unlikely that the court will take the position that this is a "judicial taking" since that is a concept that is not well developed and would affect not just real estate but other property.
- e. If the court finds that there is a procedural due process violation relative to the current statute, which is unlikely, this can be easily remedied by modifying the current statute.
- f. If the court does rule in favor of the plaintiff's littoral and accretion rights, then there is the possibility of litigation by other Florida property owners. It's a possibility but not a probability because of a piece of legislation in Florida that says that if a "taking" occurs, the property owner's loss associated with that taking must be measured against the property owner's gain (in this case: storm protection and recreational benefits) and the courts would say that there were no damages to the upland property owner. The range of potential plaintiffs is narrowed by the four year statute of limitations. The bigger impact would be on the willingness of the Florida legislature to continue to fund nourishment projects if the legislature fears that the upland owners may not grant access to the beach and/or may litigate to prevent the projects and/or otherwise demonstrate sentiment that militates against legislative funding of the projects.

Inlet Management

Although the presentations on Inlet Management were largely technical, explaining erosion patterns associated with inlets and describing methods that have been used to address those erosion issues, the following points were made about funding relative to inlet management projects:

- Section 1-11 allows the federal government to mitigate erosion problems caused by navigation construction and maintenance. If you can get a section 1-11 finding, then the federal government is assessed damages (Erik Olsen, President, Olsen Associates).
- There is a program in Florida right now where the state will provide 100% funding for inlet analysis and 75% funding for bypass work (Tom Campbell, President, Coastal Planning and Engineering, Inc.)
- DELFT 3D hydraulics software enables the use of advanced modeling to improve design of inlets.

Beach Management Working Group

The Beach Management Working Group, chaired by Steve Boutelle, is writing policy and proposing procedural changes to DEP's processes relative to beach nourishment projects. The report can be accessed at the following web address:
www.dep.state.fl.us/beaches/news/pdf/BMWGRptFin.pdf

Dwindling Offshore Sand Resources in Florida

Tom Campbell, President of Coastal Planning and Engineering, Inc. gave a presentation about sand borrow areas in Florida, during which he made the following points:

- Coastal states receive 85% of all tourist related revenues in the U.S. (World Almanac 2007)
- There are three ways to define the value of beaches: real property, recreational, environmental
- We need to see sand as a precious commodity
- Florida is running out of sand sources and they will be further compromised by oil and gas lines and other infrastructure using space on the sea floor
- To Do List for Florida to deal with fewer borrow areas for sand sources:
 - Need a Shore and Beach Czar
 - Need a champion - not COE, a senior elected official
 - Tap FEMA \$ now to plan and cost avoid
 - Stockpile sand regionally
 - Insist on regional comprehensive plans
 - Combine local adaptation with local policy

Other

Some other interesting points that were made during the conference are:

- The August estimate for Florida State annual revenue from doc stamps (the traditional source for state funding of beach projects): \$3.5 million (Debi Flack, Director of Governmental Affairs, FSBPA)
- The county pays for half the construction cost at Fernandino beach off Jacksonville (Erik Olsen, President, Olsen Associates)
- Fort DeSoto Beach was voted #1 by a number of organizations and those organizations are listed on the Fort DeSoto Beach website (D.T. Minich, CDME, Executive Director, St. Petersburg/Clearwater Area Convention & Visitors Bureau)
- The US receives \$320 in taxes for every \$1 it invests in beach nourishment (James Marino, P.E., Director of Engineering, Coastal Technology Corporation and U.S. Senator Bill Nelson)
- Beach tourists contribute \$260 billion to the US economy.

Off-shore Oil and Gas Drilling Threatens Florida's Beaches and Coastal Economy

By Robert Gray

September 27, 2009 - The Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association held its Annual Beach Conference at Amelia Plantation on Amelia Island, Florida from September 16-18, 2009. Several representatives from the Captiva Erosion Prevention District (CEPD) participated in the conference, including CEPD Chairman Michael Mullins, CEPD Commissioner Doris Holzheimer, and CEPD Sr. Administration Consultants Kathleen Rooker and Robert Gray.

There were a significant number of presentations given during the conference that centered on the possibility of leases being granted for oil and gas drilling off the coast of Florida, an issue that is expected to be a near term focus of the Florida legislature.

