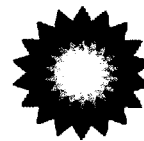


James J. Neath

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August 19, 2010

Steven L. Roberts, Esq.
Transocean Deepwater Drilling Inc.
4 Greenway Plaza
Houston, TX 77046

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Today, I received your August 18, 2010 letter and feel compelled to provide an immediate response to address its many false and misleading assertions. Given its content and tone, your letter is nothing more than a publicity stunt evidently designed to draw attention away from Transocean's potential role in the *Deepwater Horizon* tragedy.

BP certainly is not "withholding evidence" concerning the April 20 accident and the resulting oil spill. From the beginning, our goal has been to help the public, the government, and the industry understand what happened, why it happened, and how such an accident can be prevented from ever happening again. That is why, from the beginning, BP commissioned a non-privileged investigation into the accident, and we promised to share the results of the investigation with the public. We continue to stand by that promise. Indeed, we have provided interim updates on the status of our internal investigation to Congress, the Administration of President Obama, and the press—and the investigation team has provided documents relating to that investigation to various governmental agencies voluntarily and upon request. In addition to commissioning our own internal accident investigation, BP has continued to cooperate with the many investigations undertaken or sponsored by the government into the causes of the accident. Our commitment to cooperate with these investigations has been and remains unequivocal and steadfast.

We agree with Transocean that it is critical to have "an honest assessment of the incident and the identification of possible improvements for the entire industry." (8/18 Roberts Letter at p. 1) To this end, we encourage your company to declare immediately that it will make the results of your internal investigation public—with no limitations or caveats.

BP Has Shared Substantial Volumes of Information with Transocean

Your letter omits the fact that BP has voluntarily provided Transocean with thousands of pages of documents, including materials relating to the Macondo well, such as the

August 19, 2010

Page 2

initial exploration plan, cementing lab test reports, daily drilling reports, permit documents, T/A procedures, ROV data, and mud log reports.

Transocean wrongly claims that BP required it to sign a confidentiality agreement so that Transocean would “keep all BP information secret.” That is false. BP sent directly to Transocean a significant amount of information that was not designated as confidential. BP did designate some of the information sent directly to Transocean as business sensitive because, for example, that information contained certain proprietary and business confidential data, including geological information regarding the prospect.

Transocean’s letter misleadingly suggests that it has not had access to abundant amounts of information relating to the tragedy. Further, it suggests that the flow of data and information from BP stopped in late June. Transocean completely ignores a basic fact: since July 16, Transocean has had access to a large depository of the documents that BP has previously produced to Congress and the Joint Investigation Team’s Marine Board of Investigation—government investigations that are also evaluating the cause of the tragedy.

On July 16, BP made available more than 100,000 pages of documents to Transocean for access, download, and review. Today, there are more than 220,000 pages of such documents sitting in that BP depository—no doubt being examined by Transocean—and we continue to add to these depository files. This depository includes a number of categories of information—such as certain Halliburton-related data—that your letter incorrectly asserts Transocean does not have.

BP Is Not Controlling Access to Information Available Elsewhere

Transocean’s suggestion that the information it is seeking is “in [BP’s] sole possession” is likewise false. A number of Transocean’s requests concern data and reports that are or should be in the possession of third parties, including Halliburton. BP does not have access to certain data referenced in the letter because the information has not been provided to us. Indeed, Transocean itself has not made available all of the information that BP has requested of Transocean.

* * * * *

In closing, BP reiterates its commitment to transparency. I will commit to promptly responding to your list of requested documents and data, clearly indicating what we already have given you, what we do not have in our possession, and what if anything further we are able to furnish. Additionally, as promised, BP will share with Transocean and the public the results of BP’s non-privileged investigation into the causes of the tragedy. BP again asks that, in the interest of preventing this type of tragedy from ever occurring again, Transocean commit to doing the same.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Neath" followed by a circled "dc" or similar initials.

James J. Neath

August 19, 2010

Page 3

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August 19, 2010

Page 4

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August 19, 2010

Page 5

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