

**Final Mission Report**  
**Travel to Biloxi, Mississippi**  
**“The Gulf of Mexico Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, Response and Policy Implications”**  
**September 23-26, 2010**

**Executive Summary:**

Fred Lindsay, MLA for Stony Plain, represented Alberta at the Energy Council’s Annual Meeting in Biloxi, Mississippi. The Energy Council is a legislative organization of 11 energy-producing U.S. states, along with international affiliates Alberta, British Columbia, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan and Venezuela. The purpose of the Council is to discuss and promote national policies to encourage efficient development of domestic natural resources.

The theme of this meeting was to discuss the Gulf of Mexico Deepwater Horizon accident, the response efforts to date, the economic and environmental impacts and the steps being taken to mitigate future incidents. In light of this accident, Mr. Lindsay was able to promote Alberta’s ongoing commitment to responsible oil development and share the facts about Alberta’s oil sands. Oil sands development adheres to strict regulatory and environmental standards and is a significant source of stable and secure energy. Alberta is also committed to clean energy production; becoming a global leader in developing carbon capture and storage technology.

**Mission Objectives:**

- Promote Alberta as a safe, secure and environmentally responsible supplier of oil and gas.
- Garner support from state legislators for Alberta’s oil sands strategies and continued oil sands production.
- Learn about some of the economic and environmental challenges facing energy producing states in the wake of the Deepwater Horizon accident and what the potential policy implications will be.

**Thursday, September 23**

Depart Edmonton for travel to Biloxi, Mississippi.

**Summary of Conference Presentations:**

**Friday, September 24**

*Breakfast Panel: The Deepwater Horizon in a State Context*

Dr. William Walker, Executive Director with the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources described the teamwork involved in cleaning up the Deepwater Horizon oil spill event that occurred in the Gulf of Mexico.

*The Work of the National Incident Command*

Rear Admiral Paul Zukunft of the United States Coast Guard described the efforts of 45,000 people from government, industry and private sector that responded quickly to the Deepwater Horizon accident to address impacts along 600 miles of affected coastline.

#### *API Task Forces on Offshore Equipment and Operating Procedures*

Mr. Andy Radford, Senior Policy Advisor, American Petroleum Institute, discussed the importance of the U.S. continuing to develop offshore oil and gas resources, and the steps that have been taken to improve industry performance and ensure development is both safe and environmentally sound.

#### *Environmental Impacts Panel*

Dr. Vernon Asper, Professor of Marine Science, University of Southern Mississippi, discussed the Gulf-wide impacts of the spill and what the long-term impacts will be to the coastal environment.

Dr. George F. Crozier, Executive Director, Dauphin Island Sea Lab, discussed the impacts of the spill on beach environments in Mississippi and the various cleanup methods that were used.

#### *Economic Impacts Panel*

Dr. David Dismuke, Associate Executive Director, Louisiana State University Center for Energy Studies, discussed the impacts of the off-shore drilling moratorium on the economic activities in the Gulf of Mexico.

### **Saturday, September 25**

#### *Industry Best Practices*

Ms. Elizabeth Cheney, Vice-President of Safety, Environment and Sustainable Development, Shell Energy Resources Company, discussed the importance of safe and responsible resource development and the work they are doing to adhere to standards and mitigate future similar incidents.

#### *Environmental Impacts Panel*

Dr. Ed Overton, School of Coast and Environment at the Louisiana State University discussed the impacts of the oil spill on wetlands and the timeframe required for complete recovery.

#### *Gulf Spill Independent Claims Fund*

Ms. Jacqueline Zins, Deputy Fund Administrator, Gulf Spill Independent Claims Fund discussed the ability of individuals and businesses to submit claims to the Gulf Coast Claims Facility for costs incurred as a result of the Deepwater Horizon incident.

#### *Economic Impacts Panel*

Dr. Stephen Barnes, E.J. Ourso College of Business, Louisiana State University, spoke about the oil spill's direct economic impacts on commercial fisheries and tourism and the potentially greater economic impacts of the drilling moratorium.

### **Sunday, September 26**

Depart Biloxi, Mississippi for travel to Edmonton.

#### **Official Delegation**

Fred Lindsay, MLA Stony Plain