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U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Natural Resources
Washington, DC 20515

April 6, 2012

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The Honorable Mary Kendall
Acting Inspector General
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW – Mail Stop 4428
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Kendall:

We write concerning the Committee on Natural Resource's ("Committee") long-running investigation into the May 27, 2010 Department of the Interior ("Department") report entitled, "Increased Safety Measures for Energy Development on the Outer Continental Shelf" ("Drilling Moratorium Report").

As you know, Republican members of the Committee called upon your office in July 2010 to investigate the circumstances surrounding the editing of this report and its Executive Summary, which implied peer reviewers had reviewed and endorsed a 6-month Gulf of Mexico oil and gas drilling moratorium when in fact they had not. The Office of Inspector General ("IG") issued an 8-page report in November 2010, finding that "the White House edit of the original [Department] draft Executive Summary led to the implication that the moratorium had been peer reviewed by the experts."

As you are also aware, we wrote to the Department and the IG on April 25, 2011 requesting documents related to the editing of the report and the IG's investigation. I appreciate your office's cooperation to date in responding to our requests for information. In your May 11, 2011 response letter, you confirmed that the IG was unable to independently confirm whether the implication that the peer reviewers had endorsed the moratorium was intentionally made.

The IG has been unable to provide the Committee with 13 documents relevant to its investigation, per directions from the Department's Office of the Solicitor. In addition to these IG documents, the Department is continuing to withhold an untold number of documents relevant to the investigation. On April 3, 2012, a subpoena was issued to the Department to compel its production of certain withheld documents, including copies of the 13 IG documents.

As this investigation continues, we request the IG's cooperation in providing the following information and documents no later than April 24, 2012:

1. Please describe what, if any, steps the IG has taken since the issuance of its November 2010 report to investigate the circumstances at issue in the original report, including requesting or receiving additional documents from the Department or other current or former federal officials and conducting additional witness interviews. Please provide complete and unredacted copies of any such documents, emails, interview notes, or transcripts.
2. Complete and unredacted copies of all emails, notes, or other documents created, sent, or received by Senior Special Agent Richard Larrabee from May 27, 2010 to the present date concerning the Drilling Moratorium Report.
3. Complete and unredacted copies of all emails, notes, or other documents created, sent, or received by Program Integrity Division Director Harry Humbert from May 27, 2010 to the present date concerning the Drilling Moratorium Report.

If you have any questions about this matter or to make arrangements for production, please have your staff contact Byron R. Brown, Senior Counsel, Office of Oversight and Investigations. We look forward to continued cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,



Doc Hastings
Chairman
Natural Resources Committee



Doug Lamborn
Subcommittee Chairman
Energy and Mineral Resources