



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

July 6, 2010

Kenneth R. Feinberg
Administrator, Gulf Coast Claims Facility
1455 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Suite 390
Washington, D.C. 20004

RE: Establishment of Claims Offices Along the Texas Gulf Coast

Dear Mr. Feinberg,

Thank you for the opportunity to visit with you earlier today about the claims process for Texas residents who are affected by the BP oil spill, which has now reached the Texas coast. Although it is reported that the oil may have been transported to Texas on a ship, rather than having drifted from the site of the spill, it has been confirmed by both the United States Coast Guard and Texas General Land Office that this event marks the first time oil from the BP spill has soiled Texas waters and beaches. Texas must be prepared to respond to further damage to its shores and to its economy as oil from the Deepwater Horizon continues to spew into the ocean and breach our coastline.

Based upon our conversation, it is my understanding that all private claims for damages arising out of the oil spill (including claims from property owners, small and large businesses, fisherman, and other coastal residents impacted by the spill), are being transitioned from BP to the Gulf Coast Claims Facility, which will be administered by you on behalf of BP and the federal government. While this transition is occurring, I understand that Texas citizens and businesses must still report and submit claims directly to BP (at 1-800-440-0858). If the claim submission process or the claims contact information (such as the "800" number) changes during or after the transition, please let me know as soon as possible so that I can inform Texas businesses and citizens.

Now that oil from the Deepwater Horizon has reached Texas shores, Texans must be able to submit claims for compensation for their losses. As we discussed, Texans need claims offices where claims can be presented and questions answered. Accordingly, I hereby request that the Gulf Coast Claims Facility establish a claims office in Galveston County, Texas. Also, as the movement of the spilled oil continues to evolve, there may be a need for additional claims offices in Texas. In the days ahead, I will work with local officials and affected parties to recommend precise locations for these facilities. Please confirm with my office immediately whether the Galveston claims office will be opened, and when it will become operational.

Sincerely,

GREG ABBOTT
Attorney General of Texas