The salient points from those presentations are provided below:

The Oil and Gas Industry has mobilized a well funded army of lobbyists that are making unsubstantiated promises and statements about the benefits of near- and off-shore drilling along Florida's coastlines with the hope that they will be able to sway Florida legislators and their constituents into supporting legislation that will allow that drilling to take place.

The lobbyists claim that oil and gas drilling along the Florida coast will increase state revenue, force gas prices down (although the US Energy Department claims that there would be no impact on oil prices until 2030), and promote energy independence for the US (even though the oil and gas industry itself estimates that only 3% of the world's oil reserves are to be found in the entire Gulf of Mexico).

The lobbyists will not say whom they are working for or how much they are being paid. The lobbyists are unwilling or unable to provide detailed data that support their promises and claims relative to the benefits of near- and offshore drilling and are unwilling or unable to participate in a fact-based debate about those claims and promises. The oil and gas industry has decided that the timing is right for this push because of Florida's economic downturn and the seeming attractiveness of revenue and job creation from near- and off-shore drilling leases.

Even though the recent discovery of an on-shore natural gas field, which runs from Florida through New York and contains a volume of natural gas that rivals Saudi Arabia's oil reserves, raises serious questions about the justification for the much more expensive production of equivalent petroleum product from near-and off-shore drilling along Florida's coasts, the oil and gas industry wants to pursue that path because owning the leases, even if they are not exploited, adds asset value to an oil company's balance sheet and raises its stock price.

One of three major Gulf fields that the oil industry is interested in is right off the coast of Lee County.

The risk of oil spills from near- and off-shore drilling is extremely high and the damage that those oil spills would cause to Florida's beaches, off-shore sand borrow areas and tourist economy would far outweigh the potential economic benefits of Florida's granting of off-shore drilling leases.

The lobbyists claim that the latest drilling rigs, jack-up rigs, have 22 failsafe mechanisms and are virtually foolproof. This claim is belied by the fact that these same jack up rigs that they are proposing to use in Florida are the cause of the Western Australia oil spill, currently a 6,000 square mile oil spill off the coast of Western Australia that started in August 2009 and is still on-going in September 2009 because no-one can figure out how to stop it.

The hotels along the Gulf coast beaches in Texas and Louisiana, states that have historically permitted offshore drilling along their coasts, provide guests not only with free soap and shampoo, but with specially formulated chemical wipes with which the guests can remove tar and oil from their feet, once they return to their hotel rooms from the beach.

The worst-case scenario for oil spills is damage to rigs during a hurricane: 140 rigs collapsed during Hurricane Katrina.

The St. Petersburg oil spill in 1993 still makes itself evident when tar balls wash up on the beach after storm activity in the Gulf. That spill caused double digit declines in business revenue in the county.

The Loop Current starts in the panhandle, moves down the west coast and picks up the Gulf Stream in Miami. This means that an oil spill on the west coast of Florida would be carried to the east coast.

Perception, rather than reality affect Florida's trademark beaches: tourists don't necessarily know geography and may stay away from Florida altogether if a widely publicized oil spill occurs.

The drilling platform floating on top of the water is only the visible portion of the rig. Miles of pipes and cables spread out along the ocean floor from the drilling platform, as well as miles of pipeline to carry oil produced by the platforms to refineries or storage facilities. The resulting network of pipes and cables would likely interfere with access to beach quality sand sources, already in short supply. This would increase the difficulty and cost of beach nourishment projects.

Apart from the effects of near certain oil spills, offshore oil and gas drilling would have a number of other negative impacts to Florida's coastal community.

The lobbyists claim that off-shore oil and gas drilling will create 40,000 jobs in Florida, however, it seems more likely that the oil companies will hire skilled, experienced workers from Louisiana and Texas, rather than Florida residents who do not have the expertise to qualify for those positions. Bear in mind that the 40,000 jobs created do not offset the potential loss of tourism related jobs. Pinellas County estimates that their \$6.5 billion tourist

industry employs 85,000 people – jobs that would be lost if tourists stop coming to Florida beaches. Lee County estimates were not available at the conference.

