



BP's Deepwater Oil Spill - Continuing to Wait - and Open Thread

Posted by [Gail the Actuary](#) on August 16, 2010 - 10:00am

Topic: [Environment/Sustainability](#)

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More testing by BP is underway, and we continue to wait until the tests are reviewed and analyzed. The relief well can be drilled at earliest next week end. The decision to go ahead may come as early as later today.

At Saturday's teleconference, Admiral Allen [said](#):

Right now, the drill bit is 3.5 feet horizontally away from the Macondo well and 50 feet above the intersection point. They [BP] will not move beyond that point until I issue a future order that will tell them to proceed. Prior to issuing that order, I am going to provide an order today directing them to continue the pressure test and give us alternatives to relieve the pressure should we – when we go in and drill the relief well and pressure builds I the annulus, how that pressure will be relieved.

Those things have been directed so we can analyze them before I give them the final direction.

The letter issued to BP can be found at this [link](#). It tells BP

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. . . the Government Scientific Technical Team has determined that the benefits of the bottom kill procedure out weigh the risks. On that basis, the bottom kill will go forward pursuant to a future directive.

It then goes on to direct BP to

1. Provide Admiral Allen with a plan for a pressure relief system to prevent excessive pressurization of the Macondo well stack.
2. Maintain full readiness of the relief well to resume intercept of the Macondo well when directed.
3. Provide Admiral Allen with a plan for an ambient pressure text and analysis to assess the

stability of the well during the period of time after the removal of the current Macondo well stack and its replacement with a new BOP package.

4. "Before the current BOD stack is removed, prove to my satisfaction that the Macondo annulus does not represent a potential pathway for hydrocarbon flow; or, if the potential for flow can't be proven, identify the conditions under which flow could occur and the risks of those events occurring."

So we will need to wait, to see what BP's response is, and then wait for the Admiral's order. The Admiral plans another teleconference at 12:30 pm EDT today. The decision to go ahead may come as early as some time later today (Monday).



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