



OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES
2012 APR 24 PM 4: 50

APR 24 2012

The Honorable Doc Hastings
Chairman
Natural Resources Committee
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Doug Lamborn
Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources
Natural Resources Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairmen:

This is in response to your April 6, 2012 request for additional documents and information relating to the report from my office entitled, "Federal Moratorium on Deepwater Drilling."

Your first request is that I describe any steps my office has taken since the issuance of the report to further "investigate the circumstances at issue in the original report." Since the issuance of our November 2010 report, my office has not received any additional allegations or evidence that relate to the drafting of the Executive Summary to the Department of the Interior Report entitled, "Increased Safety Measures for Energy Development on the Outer Continental Shelf." My office does not reopen an investigation unless we receive additional information that would lead us to believe a further inquiry is warranted. As we received no such information, we have not engaged in any further investigation into the matter.

Your second and third requests are for all documents created, sent, or received by OIG investigator Richard Larrabee and OIG Program Integrity Division Director Harry Humbert from May 27, 2010, to the present that relate to our Drilling Moratorium report. Those documents are enclosed. The only items that have been removed from these documents are the identical documents that the Natural Resources Committee has subpoenaed from the Department of the Interior. As you are aware, the Department has declined to provide these documents to the Committee asserting that they "implicate important Executive Branch confidentiality interest." As I expressed in my April 18, 2012 response to the Committee, my office is intent on preserving our ability to obtain information that is essential for conducting robust oversight and I feel that a claim of privilege articulated by the Department is not ours to waive.

The enclosed documents contain information which is exempt from disclosure to the public under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552, and the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552a, and are therefore subject to redaction prior to any such release. Information

contained in these documents is also exempt from disclosure under the attorney-client and deliberative process privileges. Members of your staff who review the documents should be informed of the confidentiality of the documents and we respectfully ask that they be treated accordingly. A second set of documents is enclosed for the Ranking Member at your discretion.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, or your staff may contact Kris Kolesnik, Associate Inspector General for External Affairs, at 202-208-5745.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mary L. Kendall". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Mary L. Kendall
Acting Inspector General

Enclosures