The view of the horizon from the beach will be marred by the drilling platforms, each of which the lobbyists state will appear to be about the size of a dime held out at arms length by the viewer (depending upon how close they are to the shoreline). The drilling platforms are well lit up at night to facilitate production.

Offshore oil and gas drilling along Florida's Gulf Coast would affect national security and the revenue generated in Florida by US military bases. The largest area for top secret military testing and naval maneuvers in the United States is in the Gulf of Mexico off of Florida's coast, that's why none of Florida's military bases were included in the recent rounds of base closings. If drilling rigs were allowed off Florida's Gulf coast, the military would no longer be able to maintain the secrecy required for testing nor justify the necessity of maintaining Florida's military bases.

The Captiva Erosion Prevention District is holding an emergency meeting at 9am this Wednesday, September 25 2009 at the CEPD offices (11513 Andy Rosse Lane, Unit 4

Captiva Island, FL 33924). Additionally, CEPD has been placed on the Lee County Legislative Delegation agenda for December 15th to discuss the oil drilling threat to Florida's beaches.

Robert Gray is the President of Partners in Progress, the consulting firm to which the Captiva Erosion Prevention District recently outsourced their Administration function. Having vacationed on Florida's Gulf Coast at least once each year since 1963, Mr. Gray is deeply concerned about threats to Florida's beaches and coastal community.



September 23, 2009

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Effective Communication With Your Legislators

As a Floridian, one of your greatest responsibilities is to help elect the legislators who represent you and the state's more than 14 million other residents. But your role in the democratic process of government does not end at the polls. By sharing your opinions and ideas with your representatives and senators in Tallahassee, you help them decide what to do about the issues and pending legislation that affect us all. They value your suggestions and encourage you to express them.

Your legislators receive a huge amount of phone calls and mail from their constituents. Unfortunately, their full agendas limit their ability to personally read and respond to it all. How then, can you be sure your voice is heard? Here are some tips to help you get the most impact out of your communications with your legislators in Tallahassee.

Quick Links

- [How an Idea Becomes a Law](#)
- [Find Your Legislators](#)
- [The Committee Process](#)

General Tips

- Know who your legislators are and how to contact them. If you don't know who represents you, you can find out by using the [online guide](#). Your senator's flsenate.gov page will give you his or her mailing addresses, phone numbers, and email address.
- Make sure you understand the legislative process. Even the most basic understanding of the process will help you effectively express your ideas.
- Contact your legislator about a particular issue before the Legislature takes action on it. Most matters coming before the Legislature are well publicized before session.
- Use a variety of communication methods. You might choose to telephone, write, email, fax, or visit your legislator. You might also choose to give testimony at public hearings held by the Legislature. (To give testimony, you would need to contact the appropriate committee administrative assistant before the hearing to sign up.)
- Tell your legislator what effect you think a particular bill, if it becomes law, will have on you, your children, business, or community. Be concise, but specific.
- Be polite, even if you disagree strongly with the legislator you are addressing. Lawmakers cannot please everyone. Your communication will be more effective if you are reasonable in your approach.
- Suggest a course of action and offer assistance. Don't make promises or threats.

Writing Effective Letters

- Address letters to Members of the House of Representatives as follows:
The Honorable John Doe
Florida House of Representatives
The Capitol
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300.
- Address letters to senators this way:
Senator Jane Doe
The Capitol
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100.

- Be absolutely certain you spell your legislator's name correctly and use the correct address. If you don't, you could lose your audience.
- Type or print legibly. Sign your name neatly and give your address correctly so they can respond to your letter.
- Keep letters, email, and faxes brief. Never write more than one page. Concise written correspondence is more likely to grab and keep the reader's attention.
- Identify your issue or opinion at the beginning of the letter, don't bury your main point under trivial text.
- Cover only one issue per letter. If you have another issue to address, write another letter.
- Back up your opinions with supporting facts. Your letter should inform the reader.
- Avoid abbreviations or acronyms, and don't use technical jargon. Rather than impressing your reader, such terms will only frustrate him or her.
- Don't send the same letter to more than one legislator. Personalized letters have more impact.

