

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 25, 2010

Mr. Tony Hayward
Chief Executive Officer
BP PLC
1 St. James's Square
London SW1 Y 4PD
United Kingdom

Dear Mr. Hayward,

It has come to our attention that BP has hired the Center for Toxicology and Environmental Health (CTEH) to serve as the primary monitor of offshore cleanup workers' health exposures. We are incredibly disappointed to discover that BP has again made a decision that endangers the health and safety of those trying to clean up its mess. BP has had a questionable record of protecting the health and safety of the workers and volunteers from the start, and the choice of CTEH to perform critical toxicology functions is yet another misstep at the expense of the public's health.

According to an article by Greenwire published on the New York Times website on June 18, 2010, CTEH has a history of being hired by companies accused of harming public health and releasing findings defending the corporate interests that employ them. For example, when commissioned by Knauf Plasterboard Tianjin to test their Chinese drywall for toxicity, CTEH's concluded that it was not toxic. However, the Consumer Product Safety Commission found it to be the top "problem drywall" for hydrogen sulfide contamination. Furthermore, CTEH was hired to perform air monitoring from a breach in a coal ash dam run by the Tennessee Valley authority and found no problematic levels. A subsequent EPA audit found that the work of CTEH did not align with agreed to quality assurance standards, making the results unreliable. These are just a few examples in a long pattern of tainted results from CTEH.

The only way to ensure that BP's oil spill cleanup workers and Gulf Coast communities are working and living in safe environments is to rectify this situation immediately.

Specifically, BP must take the following actions:

- 1) Remove CTEH from their role as primary monitor of health issues;
- 2) Enlist an independent, well-respected toxicology center to take over this role and ensure valid and reliable public health monitoring; and
- 3) Release the methodology used and all data compiled by CTEH and the new, independent toxicology center to the federal government for independent verification and analysis.

Enlisting CTEH—a company with has a long history of questionable practices—is just another indication that BP is more concerned about their own bottom line than the public's health. Eleven men died when the Deepwater Horizon rig exploded, countless workers and volunteers have been treated for ailments resulting from their cleanup duties, and entire communities on the Gulf Coast continue to face the threat of health consequences from this disaster. BP must put the public's health first and stop cutting corners on health protections.

Sincerely,



LOIS CAPPS
Member of Congress



PETER WELCH
Member of Congress

cc: Admiral Thad Allen
National Incident Commander