

May 8, 2010

Attorney General James D. "Buddy" Caldwell.
Department of Justice
P.O. Box 94005
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Immediate legal action to protect fishermen, workers and volunteers and others from potential harmful exposure to known hazard chemicals while assisting in the clean-up efforts and a Suit to protect Louisiana from the fiscal and environmental damage of the oil spill caused by British Petroleum in the Gulf of Mexico

Dear Attorney General Caldwell:

As you know, my Senate District 1 has been the most impacted area of the state by the BP oil spill. I have been in constant communication with my parish presidents and their councils, citizens, the seafood industry representatives, our fishermen, volunteers, oil company representatives, the various state and federal agencies and the Governor's office since the beginning.

Of most concern, is the decision by BP to use the product Corexit in an attempt to disperse the oil spill. Corexit is manufactured by Nalco and the product has been banned in Britain because laboratory tests showed that it was harmful to humans, sea life and coastal wild life.

Any suit filed or legal action taken should include discovery propounded to BP and Nalco to obtain the chemical compound, much of which the company labels "proprietary," to determine if the compound is more harmful than the oil spill itself as has been widely reported. If you go to the EPA website and search this product, you will see the toxicity level and clear warnings on the site that this product should. Louisiana's seafood industry could be devastated for decades if this situation is not properly handled and addressed as soon as possible.

Furthermore, I have spoken directly with fishermen, volunteers and others assisting in the clean-up and they are not aware that this life-threatening chemical (Corexit) is being used and that they could be in danger if they come in contact with it.

I am well aware and deeply concerned that requesting this action could slow down the clean-up process. However, the health and welfare of our citizens working in the proximity of this chemical should be our most important priority.

My understanding is that there are other products available to clean up oil spills which are not as toxic (and some that are non-toxic) as Corexit and could be used in a manner which would not pose a threat to our citizens, Louisiana's seafood industry, our waters and coastal areas. Many of those products are in the process of being evaluated by the Governor's Academic Advisory Panel, the Business Emergency Operations Center and the Incident Command Center.

Please consider this a formal request that your office pursue legal action on behalf of the citizens of the State of Louisiana (including the parishes of St. Bernard, Plaquemines, Orleans and St. Tammany) against British Petroleum (BP) to stop the disperment of the chemical Corexit and to recover clean up costs associated with the oil spill which took place on April 20, 2010 on BP's Deepwater Horizon rig.

Sincerely,

A.G. Crowe
State Senator, District 1
Cell: (985) 788.9772

cc: Governor Bobby Jindal, DEQ Secretary Peggy Hatch, GOSEP Director Mark Cooper, Secretary Robert Barham, President Craig Taffaro, Parish President Billy Nungesser, Parish President Kevin Davis, Mayor Mitch Landreau