Calling or Visiting Your Legislator

- Plan your call or visit carefully. Keep to the point and discuss only one issue. Organize your thoughts ahead of time and make notes to help you stay on track.
- When planning to visit your legislator, make an appointment. Don't just drop by your legislator's office and expect him or her to drop everything to see you. Call or write for an appointment as soon as you know when you are going to be at the Capitol.
- Prepare a one-page fact sheet concerning your issue to give to your legislator. This will help him or her better retain what you present.

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September 30, 2009

Christopher D. Donovan
Roetzel & Andress
850 Park Shore Drive
Trianon Centre – Third Floor
Naples, Florida 34103

Re: Public Records Requests dated September 16, 2007

Dear Mr. Donovan:

Please be advised that your letter dated September 16, 2009 was received in the Captiva Erosion Prevention District while I was out of the office attending a conference. The nature and volume of public records that you have requested to inspect or copy requires extensive use of information technology resources and extensive clerical or supervisory assistance by personnel of the Captiva Erosion Prevention District. It will be therefore be necessary for the District to charge, in addition to the actual cost of duplication, the special service charge authorized by Fla. State §119(40(d)).

After we have had the opportunity to review your requests in more detail, we will be able to provide you with an estimate so that an advance deposit can be provided before the District staff proceeds with the effort and cost of assembling the records

In the interim, it would be helpful if you would review the requests that are not year specific, and supply us with additional information so that we may address your requests in a timely fashion.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Rooker
Senior Administrative Consultant

Cc: CEPD Commissioners



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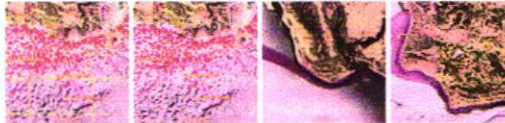
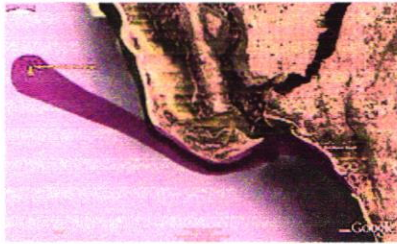
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Slideshow



Eugene Island Pipeline Spill, Gulf of Mexico

Thumbnails



On July 29, 2009, a major pipeline spill in the Gulf of Mexico resulted in a medium-sized oil spill.

(a "medium" spill by coast Guard definition). The spill occurred in Lease Block 281 of the Eugene Island - South Addition protraction area, about 60 miles off the Louisiana coast, and created an oil slick covering Responders are containing and dispersing the spill, and investigators will try to determine why this pipeline failed.

One possibility: in May 2009, Chevron's new deepwater platform, Tahiti, began producing oil. Tahiti is on the outer edge of the continental shelf, and for the first 50 miles the oil it produces flows toward shore through a new 24" pipeline, until it reaches Shell's Boxer platform. There the oil flows into the pre-existing pipeline network -- adding pressure and stress to the older pipelines that are closer to shore.

Based on this spill and resulting oil slick, we've created illustrations showing two hypothetical oil spills: one occurring from a point ten miles off the coast of Florida, and another occurring from the vicinity of Platform Irene off the coast of California (where a similar pipeline spill -- actually happened in 1997, oiling the beaches and killing over 700 birds).

4 photos | 127 views

Items are from between 29 Jul 2009 & 24 Aug 2009



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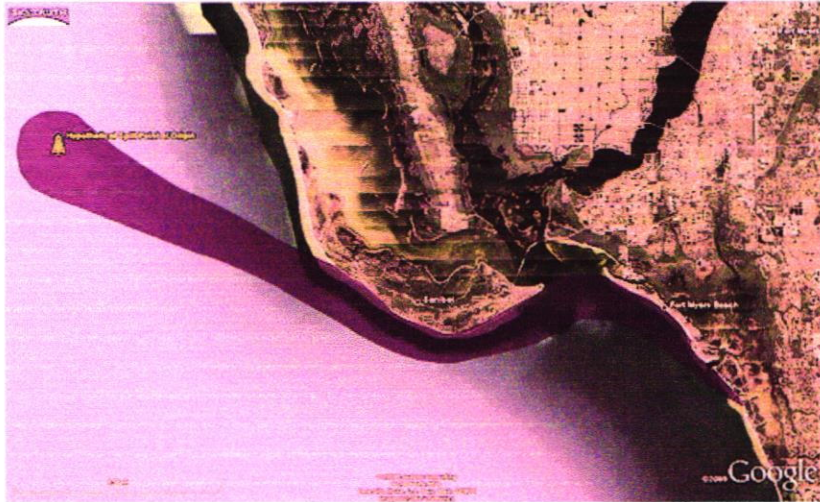


