



# United States Department of the Interior

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
Office of the Director  
Reston, Virginia 20192

In Reply Refer To:  
Mail Stop 100  
GS11000100

NOV 18 2010

Mr. Franklin Shaffer  
National Energy Technology Laboratory  
626 Cochrans Mill Road  
P.O. Box 10940  
Pittsburg, Pennsylvania 15236-0940

Dear ~~Franklin~~ *Frank*:

Following the Deepwater Horizon explosion and fire on April 20, 2010, the World's attention became fixed on the damaged Macondo Well. Immediately, there were calls for independent and credible science to understand the nature of the spill. Important questions were posed regarding the amount of oil flowing into the Gulf of Mexico, whether the well maintained its structural integrity, and the safest and most effective way to kill the well.

As Chair of the National Incident Command Flow Rate Technical Group, I was extremely fortunate to be able to call upon talented and dedicated people like you to help answer these questions. Under difficult circumstances, you and the other team members set your personal and professional lives aside to tackle these challenges. You worked together as true teams, irrespective of organizational affiliations. Your answers and insights helped guide important decisions and made a very real and positive difference during the response to this unprecedented oil spill event.

The Nation was privileged to have a cadre of such dedicated and capable Government, academic, and independent scientists to call upon during this disaster. I am proud of your efforts and accomplishments. Please accept this U.S. Geological Survey Director's Award in recognition of and appreciation for your contributions during the Deepwater Horizon oil spill response.

Sincerely,

*Marcia*

Marcia McNutt  
Director