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Hypothetical Florida Oil Spill



Hypothetical 80-square-mile oil slick impacting Sanibel Island and Fort Myers Beach on the Gulf coast of Florida, assuming a spill source ten miles offshore, a southeast current, and wind blowing from the west. The scenario shown here is based on the July 2009 spill of 60,000 gallons resulting from a leak in the Eugene Island Pipeline about 30 miles off the coast of Louisiana, which ultimately created an 80-square-mile oil slick before it was successfully contained and dispersed. This is an illustrative graphic only, not the result of a predictive or numeric model.

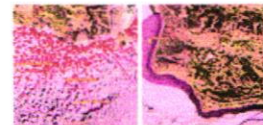
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Eugene Island Pipeline Spill,
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Eugene Island Pipeline Spill (NRC 912739)

GOM, LA 2009-Jul-26

On Sunday afternoon, 26 July 2009, NOAA was notified of an oil spill 33 miles offshore and 60 miles southwest of Houma, LA that occurred on Saturday afternoon. The leak was from the Eugene Island Pipeline System and approximately 63,000 gallons of oil was released. Pre-approved dispersant was applied to the heaviest concentrations of the spill. On water recovery was also initiated. NOAA is providing on-going trajectory and weather support.



Note: Documents are posted chronologically and early reports likely contain factual errors. These errors may be corrected in a later report.

Public Advisories and Press Releases

USCG Press Release 31 July 2009	2009-Aug-04
News Story from WWUE Fox 8 in New Orleans	2009-Aug-04
UC Press Release, 29 July 2009	2009-Jul-30

Incident Response Documents

NESDIS Analysis	2009-Jul-31
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Incident Details

Spill, potential spill, or other: **Oil Spill**
 Cause of incident: **Pipeline Leak**
 Products of concern: **33.7 API Gravity Crude Oil**
 Amount spilled (approximate): **1500 barrels**
 Total amount at risk of spill: **13000 barrels**

Latitude (approximate): **28° 43.27' North**
 Longitude (approximate): **90° 52.05' West**

Public Information Contacts and Incident-Related Links

Bloomberg.com

Timor Sea Oil Spill May Worsen, Australian Conservationists Say

By Ben Sharples

Sept. 18 (Bloomberg) -- An oil spill from a leaking well off Western Australia that has polluted the Timor Sea with 1,200 metric tons of oil may worsen and is a "major ecological disaster in the making," a conservation group says.

"This is a disaster that risks blowing out further in terms of its scale and impact on the ocean," Darren Kindleysides, director of the [Timor Sea Conservation Trust](#), said in an e-mailed statement today. The spill has covered 15,000 square kilometers (5,800 square miles), with 400 barrels a day leaking from the Montara field, the group said.

Oil, gas and condensate started seeping into the Timor Sea Aug. 21 from a leak 3,500 meters below the ocean floor during drilling by the local unit of Bangkok-based [PTTEP](#). The Thai company said today halting the flow by drilling a relief well to plug the leak with mud is expected to take a further three-and-a-half weeks to complete.

[PTTEP](#) observations indicate the size of the spill is reducing, Lauren Tindale, Perth-based spokeswoman for PTTEP Australasia, said by phone. The authority is coordinating the clean up effort and PTTEP has said it will cover the cost.

The government's response to the spill is insufficient, Australian Greens party Senator [Laurie Rishworth](#) said in a separate statement today. The spread of oil may affect commercially important fish stocks, the marine ecosystem and coral colonies around [Montara](#), about 840 kilometers west of Darwin and 610 kilometers north of Broome, Siewert said.

The relief well is expected to reach a depth of 1,622 meters on Sept. 20, PTTEP said in its statement.

To contact the reporter on this story: [Ben Sharples](#) in Melbourne at bsarples@bloomberg.com

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